

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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July 2023

Hi Carolyn,

We have so much to celebrate this month. So grab a cuppa and settle in for some fantastic news!

WE DID IT!



Yes, that's right. We did it! In fact, with your amazing generosity we actually exceeded our initial goal. Thanks to Bee and Marion and

their amazing story, hearts were ignited!

We asked for your support to help 300 more children... and yet, you gave over and above. Thank you! At the final tally, we can happily say that you helped us raise enough support for **over 400 one-to-one mentoring relationships**. That is amazing! And we are so grateful.

We cannot share transformational stories like Bee and Marion's without your support. So, thank you from the whole Kids Hope team. This is an achievement worth celebrating!

WHAT A CELEBRATION!



We have another celebration needing a mention. You may recall we had set a date to honour our amazing volunteers. Well we did, and WOW! What an amazing time of connecting and celebrating. Just look at all those cheerful smiles (above).

It was the first time we've been able to meet as a broader Kids Hope family since the beginning of the Covid lockdowns. So you can only imagine how excited we were. We gathered in person in VIC, WA and QLD and had many people joining us online as well.

We chatted, played games and had a delicious morning tea. Our Patron, Tim Costello then gave us an amazingly inspirational presentation. And the finale of course was celebrating our awardees. Check them out in the photos below.



In the top row from the left we have our **Tim Costello Hope Awardees (for excellence in volunteering):**

Jewell Watts from Grovedale Baptist Church coordinated and mentored at Mandama Primary School

Jan Drury from Elanora Uniting Church coordinated and mentored at Elanora State School

Melanie Petkovic from Pursuit Church Mornington coordinating and mentoring at Moorooduc Primary School

In the bottom row from the left we have our **Champion Awardees (for extraordinary achievement in fundraising for Kids Hope), and a surprise acknowledgement:**

Don Sinclair and team from Uniting Op Shop (Forest Hill) connected to Burwood Heights Primary School

Kathy Ferguson and team from Mount Waverley Uniting Church partnered with Mount Waverley Primary School

Tim Smith for his faithful service in the Kids Hope Community Engagement team for over 10 years!

They shared so many wonderful stories which we will definitely share with you. So, watch this space!

10 YEARS AND COUNTING!



We do have one story we'd love to share right now. As mentioned, we honoured Tim Smith, our Community Engagement champion for his 10 years of loyal service at our recent volunteer event. You may not realise but he has helped start over 220 programs since he started with us. That is an extraordinary effort! We asked Tim a few questions regarding his time in his role.

Why Kids Hope? Why do you do what you do?

We live in a world today where many kids are struggling with various social, environmental, and family challenges. But Kids Hope mentoring can make a difference by providing a glimmer of hope to these children in need. Hearing the amazing stories of impact is what drives me to continue to partner churches with schools to reach more children through the power of one-to-one mentoring.

Do you have any highlights?

There are so many stories of impact. For example, [the story of Bee and Marion](#). That's the heart of what we do. It's what excites me - knowing that our program really works! However, another highlight for me is the excitement of partnering a school with a church to establish a Kids Hope program. I enjoy seeing the culmination of lots of work, multiple communications and many meetings and discussions to finally see the program starting in a school. No matter how long it takes, the journey is always worth it! A principal made my day recently when he said, "We have thoroughly enjoyed and valued having the mentors in our school this year and we look forward to strengthening this partnership for 2023."

Why should people get involved?

Because it works! The kids receive so much joy from the mentoring relationship. But we know that it's not just the kids. The mentors also get so much out of the program - knowing that they are making a difference. It is rewarding and impactful. The wellbeing departments of schools are stretched more than ever. So if a group of people from a local church can help with even just a few kids in a partner school, it's absolutely worth getting involved.

How can people get involved?

Mostly by helping to establish more programs. So, if you have any church or school contacts, please put them in touch with me because we need to reach more & more kids! If you would like to contact me, you can do that by emailing admin@kidshope.org.au.

Thanks for joining us this month. Thanks for your support! And thanks for sharing the journey as we endeavour to have more children's lives transformed, right across Australia.

Best regards,
The Kids Hope Team

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Active Kids Hope Coordinators & Mentors need to stay subscribed to all our communications to continue to receive important resources & information.

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