



HAPPENINGS

September 2018

NEW BEGINNINGS



Last year, HOPE Farm celebrated its 20th year serving fatherless boys in the inner city of Fort Worth under the leadership of founders Gary Randle and Noble Crawford. Last June when Gary announced his retirement, the search for the right leader began. It was only fitting that Sacher Dawson, who had volunteered at HOPE Farm for almost 20 years, stepped in and the baton was passed.



#FOLLOWER

How many times have we urged our children not to follow the wrong crowd or follow in the footsteps of someone making the wrong decisions? We want to train our children to become leaders not followers, right?





Sacher spent his early years in Tampa, Florida and moved to Dallas in 1984 where he worked in the mortgage industry for over 30 years retiring early from Fannie Mae in June 2017. With his wife, Ritha of 31 years, he has been a member of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship Church for over 25 years. Sacher and Ritha have one daughter, Eboney.

Sacher has come to HOPE Farm at an exciting time. Construction on the new facility in Como has made significant progress. The doors are scheduled to open in January 2019 and boys will arrive during the Fall of 2019. The Morningside Campus is thriving with a staff ready to dive into the new year. Excited about becoming a part of the HOPE Farm family as the ministry moves to the next phase, Mr. Dawson talked about his thoughts for HOPE Farm's next steps:

My first vision is to see us increase our enrollment so we can have a bigger impact in the community. I am passionate about creating an advanced leadership program for the boys, with the hopes of producing college graduates that come back to work for and lead HOPE Farm into the next generation.

This past summer, Sacher spent time with retired Executive Director Gary Randle. Sacher and Gary spent time talking about the history of HOPE Farm and the important work that still needs to be done. Sacher reflected that "the most insightful but simple thing [Gary] told me was to remember it's always about the boys. Secondly, and most importantly, he said just keep God first and everything else will fall into place."



Why, then, did the boys wear t-shirts all summer during camp that said "#FOLLOWER?" Jesus said in Mark 1:17, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." This summer, the theme of camp was that of following Jesus – following what He has planned for us – and knowing that He does have a plan for each of us. That idea is very big for young boys who often are dealing with incredible adversity in their lives. To know that each human being is special and that each person on earth is one that matters is an idea that is often new to our youngest boys who come to HOPE Farm for the first time.



A few years ago, one of our new 5-year-olds asked one of the teachers, "why are you always happy to see me?" No matter what kind of day our boys have at school, we are always happy to see them when they check in at HOPE Farm in the afternoons. We are happy to see them because they matter – they matter to the staff and the leadership of HOPE Farm – they matter to their moms who are working hard to give them opportunities – and they matter to Jesus. Making them know they matter this school year began during summer camp in June.

The staff emphasized becoming leaders by first following Jesus and HIS plan for each boy's life; following the plan, following the commandments, and following the Word. Summer camp is a time of fun opportunities: overnight camping trips, visits to water parks, fieldtrips to AT&T Stadium, "wet Wednesdays" featuring slip 'n slides and water gun fights, cooking, science experiments, golf with The First Tee of Fort Worth, and visits from GameStop.

Through the fast and furious fun, however, were the quiet reminders each day about becoming a follower of Christ. HOPE Farm's mission was at the center of summer camp: To guide at-risk boys to become Christ-centered men of integrity.

Christ-centered men of integrity.



With support from the former executive director, the current board and staff, Sacher Dawson is ready for the challenges that lay ahead. As a new chapter in leadership begins for HOPE Farm, we all remember that the Lord has plans for all of us to prosper, plans to give us HOPE and a future (Jeremiah 29:11).

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH



After Summer Camp ends and before school starts, the staff and boys get together for a "Back to School Bash" giving out school supplies (thanks to Bank of America) and offering free haircuts (thanks to the Fort Worth Barber Shop).



Enjoy Pictures from our first week back!





HOPE Farm and its partners are thrilled to have the boys back and to celebrate a new school year. This year's bash was full of energy as we welcomed the boys back. One of their favorite games is one in which they attempt to transfer a cookie from their forehead to their mouth – the laughs and the celebrations are incredible.



We are excited to see what God has planned for us this school year and will welcome the boys back to HOPE Farm after school the Tuesday after Labor Day!

