



HOPE  
FOR  
LA

2022 ANNUAL  
IMPACT  
REPORT

# TO YOU WHO FAITHFULLY SUPPORT HOPE FOR LA,

In Bryan Stephenson's bestselling book, *Just Mercy*, there is a moment when he reflects on a powerful question, "Where in my life have I received grace and mercy that I did not deserve?" I have not forgotten this question in a period marked by worldwide volatility, chaos, and personal loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, despite this, we received the grace to keep our commitments to our HFLA partners, found creative ways to meet practical needs, and completed a major service opportunity every quarter of 2021 while socially distant.

As we look forward to the years ahead, I am confident that our focus on impacting homelessness, loving foster youth, and lifting up families in need will allow Hope for LA to accomplish its vision of seeing Los Angeles transformed spiritually, relationally, and economically by the tangible demonstration of God's love.

There's a saying, a picture is worth a thousand words, but a story is worth a thousand pictures. It is my goal in the pages that follow to showcase the impact we've made through the voice of our partners and volunteers, as well as give clear snapshot of how we've invested the financial resources you have entrusted to us.

I'm privileged to serve alongside so many incredible volunteers, community groups, elders, deacons, and our amazing staff. I'm so thankful for you!

A black and white portrait of Michael Nelder Henderson III, a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a suit jacket. The portrait is partially obscured by a yellow vertical bar on the right side.

**MICHAEL NELDER  
HENDERSON III**

Director, Hope for LA



Hope for LA has a vision to see Los Angeles transformed spiritually, relationally, and economically by the demonstration of God's love.

**We focus on impacting homelessness, loving foster youth, and lifting up families in need.**

# IMPACTING HOMELESSNESS

Unemployment in Los Angeles County is hovering around 20 percent, with recent analysis suggesting that as many as 1.8 million people have lost their jobs. On any given day nearly 70,000 of people are unhoused (LAHSA 2020).



Danielle borrowed the timeless McDonald's slogan, "I'm lovin' it," not to describe her French fries but her new house that became a home this year.

Deed and Truth partnered with Hope for LA this year to turn Danielle's vacant apartment into a beautiful home.

But Danielle hasn't always been lovin' life. She told our team all about her difficult journey and how things happened to her even before her eighth birthday that should never happen to anyone. It changed her. It wounded her. Before she turned 13 she had already experienced her first addiction... cutting herself regularly. Then came other addictions.

After an almost fatal drug binge, someone told her about a recovery program called Teen Challenge and she eventually entered and got support to beat her addictions. In recovery she also found faith which completely removed her desire for substance abuse.

Upon graduating the Teen Challenge program, she enrolled in the Teen Challenge Ministry Institute to dedicate her life to helping others who have experienced addictions like her. Danielle has recently graduated that program and had such a complete transformation that she was hired to work for Teen Challenge to develop the alumni association and oversee one of the group homes.

Danielle recently sent a message to our group saying, "I just wanna say thank you so much again for everything you guys did. I am absolutely loving my new home. I am so grateful for you people."

## DAN ANDERSON

Director of Deed & Truth/House 2 Home

# LOVING FOSTER YOUTH

In LA County there were 39,000 children in the child welfare system as of Nov. 2020. 26 percent are ages 5-9 and 19 percent are 0-2 years old according to DCFS.



Since July of this year, our community group has served struggling children and families through CarePortal. CarePortal is an online platform that provides opportunities for churches to learn about and respond directly to real-time, physical needs of children who are either in the foster care system, or at-risk of entering the system. Hope for LA empowered our CG to engage with the platform and to start filling needs on behalf of PCC this year.

To date, we responded to and filled 6 needs, serving 8 children who were either at-risk of entering the foster care system, or who had previously been in the foster care system. We provided furniture, baby supplies, strollers, car seats, and even helped to pay a utility bill for a single mom. We spent \$4,130, and CarePortal estimated an economic impact equaling \$4,863 based on criteria they use to assess the long-term societal impact of these interventions.

One of the people we responded to was a young mother pregnant with her second child. The child was due any day, and the mother was struggling to gather the essentials she needed for the new baby (bassinet, stroller, car seat, and other baby essentials). Two of our CG members collected the items and delivered them in-person to the mother one evening. She, her partner, and her social worker were all extremely thankful and encouraged to receive these items. But our CG members who met the family recounted how shocking it was to see a level of poverty and struggle that we seldom witness while living our everyday lives on the Westside. We all wondered whether these items would actually make a difference, since they seemed like only a drop in the bucket compared to the multitude of challenges that family faced.

