

Dose of Hope



Thanks to the incredible work of our Kids Hope volunteers we get to share stories of hope and transformation in the lives of our mentor children. Get this month's Dose of Hope here.

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Hi Lou,

Warmest Easter Greetings to our extended Kids Hope family!

Someone once said: 'Life is full of Easter Eggs, you just have to find them!' How true this is, especially when it comes to the experiences of those involved in our program. Read on to see!





This 'Easter Egg' was shared with us by one of our superstar coordinators, Kevin, who received a gratitude-filled email from the Vice Principal at their school after their annual Kids Hope party.

Dear Kevin,

What a wonderful way to celebrate the Kids Hope mentor program for the year. The kid's faces said it all. One of our students said to me at the session, "Thank you for putting me in the Kids Hope program, I love it!" This came from a student who doesn't often express happiness very often.

Can you please thank our mentors one more time for me? Philip, myself and the school community are so grateful that the Kids Hope program is an integral part of our Wellbeing Framework. You are all amazing human beings that make a difference. **Not all heroes wear a cape!!!**

Kind regards, Amy (School Wellbeing Coordinator, VIC)

20 YEARS OF HOPE FOR KIDS!



And it's not just the kids who love it! We have a bunch of superheroes in the Yarra Ranges in Victoria who proudly wear their invisible capes every week, eager to make a difference in a child's life. Grace Communion Mooroolbark was one of the first churches that partnered with Kids Hope in Australia at its inception in October 2003, before the program officially started in 2004. They are still going strong today, currently providing 7 mentors to their partner school. How terrific!

<u>CLICK HERE</u> or on the image above to see the article by Matthew Gudze, Lead Pastor of Grace Communion Mooroolbark, and faithful Kids Hope mentor. It features in a Community Magazine that the church sponsors and publishes as a gift to the Yarra Ranges communities in Victoria. Just another way our Kids Hope churches give back to the community.

20 YEARS STRONG!



Did you know that next year, 2024, marks Kids Hope's 20-year anniversary of operation in Australia? That's 20 years of delivering HOPE to vulnerable children in primary schools and 20 years of seeing lives transformed through having a mentor who champions them!

We are starting to plan how to celebrate our 20-year anniversary with stories and events with you next year so please do let us know if you have stories or ideas to contribute. Perhaps you were involved in one of the programs in the early years! Please call us on 03 9780 4823 or email us at <u>admin@kidshope.org.au</u>. We would love to chat with you!



IT WAS NOTHING SPECIAL, BUT IT WAS SPECIAL TO HER

Here is another beautiful 'Easter Egg' reflection sent through by Jim, who was a Kids Hope mentor for many years. It is yet another example of how our program brings Hope into the lives of vulnerable children.

"The first year I mentored, I was asked to take on a little prep from a dysfunctional family. I had never seen such a child so frightened. I will call her Samantha. Down through the years, Sam started to shine just by being loved. We made things, laughed, and played together. **It was nothing special, but it was special to her.** In Sam's final year, she was the top student in her school. At the end of the year, she had the lead role in the school production. What a fine young lady she had become!"

Jim, Mentor, VIC

Thanks for sharing these special 'Easter Eggs' with us here. We wish you all a blessed and Happy Easter with your family and friends. May your Easter basket be filled with joy, happiness, and above all, HOPE.

Sincerely, The Kids Hope Team

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