



## KIDS HOPE USA

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Program Name – Kids Hope USA

### Description of Program

Kids Hope USA is a national, non-profit organization which facilitates mentoring relationships with at-risk children through a church-school partnership. Kids Hope USA initiated three pilot sites in Michigan. The Kids Hope USA model was designed to teach churches how to give hope to at-risk public elementary schoolchildren through a relationship with a caring church member. Today, it has nearly 1,000 church-school partnerships in 34 states across the U.S. with over 15,000 mentor-student relationships existing within these partnerships. Located in urban, suburban and rural communities, these churches range in size from 40 to 5,000 members and represent over 30 different denominations.

### Benefits of Program

After asking experts in law enforcement, education, religion, and health and human services if churches could address the needs of growing numbers of at-risk children, a unanimous answer was given:

\*Churches that mobilize and train their members to form one-to-one relationships with the youngest children can make a profound difference in their lives.

This nationally sponsored program was approved by local school districts across the nation and successfully implemented through local churches. This same initiative can be replicated in your local church.

A Church of God in Christ ministry in Louisiana reports it experienced great success with this program. When possible, it paired the at-risk child with an educator/mentor. That child was mentored by that mentor until he or she was fifth grade, experiencing great bonding and great success.

### Implementation Steps:

The model relies on the interplay of four integral parts. Each local ministry may exercise complete authority to implement activities compatible and consistent with each integral part. They are:

1. One Child - An at-risk public elementary school child who needs a relationship with a caring adult
2. One Hour - Sixty critical minutes each week when a trained mentor befriends a child and helps him or her acquire basic academic skills

3. One Church - A committed congregation who owns the program with its neighborhood school and provides a trained mentor and a behind-the-scenes prayer partner for each child
4. One School - A school that welcomes this proven intervention to increase the academic skills of at-risk children, at no cost to the school.

Each local ministry is encouraged to identify a point of contact to facilitate Kids Hope USA. Identification of children is paramount. Ensure screening of adult participants, as each becomes a mentor who affects the life of the child for years to come.

Urban Initiatives Education is pleased to address your questions in support of your success in implementation.

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Please direct your questions to:

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