



STRONGER THAN EVER

2021
ANNUAL
REPORT



GENERATION
HOPE

OUR MISSION To ensure all student parents have the opportunities to succeed and experience economic mobility, Generation Hope engages education and policy partners to drive systemic change and provides direct support to teen parents in college as well as their children through holistic, two-generation programming.

To the Generation Hope Community,

It is often hard to know how long a storm will last. The uncertainty and immense challenges that began to unfold in March 2020 continues today – much longer than most anticipated. We knew that our families, and parenting college students everywhere, were among the hardest hit by COVID-19 and that shouldering the impacts would take a heavy toll, but we also knew that we had a community that is committed wholeheartedly to seeing them succeed.

Your giving allowed us to distribute another round of emergency grants to our Scholars and their children, deliver creative virtual programming that helped them reach their educational goals, hand out gifts during the holidays and much-needed items like gas and grocery cards throughout the year, and welcome the largest class of new Scholars in Generation Hope's 12-year history.

In addition to directly supporting our families, you also powered our work to drive large-scale change for millions of parenting students across the country. You helped us launch our innovative technical assistance program, including our first cohort of colleges and universities that are working to better serve this population. And with your support, we were able to dream big about what the future looks like through the creation of our 2024 Strategic Plan.

What I have been most struck by as I reflect back on 2021 is the incredible and enduring strength of our Scholars and their children, parenting college students nationwide, and each of you. We are certainly a stronger organization because of what we have been able to accomplish together in the face of so much uncertainty.

Thank you for being on this journey with us.

Sincerely,

Nicole Lynn Lewis

Founder & CEO



Nicole with Generation Hope Alumna Nija Simmons and her son; Generation Hope alumna and staff member Carolyn Felton and her son; and Generation Hope alumna Alicia Price at the Generation Hope office Winter 2021.

On the cover: Scholar A'Ja Ross, University of Maryland Global Campus, with her son.

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COVID-19 RESPONSE

- Beginning in March 2020, Generation Hope shifted all programming to virtual delivery. In 2021, we continued to serve our Scholars virtually. Programming included:
 - Ongoing case management to address the unique needs and goals of each Scholar
 - Our second annual Career Week with 14 sessions and 58 professionals including career panels, resume reviews, and mock interviews
 - Four industry-specific Career Exploration days, one LinkedIn workshop, and 10 summer internships with employers, as well as ongoing, one-on-one career coaching
 - More than 120 one-on-one home visits and 25 group family dinners for families in Next Generation Academy
 - 23 storyhours on Facebook Live with guest readers for our families and the broader community
- We continued to support the mental health of our Scholars by holding 303 individual counseling sessions, 20 family sessions, 12 Scholar group sessions, and 16 children's group sessions.
- We collected and distributed tangible items like diapers and school supplies for Scholars, and gifts to help make the holidays bright.
- We provided nearly \$30,000 in additional emergency funding to our families to meet their urgent, short-term needs, making our COVID-19 financial support to our families nearly \$60,000 in total.
- We held a socially-distant outdoor holiday party and various virtual social events throughout the year to create community among our Scholars and their families.
- We released a [toolkit](#) for colleges and universities to use in specifically supporting student parents through the pandemic during the 2020/2021 academic year.



“

Generation Hope has not only created an environment where I feel like I belong but it has also helped me navigate college as a first-generation student and parent. Generation Hope has helped in boosting my confidence in my educational and personal life with the help of my coach and mentor. I have been able to grow as an individual as well as gain new skills and learn how to advocate for myself. No words can describe how thankful I am.”

Scholar Roxy, George Mason University

COVID-19 IMPACTS

Scholars listed the following urgent needs during 2021:

- 70% overall financial resources
- 53% food and groceries
- 33% employment
- 27% mental health support
- 22% housing support
- 21% childcare



Screenshot of our Founder & CEO, Nicole, reading the book *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* and making no-bake cookies with Scholars and their families in March 2021.

