

H O P E



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**Cultivating A Future
And A Hope For Boys**

February 2017



DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

Feelings of Gratitude Past and Present

One of my favorite verses, especially at the start of a new year, is Colossians 3:16: *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”*

During these first weeks of a new year, I am filled with thankfulness for all that God



has done for our ministry. I want to have a proper perspective and realize that everything has come from Him and that He has made all things possible. The passage above communicates action and the benefit of practicing acts of gratitude on a daily basis. I am thankful for the many blessings that we received in 2016 from so many individuals who make our work possible. I am thankful for the time I have had with these boys who God has brought to me.

This year, we will see two boys graduate from All Saints Episcopal School in May. Thurman Hogan III and DQ McKinney have been at HOPE Farm since they were 4 and 5 years old. I am thankful for the

opportunities they have had. I am thankful for the intellectual, athletic, and emotional gifts that God has given them. I am thankful for the opportunity to watch them grow into fine young men. I am most thankful for the time that I have been able to spend with them over these years.

Last fall, I had the privilege of watching them play their hearts out on the football field for a state championship. Of course, I was thankful for the win, but most of all, I was thankful that they were there—I have loved watching them grow up, and I pray for their futures. I pray that they will reach their full potential and make an amazing impact on this world! When I embraced them after their game, they probably thought it was because I was so happy they won. No, I was showing them how thankful I was for THEM and for the opportunity to be a part of their lives... “and whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus...”

Gary Randle

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Mission Statement

HOPE Farm is a leadership program guiding at-risk boys to become Christ-centered men of integrity.

Vision Statement

Cultivating a future and a hope for boys.



EYES WIDE OPEN

in wide open spaces

Cowboys Legend Hosts Boys for Powerful Day on the Ranch



On Saturday, December 17, 60 HOPE Farm guys climbed into a double-decker limo bus equipped with flat screen TVs and rode south to spend the day at Amy and Jay Novacek's beautiful ranch in Joshua, Texas. While the boys may not have known that Jay Novacek started playing in the NFL in 1985 and played for the Dallas Cowboys from 1990-1995, they did realize immediately that they were being treated to a very special day.

The Josh Weathers Band performed incredible music, and Mr. Jon Bonnell provided delicious food. The boys enjoyed bounce houses, games, and in the middle of the barn was a man dressed in a pink shirt throwing a rope around in a unique and exciting fashion. The boys were drawn to this gentleman and many tried to learn the art of the lasso. Little did they know he was the 2016 World Champion Tie Down Roper Tyson Durfey.

The scenery, the longhorns, the hayrides, and the ability to run in wide, open spaces breathed life into these city boys from HOPE Farm. They loved talking to members of the Fort Worth and Burleson Police Departments, as well as members of the Fort Worth S.W.A.T., and they enjoyed hearing stories of playing in five Super Bowls from NFL legend Charles Haley. State Representative DeWayne Burns of District 58 spent time with the boys and the staff who attended. He was personable and answered questions about his time serving in the Texas House of Representatives.

What these boys will most remember, however, is the time they had with many of the great men of our community as they sat quietly and listened to testimonies and stories at the end of the day. They listened to Lt. Col. Allen B. West speak



truth and hope into their futures. They heard retired Texas Rangers Baseball pitcher José Guzmán talk about never giving up. They enjoyed former Mayor Moncrief and his wife Rosie speak about being the very best that they could be every single day. And they watched as the Burleson Chief of Police got down on one knee, put his hand on his heart, and spoke about protection, honor, and goodness, and that there was absolutely nothing that any of these boys could not accomplish.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Thurman Hogan, III

a Mother's Gratefulness

14-year partnership has helped HOPE Farm senior flourish

A little over 14 years ago, the HOPE Farm bus pulled up in front of Morningside Elementary and a line of boys started to board. Mr. Joel Willis noticed one boy watching the others climb into the bus, and

Mr. Willis asked his name. Thurman Hogan, III told Mr. Willis his name, and Mr. Willis, knowing that several new boys were about to join the program, told him to get on the bus. What Mr. Willis did not know was that Thurman was not scheduled to start for another week, but Thurman was so eager to come to HOPE Farm, that, at the age of 5, decided this was the day he would call his first day at the farm!

