RESPONDING TO TODAY.
READY FOR TOMORROW.

#ResponsiveandReady

thehopeprogram.org
Dear HOPE Family,

With great pride, I am introducing myself as HOPE’s new Board Chair, building on ten years of board service, including the past four as chair of Sustainable South Bronx, HOPE’s subsidiary.

Throughout my tenure serving on the board, I have rolled up my sleeves to volunteer at HOPE. From hosting interview projects to coating rooftops for energy efficiency with our green jobs trainees, I have come to deeply understand the importance of HOPE’s mission. By training under resourced New Yorkers for new jobs and sustainable careers, HOPE has long sought to build socioeconomic justice for communities whose voices have been muted by cycles of poverty, mass incarceration, environmental injustice, and recently, the disproportionate negative health and financial impacts of COVID-19.

In these unprecedented times, I am inspired by you, our committed supporters, the leadership and dedication of our Board of Directors, Executive Director Jennifer Mitchell, and the entire HOPE team. Together, we have earned recognition for governance and fiscal management, transformed our approach to offer remote job training, served on the NYC Workforce Recovery Strategy Group to inform an equitable recovery, and expanded beyond jobs to meet our neighbors’ emerging needs: financial support for food and rent; computers and WiFi access; mental health services and more. We are Responsive Today and Ready for Tomorrow.

As I take the helm, I know that we cannot do this work alone. We need your continued commitment, particularly in these most challenging times. Each and every one of our volunteers, employer partners, graduates, staff - and you! - are vital to promoting economic justice in New York City. Help us continue HOPE’s strong legacy of building sustainable futures. Thank you for your continued investment in this critical work.

Lauren Samuel
Chair, HOPE Board of Directors
Vice President, Barclays Strategy

Lower-income New Yorkers were twice as likely to lose their livelihoods due to COVID-19.

$15.8 million earned by HOPE students and graduates last year
"Growing up, I lived in homeless shelters. Determined things would be different for my daughter, I enrolled in HOPE and got a job in 2017. When I lost hours due to COVID, I knew where to turn. HOPE gave me financial support to buy food for my daughter. Now, I can focus on training for a new job.” - Shadae T., age 28

“Because of HOPE, I landed a job as a culinary instructor last year. HOPE also helped me with mental health tools which are even more important now. COVID is a roller coaster of emotion. Throughout it all, HOPE would say to take a moment for myself. Wellness is healthy.” - Shanika H., age 36

“For me, the key to job security is a career that’s in demand and good for the planet. Because of HOPE, my paid internship in the solar industry just turned into a permanent job! I love being out in the field, working hands-on, and building a greener city.” - Enrique H., age 24

“Just as I was getting ready to celebrate a year on the job, the daycare where I work as a custodian shut down for COVID. HOPE made sure I had a laptop and WiFi access so I could work and learn from home, and keep my job. I’m so happy to be back at work now!” - David J., age 46

514 trees and plants
planted and watered as part of HOPE’s focus on green jobs

374 computers and hotspots
delivered to bridge the digital divide

707 individuals
connected with our work wellness team during a time of heightened anxiety

$222,000 provided to New Yorkers
to cover food, rent, personal protective equipment, and other basic needs

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William M.
Giving Back HOPE

I spent 17 years, 6 months and 13 days in prison for a drug charge. I took that time to participate in self-improvement classes and help other inmates with anger management, parenting and public speaking. When I was released in 2019, I knew my record would make it difficult to find a job.

But I’m determined to build a career helping others, so in March, I signed up for training to become a substance abuse counselor. Then COVID-19 hit and stopped my plans in their tracks. My parole officer sent me to HOPE’s remote job training. I had resume and interview skills before HOPE, but there was so much more that I learned. It was a humbling experience. I improved my computer skills. The financial literacy classes gave me the push to start a savings account. Before HOPE, I was sitting around and doing nothing. Wellness class taught me how to let out my negative energy.

HOPE recently connected me with a paid opportunity facilitating voter education trainings for other New Yorkers with records, letting them know about their rights and how to vote.

I keep striving and trying to do the right thing. But doors got to be open, chances got to be given.

The best part about The HOPE Program is that if clients know what they want to do in life, the staff will help them if they stick to it. HOPE has the perfect name.

$297,000 in transitional wages earned by HOPE graduates who helped hundreds of underrepresented New Yorkers complete the census and register to vote, among other jobs.

Dulce S.
Finding My Voice

I had to drop out of school and start working at age 17 to support my mom. As an adult, I’ve lived in homeless shelters too many times. But I want to make a living for myself, pull myself together, and get an apartment. I want to build my life from nothing to something, and then to something bigger.

This time, with the positivity and help of HOPE, I’m going to make it happen. It’s one thing to know yourself, know your abilities, but it’s another thing for other people to see what you see and believe it as well. HOPE believed in me and encouraged me to share the power of my voice.

At HOPE, I learned how to be my best self, how to write a great cover letter and prepare for an interview, and the tools to manage my stress. HOPE also gave me a laptop, so I can study for my high school equivalency and maintain a remote job.

My job now is with Test and Trace, encouraging high-risk people possibly exposed to COVID-19 to stay home.

“There’s something about the spirit of New York City that pulls me in. I never feel alone here. And now, I’m helping make New York City safer for everyone, including my baby daughter.”

38% of HOPE’s jobseekers are parents
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Building sustainable futures through comprehensive training, jobs, advancement and lifelong career support

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