OUR 2021 IMPACT



122 SCHOLARS

- 42% HISPANIC/LATINX
- 40% AFRICAN AMERICAN
- 65% FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS
- 87% STUDENTS WITH LOW-INCOMES



30

preschool-aged children supported through Next Generation Academy



\$147,600

provided in tuition assistance



500

age-appropriate and culturally-relevant new books to Scholars' children enrolled in Next Generation Academy



16

graduates earned their degrees



4

institutions receiving Generation Hope's FamilyU technical assistance on effective student parent supports



26,000

student parents impacted through FamilyU

84% OF OUR SCHOLARS either **graduated or continued in both college and Generation Hope** from 2020 to 2021

89% OF 2021 GRADUATES **are currently working full time and/or pursuing graduate degrees**

OUR SCHOLARS graduate at a rate that is **nearly 8 times the graduation rate** of single mothers nationwide, and exceeds the rate for all college students*

100% OF SCHOLARS say they feel **the Generation Hope community accepts them for who they are**

100% OF CHILDREN in Next Generation Academy were **on track with age-appropriate communication skills** after one year in the program

100% OF CHILDREN in Next Generation Academy were **on track with age-appropriate cognitive development** after one year in the program

100% OF PARENTS in Next Generation Academy were **motivated to try new parenting strategies**

*Nationwide, fewer than 2% of teen mothers will earn their college degree before age 30

“

Generation Hope has given me the strength to move forward with my goal of becoming a college graduate regardless of my situation. I do not feel alone in my education, I have a team backing me up no matter my struggle. I am a first-generation college student and had no idea what to expect. I have a family that supports me and understands the struggle of what it feels like to be a student parent. The best part of Generation Hope is my mentor. I can go to her for anything and everything. She is a rock and has become family to me. I could go to her for advice or if I had a rough day with my kid or at school. It's nice to have the Generation Hope team on my side and wanting to see me succeed.”

Scholar Natalie, George Mason University



FY21 FINANCIALS

JULY 1, 2020-
JUNE 30, 2021



EXPENSES

\$2,137,439



REVENUE

\$2,729,222

DRIVING SYSTEMS CHANGE

The past year has been an exciting one for Generation Hope's national technical assistance program, FamilyU, which allows us to partner with colleges, universities, and organizations across the country to increase the number of parenting college students who earn a postsecondary credential.

In July 2021, Generation Hope launched our first FamilyU Cohort, which is a two-year capacity building program for a select group of higher education institutions to help them enhance their supports for student parents. The participating institutions are George Mason University, Montgomery College, Northern Virginia Community College, and Trinity Washington University. Through this collective work, we are impacting approximately 26,000 parenting college students.



“

What was really exciting and also attractive about the Generation Hope FamilyU Cohort is that it's designed in a way where you can get at the heart of an institution's strengths to be able to leverage existing infrastructure, policy, programs... and you're able to then maximize the potential in relevant areas to bolster success for student parents. So, you're actually able to get the ball rolling and begin to see change and an impact almost immediately.”

Dr. Ja'Bette Lozupone, Director of Student Affairs at Montgomery College and FamilyU Cohort participant

Dr. Ja'Bette Lozupone with Montgomery College student parents and their kiddos.

A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2021, Generation Hope's board of directors approved our 2024 Strategic Plan – our most ambitious growth trajectory to date. The plan was developed in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, during a time of great need in our community, our country, and around the world. While there is still much uncertainty as we continue to navigate through the pandemic and its impacts, one thing is remarkably clear: the need to create economic mobility for young families and student parents is urgent and vast. We know Generation Hope's model works when it comes to helping young families and parenting college students thrive. Now it's time to increase our impact. To do that, we have three major goals over the next few years that will drive everything we do:

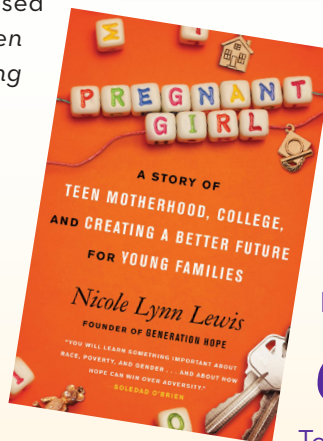
Impacting more families: We will expand and codify our Washington, DC metro area impact by broadening our two-generation solution to poverty, serving more teen parents in college through our Scholar Program and helping their children thrive in elementary school through our Next Generation Academy.