Thurman is the middle child and only son of Ms. Andrea Sanders who grew up on the Southside of

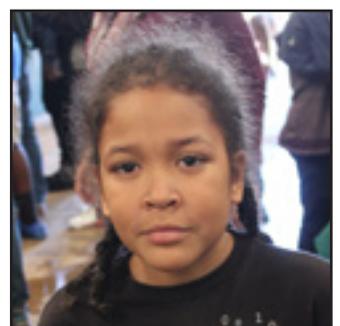
Fort Worth. Ms. Sanders' award-winning artistic gifts opened many doors throughout her life as she has taught children at the Fort Worth Girls Club, daycares across the city, and now Rivertree Academy. Ms. Sanders is optimistic in everything and when talking about how much she loves HOPE Farm, she says, "HOPE Farm is like family – really makes you

wish you had all boys!"

HOPE Farm recognized Thurman's academic potential early on, and he was placed in the Christian Life Preparatory School (CLPS) program which allows students to be homeschooled at HOPE Farm some days during the week. Thurman was at CLPS from 4th-8th grade and then began high school at All Saints Episcopal School in 9th grade. He will graduate in a few months and plans to go to school and study law. Thurman is academically driven, a star-athlete and an active member of the drama department. He excels at public speaking and has exhibited qualities of leadership since he entered the doors of HOPE Farm 14 years ago. He is also extremely humble and does not seek the spotlight.

The key to the successes that we see in Thurman are due to the partnership between HOPE Farm and his mom. Ms. Sanders provided Thurman a stable home, loving guidance, consequences for actions, and taught Thurman a love for the Lord. Ms. Sanders makes the point that being a single mom is hard, but that she was "in it to win it" with her children. She is thankful to partner with HOPE Farm and thankful that the men of HOPE Farm poured into Thurman the same life-lessons that he was learning in her home. HOPE Farm is thankful that Ms. Sanders was pouring into Thurman the same life-lessons that we taught every afternoon. Ms. Sanders tells stories about how Thurman pitched in and helped pay bills and how he knows how to cook. His work ethic and courage to take on responsibility is commendable.

When asked if she had any complaints about her son, Ms. Sanders answered with her deep, contagious laugh, "Well, I wish he would keep his room a little cleaner."



DONOR SPOTLIGHT: David Diesslin & Deena's Foundation

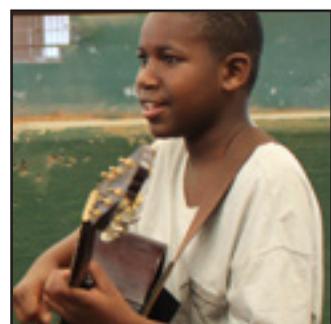
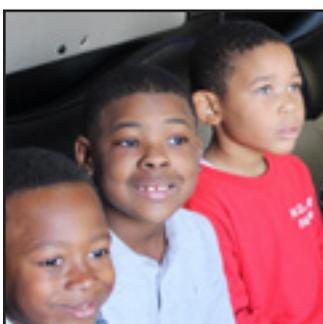
A LEGACY *of* GIVING

Husband keeps wife's memory alive by investing in the 'underdogs'

The Deena Jo Heide-Diesslin Foundation's mission is to provide equal opportunity for those discriminated against due to race, gender, or other prejudice of any kind.

David Diesslin and his late wife Deena Jo Heide, travelled to Cambodia many years ago and were deeply saddened by the treatment of the girls there. Having no children of their own, Deena knew that they had been called to help these young girls to have the opportunities that they needed to get ahead in life. Deena's goal was to protect the least understood and to give a fighting chance to the "underdogs" of our world. Many call the foundation "Deena's Foundation" honoring the deep compassion that Deena had for the disadvantaged and her desire to make a difference.

