

Helping Hand



As the longest summer ever comes to an end, our onsite academy is gearing up for a great year! One of the major benefits of the program here at Hope Harbor is our school. Many times, our residents come to Hope Harbor behind academically and with a long history of having struggles in the classroom. When a child has experienced a lot of trauma, they are not normally able to focus in a traditional classroom setting. This can cause them to fall through the cracks and miss out

on important learning skills. This will usually lead to behavior issues as well because they get frustrated by not being able to keep up with their peers. The longer this goes on, the more and more behind they become in school until they can no longer function at the same level of their peers. This can lead to high dropout rates and other adverse effects.

Hope Harbor uses a Growth Mindset approach to learning. Growth Mindset is a scientifically researched methodology which looks at the brain



Hope Harbor students enjoy class outside in the fresh air on campus.

as a muscle, proving it can become stronger over time just like any other muscle in the body when strengthened with exercise. Our teachers and staff focus less on the students' grades and more on the students' work ethic and perseverance (life skills). We praise them for the effort they are putting forth every day in their studies. We celebrate mistakes because they are able to be used as learning tools that will ultimately help them improve and perfect their skills. This allows the student to take control of their own education and learn the way that they were naturally made to learn. This school year we started a trial method of learning called the Marzano Proficiency Method. This highly researched and proven method is less focused on grades and more focused on learning. So far, it has been wildly successful with our students and they are really diving into their work and paying more attention to what they are learning. We are currently having each of our teachers teach one of their classes using this method but our intention is to move to this method of teaching in all of our classes next year. Our hope is to empower our students to take control over their own education so they will have the tools needed to start on the career path of their dreams when they graduate.

Hope Harbor as a whole has 7 major components of our program. The reason we have a high success rate is partly because each component works together to achieve the same goal, a healthy, functioning family and student with all the tools and support they

need to move forward after the trauma they have experienced. There is no better example of this than the connection between the academy, residential and clinical components. At the end of the day, the residents are able to return to the cottage with our residential care staff that have open communication with our teaching staff as well as our clinical staff. The "everyone in the loop" approach to each child's individual needs allows for the utmost support system so that the child and their families are hearing consistent messages and getting consistent support from all sides.

Hope Harbor wraps around the entire family and builds that support system from the inside out. We look for every opportunity to help our residents grow and learn skills that will serve them well into their futures. One example of this is our student-led parent teacher conferences. Students keep a portfolio of academic work examples. Students lead the conferences (providing leadership growth), presenting and discussing their portfolios with parents and teachers. They also verbalize their strengths and weaknesses and form action plans on how to improve. We found this approach to these conferences not only helps the students communicate with their parents more effectively but it also gave them a sense of ownership and pride in their work thus causing them to pay more attention to details and take control of their own education. These are all

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There are a variety of fun learning tools in the science area of the classroom.



Students are able to learn many skills through unusual projects such as drone flying using computers and a variety of math skills. They also learned wood working techniques by building a boat using hand tools.

skills that are needed in order to function in just about any job on the market today.

Our academy has been fully accredited from Christian Schools International since 2015. One of our most important goals is to ensure when a child completes the Hope Harbor program, they are able to return to their school and be on track to graduate on time and with their peers. Another option is for the child to graduate from Hope Harbor Academy! In order to achieve these goals, HHA must provide the same level of education for every resident that they would receive at a traditional public or private school. It is critical that our students receive an equal education so that they can be successful and competitive in post-secondary pursuits.

We are looking forward to a great school year. We have some unique and fun projects on the horizon and we have a great group of residents currently that are eager to learn and grow. We can't wait to see all the changes they will make.

Hope Harbor's program really is a game changer for families who have struggled with the effects of trauma. We have seen these families heal and develop the skills needed to overcome what has happened to them and move forward into a bright future. While Hope Harbor Academy is only part of the process, the level of education we provide is amazing and allows for students to thrive and achieve their academic goals. We thank you for your support as we could not do this without our donors.

