Standing Together in Hope

Boys Hope Girls Hope committed to keeping our doors open during the 2020-2021 program year, despite uncertainty presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. During this rapidly changing year, our community stayed connected, both virtually and in-person. In the fall, our Campus of Hope was open for small group programming sessions and served as a safe learning environment for Scholars and Garfield Heights School District students to focus on remote schooling. Due to gathering restrictions, our traditional holiday party went on the road with a beautiful food basket and gifts delivered to all 184 Scholar families. And our joyous return to a full, 10-week, in-person programming session this spring prioritized lessons focused on social, emotional, and physical wellness.

We are so grateful for the donors, volunteers, and friends who stood together with us in hope and allowed us to innovate all year to ensure our young people had the necessary resources in this challenging year.

Hope Grows with Family Engagement Programming

The strong relationship between BHGH families and staff is vital to fully champion Scholars. This year, BHGH grew that partnership by launching The Parent & Guardian Advisory Council for participants to share ideas, concerns, and suggestions and enable all to better support Scholars. Areas of interest identified by Council members then led to the creation of Empowerment Programs.

Scholar Empowerment Programs focused on the power of a positive mindset, how education can change one's life, and the importance of finding and following your passion. Parent/Guardian Empowerment Programs addressed emotional health, identifying bullying behaviors, parenting for success, and financial empowerment.

Celebrating a Record Number of Scholars

Due to the pandemic’s disruption on BHGH’s admissions process last year, our team spent the spring recruiting two new classes of Scholars for the first time ever. We are blessed to welcome 52 incoming 6th and 7th graders from 17 area partner schools, who bring us to 222 Scholars - the most ever participating in BHGH programming!
Scholars benefited from in-person programming this year as they continued to work hard developing healthy life skills and preparing for college and careers. Meaningful partnerships reinforced Academy programming with several certified fitness instructors leading wellness activities, Union Home Mortgage Foundation delivering a career readiness conference, the TJ Carrie Foundation teaching financial literacy courses, and Health Professionals Affinity Community (HPAC) and AmeriCorps facilitating learning about and acting on community health initiatives.

Residential Scholars embraced the challenges of this academic year, demonstrating their flexibility and fortitude while each improving their grade point averages. Our campus environment provided the stability to empower Scholars to pursue their passions and take on new endeavors! For example, Trevon joined the Saint Ignatius theatre department building sets, Happy raced into her first season of Indoor Track and Field (and broke three personal records), and Adela was accepted to her first choice high school. Daisy began pursuing her entrepreneurial passion by opening her small business, Loyalty Boutique. Rockelv worked on stop-motion film in the Merriman Family Innovation Center to develop his interest in film and photography.

“\textit{I am so happy I have been able to have the opportunity to be a part of the financial literacy program at BHGH because it has really helped me understand the concept of finances, and I have been able to set goals for myself on how to save money. BHGH has always been a place for me to grow in.}” - Alma ‘21

In partnership with America Scores, 8th grade Scholars practiced healthy lifestyles and soccer skills.

Scholars celebrated with HPAC after presenting their research on wellness and social change opportunities in their communities.
The increased stressors caused by COVID-19 and remote learning challenged our 42 Collegians like never before. Individualized advising and encouragement from eight BHGH Career Coaches helped them to persevere. With strong mentorship, and over $100,000 in last dollar scholarships, our ambitious Scholars were empowered to work even harder amid increasingly difficult conditions to achieve academic honors, receive internships, and accept new professional jobs.

This year, the Lennon Center (TLC) became the new dedicated home for College and Career Success with workshops, one-on-one coaching sessions, and community building activities.

**SALUTING OUR COLLEGE GRADUATES**

- **Dalonzo Curges**
  University of Detroit-Mercy
  Bachelor of Arts
  Political Science

- **Deja Emmanus**
  Cleveland State University
  Bachelor of Science
  Mechanical Engineering

- **Shaquille Hall**
  Northern Michigan University
  Bachelor of Fine Art
  Photography

- **Lawrence Karpeh**
  Cleveland State University
  Bachelor of Science
  Business

- **Julia Moreno**
  Georgetown University
  Bachelor of Science
  Global Studies

**CAREER SUCCESS**

While many of our post-secondary Scholars pursue a college degree, others following different career goals and paths, also referred to as Fellows, are supported through the Career Success program. Launched in September 2019, the program provides scholarship funds and mentorship as professional BHGH Career Coaches help Fellows identify and succeed in training programs that best fit their skills, interests, and goals for the future. This year, one such Scholar, Cecelia, received guidance from her coach as she completed her Nursing Assistant coursework at Tri-C, passed state board certification, launched her career, and established herself in a new apartment!

Cecelia began her career at Villa St. Joseph assisted living facility in Garfield Heights.
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184 young people from more than 70 schools received academic, emotional, and social support through evidence-based programming.

$111K in scholarship funding was awarded to college bound Scholars to offset the cost of tuition, housing, textbooks and supplies.

7,814 meals were lovingly prepared and served by volunteers, ensuring Scholars receive healthy, home-cooked food.

365 days BHGH delivered programming to Residential, Academy, and College and Career Scholars.

Be Involved
Visit our website at www.bhghneo.org for more information on how you can make an impact on the lives of kids overcoming the barriers of poverty. Donate. Volunteer. Refer a child.

Nurturing and guiding motivated young people in need to become well-educated, career-ready men and women for others.