CarePortal's training encouraged us not to judge or assume anything about a situation that we see, since we'd never have the full picture. When we prayed for that family during our CG meeting, we were challenged to trust God to take care of that family far

beyond their immediate, physical needs. And we were also challenged to trust God that showing up for that family, giving them something tangible and specific to what they needed at that moment, and praying for them would, in fact, make a difference that perhaps we couldn't see.

I love CarePortal because it's a very low barrier to entry for a person or church who wants to serve the community. You can help as much or as little as your schedule allows and the platform and communication with social workers and the families works smoothly. I love that it gives us a chance to fill specific needs that struggling families are asking for, and that we as individuals can show up at their doorsteps, make their lives a little easier, and open an opportunity for a conversation, a prayer, or even a relationship. And I love how it has challenged our group to see the intense struggles of some of our neighbors first-hand and to trust that God has placed us there, seemingly meager gifts in-hand, for His purposes.



## DAVID PIDANCET

Community Group Leader and HFLA  
CarePortal Lead

# LIFTING UP FAMILIES IN NEED

The LA metropolitan area has the second highest share of renter households in the country at 54.2 percent (Blasi 2020). More than half a million renter households in Los Angeles County have an annual income of less than \$35,000 and are potentially one paycheck away from being unable to cover their housing costs and other necessities. (Ong, Pech, Ong, et al. 2020)



Thank you, thank you, thank you for your partnership during Oasis' 2021 BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY! This event was truly amazing. We were able to distribute free clothes for ALL AGES, provide free haircuts for students, and hand out 165 backpacks full of school supplies.

After a year of COVID & chaos, it was so refreshing to see people out at a free event with their families and receiving all that they need to make this school year a success!

Our students started school last week and we are so happy to report that they're all enjoying being back at school and everyone is remaining completely healthy & safe. We are believing that this is going to be the greatest school year of their lives!

Thank you for caring so much about the young people in Hollywood that you would GIVE so that they have their best chance at success. Y'all are awesome!!!

## MYNOR ROSALES

Program Director at Oasis of Hollywood

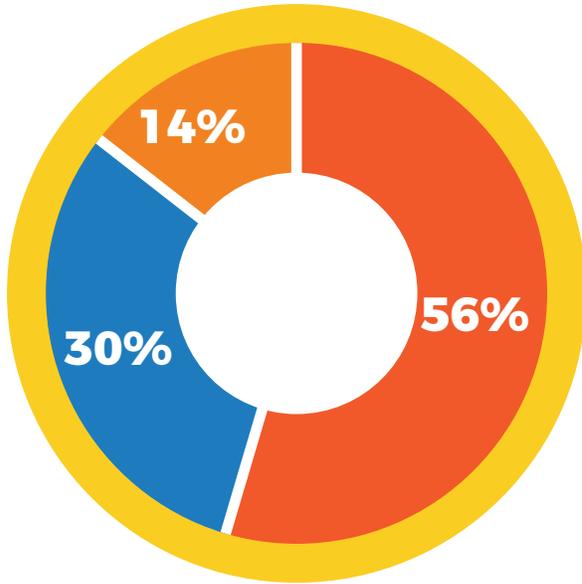


Thank you, Hope for L.A., for filling backpacks with much needed school supplies for students in need this year! We're excited to report that a church in South Central used the Powerpacks to get to know parents, survey them for needs, and as a result, learned that many parents and kids were asking for an after-school program in their community. One of their members Blanca, mentioned she was considering attending our S.A.Y. Yes! training to learn how to run this type of program. After learning of her plans, many of the parents and kids were calling her regularly and dropping by the church asking, "When is your after-school program going to start?" I am happy to report that Blanca and her sister Dina attended the training in October. They will be opening their brand new S.A.Y. Yes! after school program on January 18th!! All of this through a simple backpack outreach where many felt God's love and received the chance to connect with their local church. Thanks for your part in helping make this happen!! We are so thankful for PCC and Hope for L.A.!!

## TOM NORRIS

Team Director for Los Angeles, Cru Inner City

# 2021 BUDGET AND IMPACT



Impacting Homelessness:

**\$52,229.74**

Loving Foster Youth:

**\$31,613.86**

Lifting Up Families In Need:

**\$14,562.33**

Budget

**\$104,000**

- 4 formerly homeless individuals moved into new homes
- 160 children and foster families in crisis strengthened
- 840 hygiene kits provided to unhoused individuals
- 964 backpacks filled with supplies for students
- 2,870 people in need served through Boxes of Love





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Annual Impact Report