



# FAMILY HOPE

## *Impact Report*

# 2023

"We have this *Hope* as an anchor for our soul"





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"Celebrating relationships  
that become *Family*"

Host Carissa and kiddos united at the park  
for a visit 1 year after hosting happened!



# A Letter from Our Director

## DEAR FRIEND,

“The Lord is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid?”  
(Psalm 27:1)

Every time I read this verse, I am captivated by that question:  
WHOM SHALL I FEAR?

IF the Lord is my light and my salvation AND He is the stronghold of my life, THEN it would seem that I would not fear anyone or anything in this life...right?

I imagine this verse being shouted victoriously, without a trace of fear or trembling - and with great confidence of a warrior-like Christian, standing tall and almost daring anyone to a battle - both physically and spiritually.

But my reality is that this past year, while graced with sweet blessings and answered prayers, I have found myself at times barely able to whisper that beloved verse, especially in the wee hours of the night when I'm gripped with all kinds of fears threatening my peace and sleep.

Here are a few of my current, raw fears:

I'm afraid that someone I love with all my heart will lose hope and give up on life no matter how much I pray and try to help.

I'm afraid that I won't be able to meet important goals and expectations, both personally and in ministry and disappoint those who depend on me.

I'm afraid I will never Zumba again or hike confidently after breaking one ankle and spraining the other one last month (it was not exactly comforting to hear from the doc that “older” bones take longer to heal - yikes).

Trust me, I have many more fears I struggle with; some are quite intense and others are a bit silly and even embarrassing to admit. I can be brave and share these with you, though, since I've benefitted from others who wrestle with fears and entrust me with their list too. Even our strong, faithful Family Hope superstar volunteers who courageously open up their hearts and homes to host vulnerable children or offer their time and resources to walk alongside an overwhelmed, hurting mom, have confessed to being initially fearful. With all the unknowns that come with saying YES to getting involved in new relationships, we often feel vulnerable and without any guarantees of a successful outcome. Some fears they express are:

What if our hosted child doesn't connect well with us and has a difficult time adjusting to our family/home?

What if the workload of additional children in our home is much harder than we imagined?

What if the mom we're praying for and advocating for doesn't meet her goals and it doesn't seem like we helped in a significant way?

These are all legitimate concerns, but I'm so grateful that these fears didn't stop our volunteers who joined us in 2023 even when it wasn't convenient or easy to carve out that time. Often, we can allow all our fears and doubts to paralyze us from walking in faith - but then how will we ever strengthen our faith muscles and allow the Lord to show Himself strong in our lives? Maybe it's because I'm getting older, but I don't want to miss out on that opportunity to grow stronger in faith and live out His purposes in me while I'm still well and alive on this earth.

Yes, it may mean on some days, I feel like a faith-filled warrior shouting from the mountain top, “WHOM SHALL I FEAR?” On those more difficult, discouraging days, I may just barely be able to whisper “of whom shall I be afraid?” Regardless, we can cling to His promises that we no longer need to be a slave to fear, if we remember that He is our light and our salvation! And the stronghold of our lives!

Author Ellie Holcomb of *Fighting Words - 100 days of Speaking Truth into the Darkness* describes a **STRONGHOLD** as a place that has been fortified so as to protect it against attack. I love that and desperately need that kind of supernatural protection every single day. Let's face it; this life is a bit scary some days, BUT GOD has already won the battle. He will do what only He can do, and one of the best truths that sets my fearful heart back to a faithful heart is that one day soon, our strong, sovereign, promise-keeping God will make all things new again - will right every wrong again. Yes He will!

I want to end with a big shout of THANKS to all our volunteers and those servant leading churches who partnered with us in 2023. Let's not allow any fear to distract us - if we stand firm in His truths, I know that a life-giving experience awaits us and many lives will be changed forever and for good, including our own lives. I praise God that these pages reflect a tiny bit of what He has done and will continue to do as we walk in faith that conquers every fear. It's an honor to serve with you and to continue to make that kingdom impact together in 2024!



*Lanna*

Lanna Blanchard,  
Family Hope Executive Director



**FAMILY HOPE** is a collaboration of area churches providing supportive relationships for isolated families. We are a Christian, non-profit operating through our team of trained and vetted volunteers who offer temporary hosting of children, connections and guidance for parents, and a bridge to family stability.

**OUR MISSION** is to bring hope to families through caring, connective relationships formed in the redemptive love of Jesus by providing a CHURCH-LED, PREVENTATIVE, DOUBLE-VOLUNTARY model of care.



## Core Values

- **Church-Led:** We believe the Church is God's design to care for the most vulnerable.
- **Preventative:** We wrap around families before abuse/neglect has occurred.
- **Double-Voluntary:** Family Hope is non-coercive for parents requesting support; Host Families receive no monetary compensation.

# 2023

“ We support this work in the same way we support our friends' children who embark on short term mission trips. We love to be able to send our friends' children to hard places, and we love to be able to send the staff of Family Hope into more hard places, as we unite to be the hands and feet of Christ.”

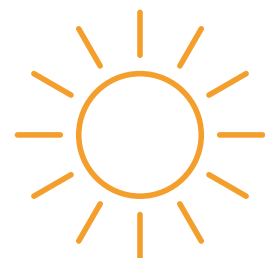
-Family Hope Monthly Donor and Host, Kevin McMullen



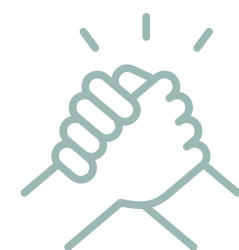
**174 Overnight Hostings**



**54 Parents Served**



**109 Day Hostings**



**4 NEW Support Coaches**



**18 Support Friend Arrangements**



**54 NEW Hosts/Support Friends**



**99 Children Served**



**22 Volunteers in Processing**

Churches  
34%

Individuals  
37%

**2023  
DONATIONS**

Foundations  
29%

Not a single state dollar contributes to our yearly budget! Thank YOU, our **FAITHFUL DONORS**, for your financial partnership!

