

Helping Hand

Summer Time Blur

By Dr. Bob Whiddon Jr.

It has been a busy summer! Summer of 2019 has been quite busy for Hope Harbor staff and residents. Besides all of the activities, the spring and early summer have been wetter than usual. Heavy rains and record numbers of tornados ravaged Oklahoma. Then, like a switch being flipped, summer came in with hot weather. Such is the life for Oklahomans.

As for the new cottage, we finally broke ground and hope that the completion date will be before the school year begins. If you want to come take a tour of the new Stumpff Cottage, please give me a call and we can arrange a time for you to tour.

As for Hope Harbor Academy, we have conferred High School Diplomas on six of our students. It was a historic occasion. We will have pictures of the event in the next Helping Hand that publishes in September.

As for our residential population, five of our residents will be leaving after their High School graduation. A few more will be leaving because they will be completing our residential program later this summer and our new cottage should be complete by September. All in all, we may have as many as fourteen new residents by the fall of this year. It's going to get busy around here but are excited to see what God has enstores for our future residents and their families. Please be praying for them and our staff.

Busy-ness and hard work make time fly by quickly. It'll be another school and another graduation soon but that's what we're here for. Helping kids and families grow stronger.

Pray for us. God will help. God will always be praised.

Congratulations **CLASS OF 2019**



Jason, Zach, Reese, Alex, Alyssa and Rachel
We are so proud of you all!



A Peek into the Life of a Residential Life Specialist

Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me. -John 12:26

By Amber Davis



As we hit our 6 month mark of being Residential Life Specialists at Hope Harbor, we're realizing that being House Parents is not just our job: it's our passion, our livelihood, and our ministry. The day-to-day necessities in meeting the basic needs of 6 girls doesn't even begin to cut into the heart of the work here.

It's the conversation on the front porch with a girl, listening as she struggles through the choices for her future. It's mediating between two roommates, as they learn to create boundaries and mutual respect for each other's space for the first time in their lives. It's shooting

off quick texts and emails to a supervisor about incidents throughout the week, so each girl's parents can be emailed and kept in the loop as much as possible. It's hiding your surprise when one of the girls asks if she can say the prayer before dinner for the first time ever. It's holding in the tears until you get to go to your private apartment at night. It's finding the perfect balance in structure and consistency, while trying to add in some fun memories and new experiences. It's making sure your own kids and marriage don't get put last on the list of priorities each day. It's looking at the hurt and anger from a past incident and not taking the unexpected outburst from a girl personally. It's turning to your co-workers for help when a girl asks about being baptized and you feel ill-equipped to walk them down the path to such a life-changing decision by yourself. It's admitting when you're emotionally maxed out and need a break.

Hope Harbor isn't a place with quick fixes and perfect staff. It's a place with tools to help you work through the "impossible" and a group of people who understand that you're human.

It's a place of hope. And we couldn't be more honored to be a part of it.

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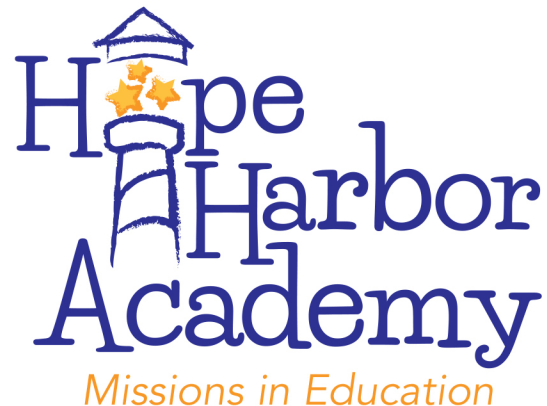


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To New Beginnings...

Stumpff Cottage will be completed sometime in the Fall. We are so excited for this cottage to be finished. It means so many things for us at Hope Harbor.

With this addition to our campus we will be able to help more families be reconciled. It is a wonderful thing to know that not only are we loved by so many of you who have donated to this project but the future impact this cottage will make is unmeasurable.

God has great things planned for this ministry. We are so humbled to be able to work with these incredible young men and women. We hope our influence will live on and the seeds God has planted will flourish into amazing triumphs for His kingdom.



When children and families spend all their time trying to survive, they can't dream and often lose hope.

We provide a place where

Families can *Dream*
and *Hope* again.

Hope Harbor is a residential family reconciliation program in Claremore, Ok. We empower our teens & their families to forgive, heal and thrive. Join our HOPE 365 Club and invite your friends. Together, we can make a difference.



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