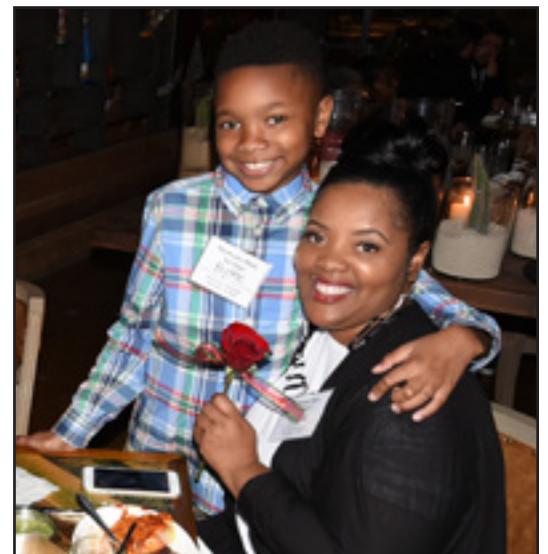
In January of 2016, David Diesslin visited HOPE Farm and was moved by the life-changing work Gary and his team were doing. HOPE Farm's work and mission—especially the work that impacted the single moms—resonated with the mission of Deena's Foundation. Mr. Diesslin offered a \$10K grant that if matched, would increase to \$20K by the end of the year. After matching funds were donated, Deena's Foundation awarded another \$10K to HOPE Farm in December of 2016. We are grateful to receive this support from Mr. David Diesslin and hope to honor the memory of his late wife with the work we do at HOPE Farm.





A *WILD* Evening at *WILD* Salsa

GOING a little





WILD

Boys experience star-studded night out with their moms

It was a *wild* evening at Wild Salsa Restaurant, which hosted an unforgettable night organized by Jamie Adams. Our boys took their moms on a dinner date that included a police escort, luxury-style buses, a red-carpet entrance, and VIP servers, including FWPD Chief Joel Fitzgerald, Texas Rangers Manager Jeff Bannister, and CEOs from corporations in Dallas and Fort Worth. Thank you to all who made it possible, especially Wild Salsa owners Melissa and Mike Hoque, as well as Manager Billy Robinson and his wife, Lisa.





WHAT'S IN AN ORNAMENT?

A special holiday journey starts in the hands of one HOPE Farm boy

This is a story about a pipe cleaner and several red and white beads that were shaped by the hands of a HOPE Farm boy into a candy cane. The identity of this candy cane changed from craft, to decoration, to gift in the span of two weeks. This is the story of how something so simple became something really special.

Improvisation and Interaction

Open House 2016 was warm and welcoming, and every aspect of the evening was about interaction, interconnection, and a feeling of coming home. As the HOPE Farm Boys' Choir sang "Peace like a River," the full house participated, clapped, and even sung harmony with the choir. Thanks to a grant from the Texas Women for the Arts, we provided live music from local musicians from the Texas Chamber Music Project as well as an interactive performance by local jazz pianist, Arlington Jones. Arlington taught the art of improvisation using the 12-bar blues technique, using volunteers from the audience. Before and after, we all enjoyed desserts that were made by our moms as well as generously donated Bundtins from Southlake's Nothing Bundt Cakes.

Decorated by Hand

One thing that made this year's Open House unique was that the ornaments on the two trees (donated by Mainstay Farms) were ornaments made by our boys. They made red and green chains from construction paper, glitter snowmen on styrofoam plates, paper mittens with cotton balls, and man-



gers out of popsicle sticks. One of their favorite ornaments was the one that they created with a pipe cleaner and red and white beads. They put each bead on the pipe cleaner, careful to alternate red with white. When they were finished, they would bend the pipe cleaner so that it looked like a candy cane.

