

# Helping Hand

## I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO JOHN.

BY DIRK O'DONNELL

**A**fter his parents separated, John lived with his dad. **John's dad did his best.** He took John to church, Christian counseling, and doctors to try and help him deal with the actions and attitudes that came from the hurts he encountered at such a young age. **But John and his dad continued to struggle.**

Does this story sound familiar?

Maybe the names or roles are different but you can probably think of someone who has lived this story. No one has a child and plans for things to go wrong. No one gets married planning for the marriage to end. **But living in a fallen world has consequences we may never anticipate.**

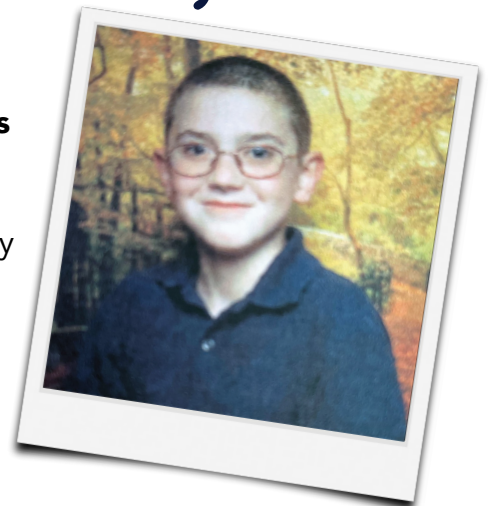
John ended up at Hope Harbor when he was 12. I can imagine his dad felt some relief and hoped things would improve for John. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case. John **struggled** while he was here. He **struggled** with his relationships with the adults. He **struggled** with how he interacted with the other kids. He **struggled** with how he interacted with his dad when he spent time over the holidays at home. Unfortunately,

John's **struggles** resulted in him leaving Hope Harbor after only 1 year.

John's story is like so many other stories of the children you provide for at Hope Harbor. Their **struggles** are so great it seems their time in the program is **wasted**.

*"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants."*  
(Matthew 13:3-7)

But **John's story didn't end** when he left Hope Harbor...



Recently we heard from John.

As it turns out, the seeds you planted in his life 21 years ago were just waiting for the right time to sprout. In 2014 he got married, obtained a degree in computer science, and has experienced career success in public service, with IBM, and recently in a role with the government. He also serves monthly in the Coast Guard, providing port security in the Gulf of Mexico.

John and his wife have 2 beautiful girls and he wrote this in reflection on his time at Hope Harbor. ***"I have been breaking cycles of toxic traits my parents had and try to love everyone as Christ would have loved others, that mentality put into me in Claremore has done a lot of positive things for me and I truly wish I could have grown up more in that kind of household. That household is the one my children live in, they see how much we love them and how my wife and I serve others and it all stems from Hope Harbor."***

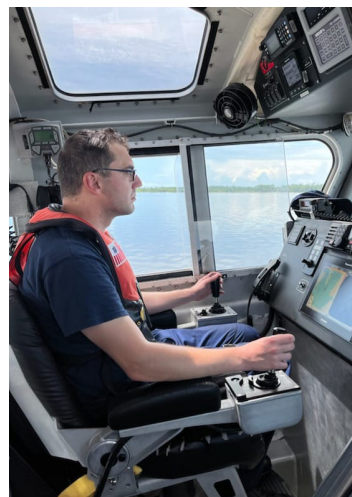
It seems that the seeds you sowed in John's life did take root, grow, and are now producing a crop. ***Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear."*** (Matthew 13:8,9)

God used the seeds **you planted** to transform John's life. Those same seeds are now producing fruit and changing the lives of John's wife, daughters, and everyone he comes in contact with. **God is using you to change the world** through the seeds you plant in the lives of these children.

When you give to Hope Harbor, you give kids like John the opportunity to:

- Gain confidence in their academic abilities
- Be a kid and have safe, normal, childhood experiences
- Work through hurts and mistakes with their families
- See a different way to live
- Hear about Jesus

When you give to Hope Harbor, you make this kind of generational difference in the lives of children and families possible! Thank you for healing children.



TO PLANT A  
SEED IS  
TO BELIEVE IN  
TOMORROW



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# BIND US TOGETHER

That together you may with one voice glorify the  
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 1:14

BY STEPHANIE STEWARD

**A**t Open House this September, we presented the Hands of Hope Award to Mr. and Mrs. John and Pat Busby. John and Pat are very special to Hope Harbor. You will frequently find them bring lunches, volunteering and just spending time with the kids. John usually has a comical story to share but if you listen closely, there is always a nugget of wisdom in each story teaching you something about life.

We are always humbled when one of you chooses to be a part of this ministry. I wish there were words to describe how much all of you mean to us. You are being the hands and feet of Christ to these children and their families. You are planting seeds that will last a lifetime and we thank you.





# Give Kids a SHOT

## SPORTING CLAY FUNDRAISER

BY STEPHANIE STEWARD

**T**hank you to everyone who joined us for this year's Give Kids a Shot Sporting Clay Fundraiser! It was a great day! On Friday, November 4th, we once again held this event. All the teams did well and we had so much fun. Thank you to First National Insurance Agency - Marty Quinn & Allison Horn, Jordan Smith, TCCU Federal Credit Union, Waffle House - Jeff Mullins, The Park Church of Christ, Oklahoma Complete Health and Quality Electric- Christopher Scott, Bill's Sporting Goods, 2A Shooting Center and Envirotech- Tyler Williams, PE, Scissortail Bladeworks - Felicia Howard, Snake Creek Shooting Sports for sponsoring this event. Can't wait to see everyone again next year!











Children's Home

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# STAY IN TOUCH

YOU are family! We want to stay connected with you. The best way to stay connected is to follow **Hope Harbor on Facebook or Instagram.**

There is up-to-the-minute news and updates, event information, and urgent prayer requests and much more!



# LET'S GET CONNECTED

Hope Harbor Children's Home Needs **You**

Do you want to be more involved in the Hope Harbor ministry? Do you desire a real connection with these kids?  
**WE NEED YOU!**

Find Out More Ways You Can Make An Impact at  
[www.hopeharborinc.org/be-a-champion](http://www.hopeharborinc.org/be-a-champion)