

Helping Hand

CHANGE

"The secret of change is to focus
all of your energy not on fighting the old,
but on building the new."

-SOCRATES



BY DIRK O'DONNELL

How many times have you heard the word "change" since March of this year? I am guessing you, like me, have both heard and used "change" more in our conversations this year than possibly ever before. It seems every part of our "normal" routines have been effected by that dreaded word this year. Hope Harbor is no exception. With changes in staffing, residents, activities, and routines, your Hope Harbor family has experienced a multitude of "changes."



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And yet through it all, the kids you are ministering to have done great, maybe even better than us adults. Why is that? Because many of these children have spent their life in constant change. Whether it is change in living arrangements, change in family members, or change in how they get their food, change at high speed is the norm for many.

For the kids, their time at Hope Harbor is the first time in their life they don't have change occurring at a frantic pace and this can be scary for them. That may seem counterintuitive to you. Consider that you are used to your "normal" routine and any shift in it can often cause you, an adult, some anxiety.

**The steadfast love of the Lord
never ceases; his mercies never
come to an end; they are new
every morning; great is your
faithfulness.**

-Lamentations 3:22-23

Now imagine being a 12-year-old who has learned to "survive" in their own "normal" but unhealthy situation. Then they come to a community where things seem odd because the pace of life is changed. They don't have to worry about where to find food. It is prepared for them 3 times a day and there is always enough. They don't live in fear of a parent or adult because they have made a mess or a mistake. Instead they have someone who will come along side and show them how or help them correct the mistake. They don't have to worry about taking care of their own basic needs because you are providing for them.

This environment is a huge change for our kids and it can take them time to adjust. Thankfully, you are providing that for them. Time is our greatest commodity. You provide them the time to adjust and learn a new healthy normal by providing them a set of

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house parents, food, school supplies, counseling, and teachers. You provide them with the tools and support they need to change from a frantic unhealthy life situation to a healthy, balanced, and Christ focused life.

So while our lives as adults have been disrupted and our routines have changed this year, you continue providing the opportunity for positive life change at Hope Harbor both in the children you serve and their families.

In addition to the kids you provide

for on campus, you are also providing counseling and training to their families. Families who have recognized the need for change and have agreed to working on making positive changes in their lives. The goal of Hope Harbor is not to provide a community for the child to grow up in and stay long term. The goal is to provide a community that wraps itself around the kid and their parents to help them achieve healing and unity.

Since 1947 this community has existed and because of you the community continues.

**“Jesus Christ
is the same
yesterday
and today
and forever.”
-Hebrews 13:8**

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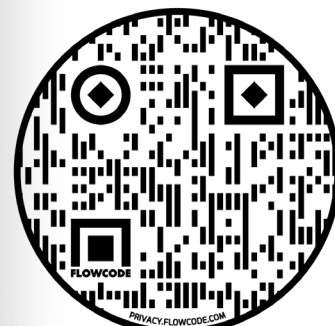
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