# 2023

brought many blessings, and **together** we...



Completed **7** live Volunteer Trainings!



Attended **19** Info Sessions & Event Tables!



Organized our **first** Family Hope "Lunch on Us!"



Worked alongside **2 intern students**, Ashton (Doctorate in Occupational Therapy) and Helen (Bachelor's in Social Work)!

"See, I am doing a new thing...I am *Making a Way* in the wilderness"

# THANK YOU to these **30+** *Key Churches*

who fuel our mission to care for vulnerable families by recruiting volunteers, holding opportunities for awareness and training, and covering Family Hope in support and prayer!

Antioch Community Church  
 Castlevew Church  
 Center Grove Church  
 Christ Community Church\*  
 Church at the Crossing\*  
 Clayton Christian Church  
 College Park Church\*  
 Community Bible Fellowship\*  
 The Caring Place  
 The Creek  
 Crosspointe Community Church\*  
 Eagle Church\*  
 Emmanuel Church  
 Fall Creek German Baptist Church  
 Holy Cross Lutheran Church\*

Horizon Christian Fellowship Church  
 Indy AC Church  
 Harvest Church  
 ITOWN Church  
 Mercy Road Church Carmel  
 Mercy Road Church NE  
 Mercy Road Church NW  
 Northview Church\*  
 Outlook Christian Church\*  
 Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church  
 Park Chapel Christian Church\*  
 Pennington Park Church\*  
 Plainfield Christian Church\*  
 Redeemer Presbyterian Church\*

Redeemer Bible Church  
 Renewal Neighborhood Community Church\*  
 Soma Church  
 Traders Point Christian Church\*  
 Trailside Church\*  
 Trinity Church\*  
 Zionsville Fellowship Christian Church\*

\*Indicates a **Partnering Church** meaning this church has come alongside us in serving vulnerable families as well as through financial giving!

**Thank you** for making it possible to love others well and serve families **in the name of Jesus!**



Ministry Coordinator, Aly Martin, leading an Info Table at Pennington Park Church!



Eagle Church hosting our 2023 Celebration of Hope!



Ministry Coordinators, Stacey and Becky Peters, representing Plainfield Christian Church in our Church-Led Video!

# Testimonies

of God's GOODNESS shared by those served and those who **get to** serve!



Sweet "Goodbyes" captured by a Host Family!

"Thank you so much for everything. You're amazing. I'm so grateful for you!" - FH Mama

"We have rooms in our homes that no one sleeps in. We have seats at our table where no one sits. We have a way to include the vulnerable in our very lives, as if they were our very own." - FH Host

"My experience with Family Hope as been amazing and I thank you guys."- FH Mama

"Z. is such a special little girl. She truly brought so much joy to our family and it was a blessing to have her with us. We felt like God continuously gave us the strength that we needed to care for her and that our family grew closer during this time."- FH Host



Mama attending Easter church service with her Host Family!





All smiles to be reunited with Mama!

"I really appreciate Kim and the people around her that are willing to help with my kids. I have been able to go to work so I can become who I need to be for my kids."- FH Mama

"As we labor with Family Hope, we, ourselves, are being restored, as we joyfully submit to the call of the Gospel to provide Biblical Hospitality."- FH Host

"If I didn't have Family Hope, a lot of things wouldn't have been possible."- FH Mama

"Love, Love, Love, what Family Hope stands for and how a community can work together to support families in crisis that have no one."- FH Host

"I didn't expect to gain literally what the name says, *Family Hope*. I gained another family and I also gained hope at that time because I gained so many support systems. So many people were there supporting me and it was amazing."- FH Mama



Support Coach Kim dropping off care packages!

# Sweet Water

A MINISTRY OF FAMILY HOPE

We are incredibly thankful for our **Sweet Water Ministry** where Family Hope mamas and children are connected through fellowship in Christ!

## 2023

**60 volunteers** were involved in **5000+ hours of service** impacting **30 mamas** more than **270** times and **72 children** over **650** times by mentoring, providing meals, & assisting with transportation needs!

Sweet Water's Christ-focused, trauma-informed children's curriculum, paired with intentional group sizes, deepened relationships and helped transform behavior. A new Trust-Based Parenting curriculum was created resulting in many reports of improved parent-child interactions at home!

Sweet Water also launched their first video featuring testimonies of transformation!

learn more at: [sweetwaterministries.org](https://sweetwaterministries.org)





**New Song Mission** has partnered with Family Hope in so many beautiful ways.

We are grateful for their team and gorgeous campus where many children find beauty in nature and grow in faith!

**2023**

**41 children** were able to attend **New Song Adventure Camp!**

**10 new students** began attending school at New Song as a result of their camp experience!

"I made straight A's on my report card for the first time this year!"

Jaylen is a 3rd year student at New Song. He trusted the Lord last spring on campus and was baptized at his home church. Founder Bob shares, "He is thriving in school and is a lot of fun to have on campus!"





# Thank You

We give all the glory and praise to God for every blessing experienced in 2023!

**Volunteers, Churches, Donors, and Friends,** thank YOU for supporting our mission to care for families and build relationships in the name of Jesus!



## 2024

# GOALS

**10** NEW PARTNERING CHURCHES

**10** NEW SUPPORT COACH VOLUNTEERS

**100** NEW HOST/SUPPORT FRIEND VOLUNTEERS

**100** MORE FAMILIES SERVED



## Family Hope

*Supporting Parents. Loving Children.*

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