



"KHUSA has had the largest impact on the students of any program I have ever worked with. It does not throw money at a problem, but rather people." – Principal

*Do something real.*



*"Everybody says it's easy to be a kid, but I don't think so. School is really hard."*

## *One Child*

Today more than ever, kids need hope.

In families hit hard by economic distress and struggling just to survive, the basic social and emotional needs of their children often fall into the void. This void erodes children's hope for the future, sometimes even rendering them physiologically incapable of learning until their needs can be met. A disruption in learning at an early age comes with serious consequences. Reading ability at the end of third grade serves as a reliable predictor of high school graduation. And research shows that children who fall behind in first grade have only a one in eight chance of ever catching up without extraordinary efforts.

These children need someone who can be present at the critical time in their lives when values are formed, when self-esteem is developed, and when basic academic and problem-solving skills are acquired. Someone who simply shows up every week and doesn't let them down. Someone whose friendship will be the "extraordinary effort" kids need.

You can be the one.

Consider that on a single, typical day 13 years ago in our country (1996), a total of 10,682 new babies arrived. Just over 3,200 of those precious little ones will not graduate from high school. Nearly 3,100 live in a fatherless home. 1,950 are now victims of reported abuse. 1,815 live in poverty. And these numbers continue to rise.

So what do these children, now age 13, believe about life? Worth pondering—research from George Barna reveals: "In essence, what you believe by the time you are 13 is what you will die believing."



## One Church

"I want to make a difference, but I don't know how."

Budget cuts have left schools across the country lacking the resources they need to help their kids succeed. When they hear about KIDS HOPE USA, they reach out to us to find them a church who is willing to partner with them. There's a huge—and largely unmet—need out there.

At the same time, many churches now realize that their local communities are *the* place where they can make the biggest difference—not just by donating material goods, but by actually engaging in life-changing, one-on-one relationships with at-risk children in their communities.

*"I wish more kids at my school could have a KIDS HOPE mentor. I get real happy after my time with Mr. Joe. If other kids had their very own special person to help them, maybe they'd be happier and nicer too."*

KIDS HOPE USA gives churches all the tools they need to prepare for this ministry:

- Director training to help launch, operate and administer a successful KHUSA program.
- Program materials to prepare members of the congregation to participate.
- Ongoing consulting to help with ongoing operation and growth.
- A dedicated website full of useful resources for building and sustaining a program.
- Professional support resources, including child development experts and career educators.
- Continuing education opportunities at the local, regional and national level.
- National promotion and recognition to boost program credibility.
- Publications and communications for equipping, educating and encouraging volunteers.
- National standards compliance assistance and ongoing program evaluation.
- Director groups to help KHUSA Directors learn from one another.

*"We've been so determined (as churches) to get the community to come to us that we've needed a lot of help to connect to the community. Nothing does that quicker than adopting a school, and nobody knows how to help with that better than KIDS HOPE. This is *the way* if you want to follow a path into the community."*

— Reggie McNeal, Author of *Missional Renaissance*

*"Wednesday is my favorite day at school. That's the day that Miss Alice from KIDS HOPE comes to see me. Just me, nobody else. It's our special time. And I can tell her anything and she doesn't get mad and she's always nice."*

## One School

KIDS HOPE USA church-school partnerships provide a *proven intervention* for at-risk kids, resulting in significant changes in attitude and behavior as well as academic performance, at *no cost to the school*.

Teachers and principals recognize that what the children receive from individual attention outside the class equals or exceeds what they would receive in the classroom.

Elementary schools across the country are requesting KIDS HOPE USA programs because they know how much these mentoring relationships make a difference in the lives of their children. And they know that KIDS HOPE USA programs are led by trained Directors, who recruit, screen, train and supervise the mentors, requiring no commitment of time or financial resources from the school.

*"My mentor helped me to learn to read. Now I want to teach my daddy to read."*

### Separation of Church and State

An article in the *Chicago Sun-Times*, subtitled "KIDS HOPE USA Improves Reading Levels," posed this challenging question: "So who says that the American policy of 'separation of church and state' means schools and churches can't work together?"

KIDS HOPE USA respects church-state issues. Churches sign an agreement that specifically states they will consistently abide by the boundaries of church-state separation. All mentors are trained to strictly adhere to U.S. Department of Education guidelines to ensure that the program does not violate the separation of church and state.

- According to the Frost Research Center nationwide evaluation, nearly all students (99.3%) with KIDS HOPE USA mentors were perceived to have benefited from the program, as reported by their teachers. Specific areas of improvement included behavior, attendance, academic achievement and motivation to learn.
- In a nationwide survey of KIDS HOPE USA schools, 100% of principals would, if they were to transfer, want KHUSA at their new school. Additionally, 100% would recommend KHUSA to their colleagues.

*"If more people knew just how much difference a single hour a week can make in a child's education, we would have so many mentors we wouldn't know how to place them fast enough. Soon we would be halfway to closing the achievement gap." – Harvin Moore, Houston Independent School District Trustee*

## One Hour

One simple thing will make a big difference in the life of an at-risk child: a one-on-one, positive relationship with a responsible, caring adult. This can happen in just 60 minutes a week.

KIDS HOPE USA offers churches and schools a proven, award-winning model to meet the emotional, social and academic needs of children.

KHUSA programs create one-on-one mentoring relationships between adult church members willing to give a little time and a lot of love, and at-risk elementary schoolchildren in their community who desperately need loving, caring adults in their lives.

Utilizing the existing structures of churches and elementary schools as the framework for these programs, KIDS HOPE USA creates successful, sustainable and life-changing church-school partnerships.

In this One Child, One Hour, One Church, One School model, each participating church partners with a single school, and each KHUSA church-sponsored mentor spends one hour each week reading, talking, listening and playing with their "one-and-only child" at the school. By helping the child feel loved and valued, they help that child to learn, grow and succeed.

*"Mentoring a child is more than just helping him with reading, spelling and math. It's developing a relationship; loving and being loved in return; becoming a confidante when life is a little scary. I don't know how big of an impact I've made in Josh's life, but I do know he's made a dent in my heart."* – Mentor



*"I waited my whole life for you to be my friend."* – First grader