



Kids Hope USA at a Glance

Kids Hope USA began in 1995 as a research project. Asked how churches could meet the needs of America's most vulnerable children, child-care experts in education, health and human services, religion, law enforcement and volunteer services responded with one voice: *If churches will mobilize and train their members to form on-going, one-on-one relationships with the youngest children, they will make a profound difference in their lives.*

Kids Hope USA (KHUSA) partners local churches with local public schools and equips the churches to provide 1-on-1 mentors for at-risk children. Churches also provide a behind-the-scenes prayer partner for each of these matches.

- ◆ Since 1995, the program has reached over 70,000 different elementary-aged students.
- ◆ When all programs fully operate, this year we will reach over 21,225 students through a network of 42,450+ volunteers; a staff to volunteer ratio of 1,632:1.
- ◆ KHUSA has quadrupled the number of students reached over the past ten years.
- ◆ KHUSA has grown to be the largest faith-based, national mentoring program for elementary-aged students.

Kids Hope USA programs offer a unique opportunity for a school to engage a community partner that possesses an abundance of volunteers eager to make a difference with their time and presence, all while following church-state separation guidelines.

- Over 1,200 elementary and middle school-church partnerships in 33 states (as of 01/01/17).
- In public school districts with at least one KHUSA program, an additional 2,500 elementary schools now wait for a church partner to run a Kids Hope USA program.
- Churches pay an affiliate/license fee; schools pay nothing for the program.
- Churches appoint a Director, whom KHUSA trains and supports to recruit, screen, train, match and supervise volunteers, and manage the relationship with their school partner.
- 100% of principals surveyed said they would recommend the program to colleagues; 100% also said they would request a program if they move to a new school.
- Other unique program elements include:
 - ❖ A team of child psychologists and professional counselors available to assist all mentors and programs; on call 24/7.
 - ❖ The Mentor App that provides coaching, resources, and mentoring hour activities.
 - ❖ Read Together, a literacy development program designed to help mentors more effectively engage with their students in reading
 - ❖ Mentors submit progress reports to teachers following each meeting students.
 - ❖ Parents/guardians provide permission for student participation (forms provided).

Schools see the differences made in students, churches earn a new reputation in their communities, and KHUSA has a tremendous impact on everyone touched by the program.

- 96.3% of our students, all of whom are at-risk, promote to their next school grade.
- 91% of relationships continue from one year to the next (excludes graduations).
- 90% of churches go beyond mentoring to serve students, families, and school communities.
- 80% volunteers report their faith strengthens or they feel more committed to their churches.

"All across the country I run into church leaders who tell me that their involvement with this program not only gives hope to kids, but transforms their congregations by connecting them to the community."

Reggie McNeal, Author & Missional Leadership Specialist for Leadership Network

"I'm sold. This is what we need. What can I do to help make it happen?"

Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent, Duvall County Public Schools, Jacksonville, FL