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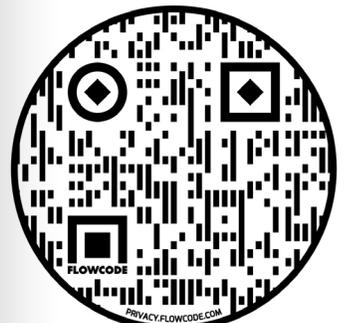
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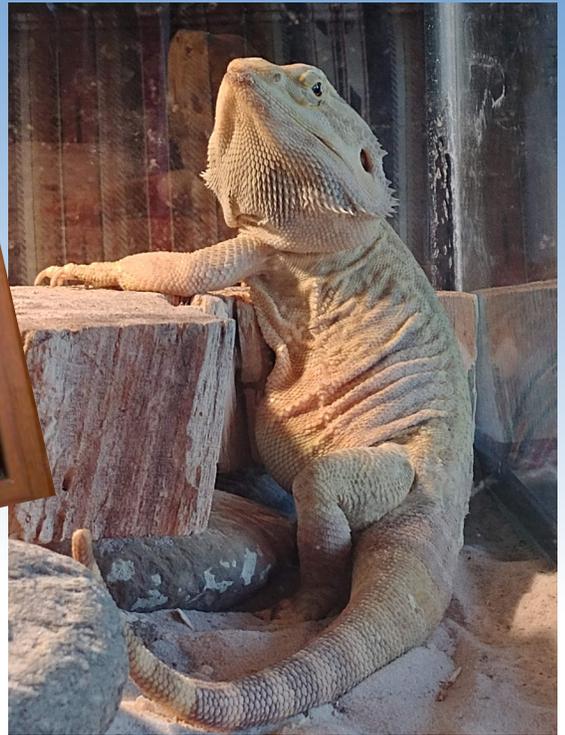
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People aren't too fond of lizards. I used to think it had to do with my large beard or dry skin...but everybody seems to have at least one of those these days!

Alas, I was lucky enough to be adopted by Hope Harbor Academy almost three years ago. I get a front row seat to the inner lives of the teenagers in the classroom at Hope Harbor. Most of them make up for my lack of social skills by their endless chatter, so it's a perfect fit. I get to witness the ongoing learning and growth of each student that comes here and earn degrees in areas I will never use in my life...all from the comfort of my hammock. Life is pretty sweet with my own tanning lamp and quiet evenings. If you ever make it out to Hope Harbor, stop on by and say "hello"! Until then, I decided to start chronicling my life and journey at Hope Harbor on Twitter. You can follow me @HopeHarbor3 to learn more fun facts about bearded dragons and life happenings on campus. Goodbye for now – or, as we say in Australia – Hooroo!

Follow Glacier on Twitter: www.twitter.com/HopeHarbor3



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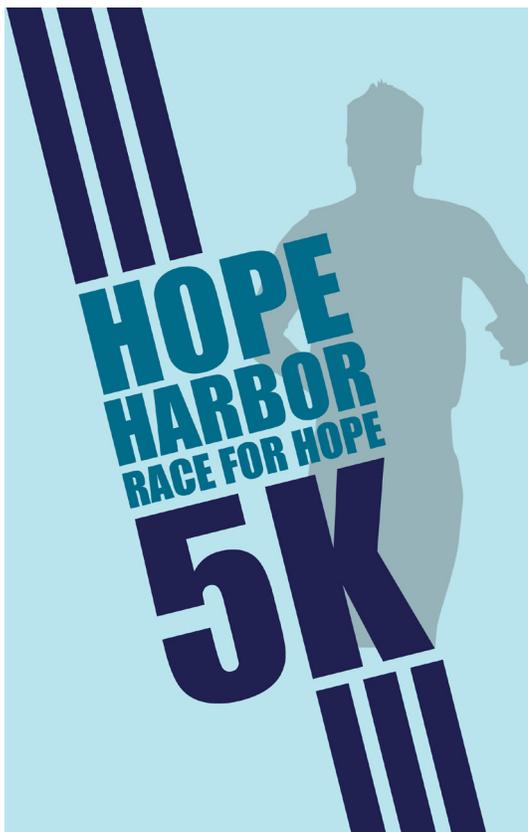
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