Creating systems change: We will drive systemic change to address historical racism and remove barriers for teen/student parents and their families by implementing a federal and local policy and advocacy agenda, transforming the higher ed landscape through institutional capacity building, and providing resources and tools for the broader higher ed and workforce community.

Scaling our program: We will scale and replicate our direct service program to a new site beyond the Washington, DC metro area, reaching more families and a new community.

To read our full plan, please visit: www.generationhope.org/strategic-plan

In May 2021, our founder and CEO, Nicole Lynn Lewis, released her critically acclaimed memoir *Pregnant Girl: A Story of Teen Motherhood, College, and Creating a Better Future for Young Families*. As both a memoir and a call to action, *Pregnant Girl* presents the possibility of a different future for young parents – one of success and stability – in the midst of the dismal statistics that dominate the national conversation. Along with her own story as a young Black mother, Nicole weaves in those of our Scholars to share a new perspective on how poverty, classism, and systemic racism impact teen pregnancy and on how effective programs and equitable policies can help teen parents earn college degrees, have increased opportunity, and create a legacy of educational and career achievements in their families. In addition to being named one of the best books of 2021 by NPR and chosen as NBA Player Steph Curry's September 2021 book club pick, *Pregnant Girl* has also received rave reviews and has captured the hearts and minds of people all over the country.



“ [T]his book is so much more than a memoir...Her prose has the power to undo deep-set cultural biases about poverty and parenthood.”

New York Times Book Review

“ Told with empathy and nuance, *Pregnant Girl* is a remarkable and heart-wrenching memoir from an inspiring leader.”

Booklist



Racial equity is woven into the fabric of Generation Hope. Our racial equity work is more than a tweet or a moment, it is strategic and enduring. Here are some actions we took in 2021:

- Incorporated Generation Hope's Race Equity Blueprint into our 2024 Strategic Plan to ensure it is embedded in our growth strategies over the next three years.
- Hosted board and staff retreats to continue to formalize our race equity work.
- Regularly convened our Racial Equity Working Group to finalize our Race Equity Blueprint and to continue to create learning and growth opportunities for our entire team.
- Held race equity conversations with Scholars and mentors in the Spring and Fall.
- Raised awareness about how systemic racism impacts our families and our work through media coverage with *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*, *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, and *The Lily*.

2021 DONORS

We are so grateful to the generous donors who supported Generation Hope from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021! Visit generationhope.org/our-supporters for a full list of our supporters.

\$100,000+

Imaginable Futures
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Nora Roberts Foundation
PNC
Sharing Montgomery Fund
TD Charitable Foundation
The Callon Family Fund
The Universities at Shady Grove

“

We're truly honored to be able to walk alongside our Scholar in her journey. Supporting financially is the easy part. She and the other scholars are doing the HARD WORK of rising above their odds. Her ability to juggle so many things, be humble enough to ask for help when needed, and even lift others in her circle up along the way (while setting boundaries!) is such an amazing orchestra to experience.”

Aaron and Savannah Gress, Donors and former mentors

“

We are incredibly honored to continue supporting and partnering with Generation Hope. They are doing much-needed work by advocating for the 25% of students who are also parents, an often-ignored group of learners, especially since 85% of them worry about their mental health. Whether it's navigating childcare, providing more mental health services, managing tuition costs, or balancing school, family and the rest of their lives, student parents need advocates like Generation Hope who provide meaningful, two-generation holistic support. We are proud to see the direct impact of their work and know they are positively impacting lives for generations to come.”

Lila Thomas, Director of Social Impact and Head of Chegg.org

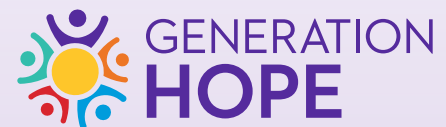
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“Generation Hope brings to the student parent movement the same inspiring motivation and clarity of purpose that student parents bring to their pursuit of higher education. We have seen how their work with their Scholars fuels and shapes the technical assistance they provide to institutions, bringing the voices and experiences of student parents, particularly single mother students, directly to those who most need to hear them. We are excited to see what Generation Hope accomplishes next.”

Rosario Torres, Program Officer, ECMC Foundation



Aaron and Savannah Gress and their son along with Generation Hope Scholar Yasmin (Montgomery College) and her daughter at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC.



generationhope.org