Beads on a Pipe Cleaner

Why was this ornament so special to the boys? Was it because it related to the story of the birth of Jesus? That upside down, the candy cane was a "J" which is the first letter of Jesus' name? Was it

because it looks like a shepherd's crook, and the Bible teaches us that Jesus is our shepherd? Was it the symbolized colors of pure white and blood red that showed how Jesus died for our sins despite being sinless? Was it simply because it's fun to put beads on a pipe cleaner and it was the easiest ornament to hang on the tree?

A few days before Open House, the boys hung their ornaments on the two trees. Several of those beaded, pipe cleaner candy canes were lovingly placed on branches. During Open House, many of our guests stopped and looked at the trees and admired the boys' hard work.

Last Choir Performance of the Year

A week after Open House, the HOPE Farm Boys' Choir sang at The Vantage at Cityview, an assisted living facility in Fort Worth. The boys brought a box of their handmade ornaments to give as gifts. After we performed, the boys took their ornaments and gave them to each of the guests, while smiling and visiting. The boys were so precious and loving toward the older guests. They weren't shy, and they weren't afraid.

A Moment Almost Missed

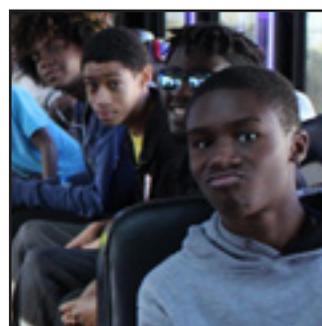
As we were leaving, I noticed Aaron was in full conversation with one of the women sitting in the back of the dining room. In my haste to get the boys back to HOPE Farm for dinner, I almost missed the most special moment of the day that involved one of those beaded, pipe cleaner candy canes. This woman had put out her hand, and Aaron was working hard to twist the pipe cleaner around her wrist to make a bracelet. Aaron's face was animated and proud, and the woman who was receiving the gift had such a big smile on her face.

It made me think about how such a small thing – a craft



– a means to an end – had become something that was much bigger. Aaron was able to give a gift and make a connection with someone he had never met before. Her journey in life is in its final chapters. Aaron is just beginning his journey. He got to experience kindness and gratitude and a feeling of pride as he creatively and personally gave his gift. On our way out, I told Aaron that I was proud of him for treating the woman with such kindness and that she probably had never received a gift like the one he had just given her.

Aaron smiled. I felt like I had just experienced what Christmas was all about for the first time and was so thankful that I didn't miss that special, unforgettable moment.





ORGANIZATION BRIEFS:

A CLASS ACT: TCU Class Raises \$20K for HOPE Farm

Professor Ronald L. Pitcock, Ph.D., led a Philanthropy class at TCU last fall that had to investigate and present on non-profits during the course of the semester. Professor Pitcock is the Assistant Dean of the John V. Roach Honors College at TCU. In addition to their classroom work for Professor Pitcock, the class also raised funds that would eventually be awarded to a choice few.

After debating until 1 a.m., the class decided that HOPE Farm would be awarded a check for \$20K — all monies that were raised by students who believed in the mission of HOPE Farm. Natalie, one of our long-time volunteer students from TCU, was at the final presentation and said:

“That was incredible! It is not surprising to me that my peers saw in HOPE Farm the same things I see. I have been so blessed by the HOPE Farm family and feel so much gratitude for what the entire staff continues to do for our boys. And it is clear that everyone there felt the same way. Today filled me with so much pride to have the opportunity to serve alongside a community like HOPE Farm’s and I cannot think of a better use for that money . . . an investment in the boys . . . what a blessing!”



experienced life-changing opportunities because of HOPE Farm. When Ms. Pam told the moms about a computer class, Ms. Martin took advantage. It took a lot of courage, and she decided to ignore the little voice in her head that said it would be too hard. She decided to JUST TRY.



Martin

She was accepted into the program, excelled at the work, took the second course, and was selected as a class leader by Professor Esther Kidena. Before Christmas,

because of a nomination from Professor Kidena, KLTY and Cornerstone gave Ms. Martin money for home repairs as part of their “Christmas Wish” program they run each December. Cornerstone wanted to continue a partnership with Ms. Martin and awarded her start-up money, as well as business mentoring to begin her own sewing business—literally, a dream come true.

Ms. Martin tearfully told the staff her story during our first staff meeting of the new year saying that she was almost in a position to “give back,” and it was a moment she had always dreamed about her entire life. As she launches her sewing business, she dreams of teaching other HOPE Farm moms and girls to sew. It all started with Ms. Martin’s courage to JUST TRY.

Just Try: Great-Grandmother Inspires HOPE Farm Moms

Full 2016 has been one of celebration, accomplishment, and many leaps and bounds in the right direction for our moms. Pam Perry-Stephens (Mother’s Resource Coordinator) has worked tirelessly to offer life-changing opportunities and has brought in speakers, counselors, connected our moms with job and housing opportunities, and inspired them to give back with their time and talents.

Great-Grandmother Dorothy Martin, who became part of the HOPE Farm family four years ago, has



Assistant Program Director Hired at South Side Campus

We would like to welcome Assistant Program Director Kameran Levingston to the South Side Campus. Kameran (*bottom row, middle*) joined the HOPE Farm family in January and has already made a positive impact on our boys. He heard about HOPE Farm through Cedar Hill Trinity Church and because of Kameran's passion for education and love for the Lord, the mission of HOPE Farm spoke to him.

In addition to being an educator, Kameran is an artist. Last year, he won the District 30 Congressional Art Competition held at the Janette Kennedy Gallery. Along with an esteemed panel of judges, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson awarded first prize to Kameran who entered with a stunning self-portrait. As part of his prize, Kameran was flown to Washington, D.C. where his portrait was displayed in the United States Capitol. During the trip, Kameran was given a tour of the White House and met President

Barack Obama. We are excited to see what God has planned for Kameran as he pours into our boys and shows them first hand that ANYTHING is possible.

Save the Date



Save the dates for upcoming events:

- **March 13-14:** Basketball Clinic
- **April 29:** The SWING Charitable Golf Tournament Benefiting HOPE Farm and Jack & Jill Foundation, Sky Creek Ranch Golf Club
- **June 5-30:** Summer Camp

Quick Facts

2016-2017 Enrollment

(64 boys total)

Southside

Elementary:	31
Middle School:	7
High School:	11

Como

Elementary:	9
Middle School:	4
High School:	2

Did You Know?

Homes without fathers account for...

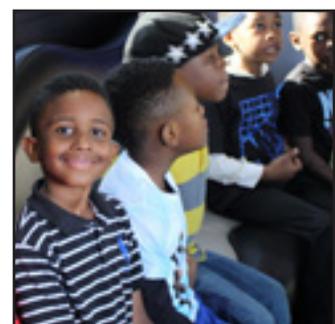
- 63% of youth suicides
- 90% of homeless and run-away children
- 85% of all children that exhibit behavioral disorders
- 80% of the rapists motivated with displaced anger
- 70% of all juveniles in state-operated institutions
- 75% of all adolescent patients in chemical abuse centers
- 71% of all high school dropouts
- 85% of all youth sitting in Texas prisons

www.hopefarmfw.org

Phone: (817) 926-9116
Fax: (817) 926-4747

Morningside Office Address:
865 E. Ramsey Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76104

Como Address:
5636 Fletcher
Fort Worth, TX 76107





865 E. Ramsey
Fort Worth, TX 76104

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And A Hope For Boys

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Stop In the Game of Love!

Our high school guys were so excited when the folks from GameStop came by during December and donated new gaming equipment to the LION'S DEN. The LION'S DEN is a nice room in the Southside Family Life Center where our high school boys are able to go and relax after getting their work done. Thank you, GameStop!