

Stories Of HOPE



MobileHope

Inside this issue:

Amelia's Progress	1
Sabbatical Lessons	2
TreeHouse Takes Off!	2
Camp Memories	3
New Staff	3
Amazon Smile	3
Year-End Giving Info	3
Prayer Needs	4
Wish List	4

Celebrate Amelia's Progress!

Amelia is a third grader who has been a part of Mobile Hope since she moved into the park with her family two years ago. We got to know this kiddo when she started coming to our Summer School program which we run in partnership with Rockford Schools.



When you meet her, what stands out is a broad smile, curious eyes, and a desire to join in. She started attending the homework help program once school started in the fall of 2016.

When we started this work, we believed in the model. We believed that the intentional assistance with homework by trusted volunteers along with partnership with the schools would make a difference in the lives of the kids. We believed that the summer school program would prepare kids for the upcoming year, allowing them to close the gap on any distance between grade level learning and their current performance.

Amelia is one of those students that help to affirm all the efforts that go into the educational work happening at Mobile Hope. She took to the program with excitement and dedication. Her attendance at homework help has been

consistent and enthusiastic. She is at many of our activities at the Hope Center, which allows for trust and relationships to grow. Her participation in the summer school program allowed her to address her reading and math in ways that were non-threatening and fun... And she began to show significant improvement.

Amelia's teachers noticed a deficit when she first started at the school and were able to reach out with a plan. This plan included intentional skill building, a lot of practice, and a partnership with Mobile Hope's afterschool programs.



Just this week, we were able to celebrate with Amelia as she shared how she was given an award for her growth in her reading scores. Amelia's reading score, I'm happy to announce, has grown over 400% from what it was when she started just two years ago and she is now at grade level! Polly Trandahl, one of Amelia's teachers at school said "This is a great example of partners coming together to encourage a young girl to gain confidence and achieve great things! It really pays off!"

We celebrate with Amelia and her family on her progress this year!

Education



Resources



Faith Development

Sabbatical Lessons

This fall is another turning point for Mobile Hope... a change we believe is the next step for this growing organization and something we hope our friends and supporters can rally behind!

This past summer, in discussion with our board, it was decided that a 2 month sabbatical was needed for our family. A sabbatical is like “a vacation with a purpose.” We made sure all the programs at Maple Hill would be taken care of and then we planned our trip so that we could visit several ministry sites around the country, read a lot of applicable books, and then get some rest from the pressures of the day to day. We visited GA, NC, VA, CT, CO, and NY stopping at several ministry sites. These sites also face the realities of poverty, mobile home living, and generated ideas on how to be more effective. We read a lot of material on community transformation, approaches to the marginalized, spiritual disciplines, and burn-out. We had fun trips, connected with family and we spent some time just resting. We returned from our break with fresh ideas, some new friendships, helpful resources, and refreshed souls.

We have made some changes as a result of this summer, both on the home-front to help our family as

well as on the ministry front. One key shift is to stabilize our infrastructure in a way that allows for easier expansion into new communities. We currently have three parks near the Roseville and Mendota Heights area that would love to see Mobile Hope start new programs. This will require additional staff, new church relationships, and new funding streams.

We have also realized some key aspects of our emotional and spiritual health need to be higher priorities in order for the work of Mobile Hope to remain strong and guided by God. It always amazes me that no matter how long I do this, we always have more to learn, more ways to grow, and more opportunities to serve. We look forward to the months ahead!



TreeHouse Takes Off!



Two years ago we started the process of becoming a TreeHouse partner. The first year was all about learning the program, training staff, and spreading the word. Year two has really taken off! Ashley and Gama Xitumul, who lead the program at Mobile Hope have brought on a super staff of volunteers and have been able to grow the program to almost 30 students a week. Students are learning about what it means to be “lovable, capable, and worthwhile.” Many are meeting one on one with mentors or in small groups building trusting adult and peer relationships. And over half the group have also been participating in Peer Support Groups, sharing with one another their feelings while supporting their friends through the challenges of life.

Ariel Johnson, one of the TreeHouse volunteers, made the choice to move into Maple Hill Estates and resides at the Hope House, a double-wide we used to use for all of our programs. This home has become a “hot-spot” for the teenagers of the park to come, simply knowing they have a friend a few years ahead of them who will listen, cares for them, and wants to walk along side of them in life without judgement.

Being a TreeHouse site has added a rich depth to our programs that can touch the lives of at-risk teens in ways that few programs can. We are excited by the success of this year and for the impact being seen!



Camp Memories



Our partnership with Trout Lake Camp in Pine River, MN has continued to provide students with a summer to remember! This year, we had 12 young people attend a week of camp - many of which have told us it was their favorite thing they did all summer! Each student was in a cabin with new friends and they were able to enjoy a week in an amazing camp, trying activities they had never done before, with counselors that became their friends, and a message of truth and hope through Jesus Christ.

This is made possible through a partnership with Trout Lake and through scholarships from supporters of Mobile Hope. If you want to help more students experience what Christian summer camp is like, feel free to contact us and let us know you want to help a kid go to camp next summer!

New Staff and Stability

As we work to stabilize the infrastructure of Mobile Hope, we are excited to share the addition of two new part-time staff to our team! **Vandella Niemi** started to work with Mobile Hope this summer assisting with things while Brian and Jill were gone on sabbatical. Vandella brings a wealth of experience, positivity, and perspective to the team because she grew up in Maple Hill Estates as a child and is now raising her three children here as well. We approached her about joining the staff due to her high level of involvement in Mobile Hope programs, her positive attitude, and her skills in connecting to all groups of people in the park. Vandella serves as our Community Engagement Specialist and has been helping us with youth and adult programs and working with residents. Welcome Vandella!



Lauren Larson has been a strong volunteer for Mobile Hope since September of 2016. She has been helping out during the days to maintain the Hope Center, prepare program supplies for homework help and TreeHouse, and anything else she can do to help the ministry. Lauren is now moving into the role of Administrative assistant for the ministry and will likely see her responsibilities grow substantially as we add additional park locations in the future. Lauren says she has always appreciated the mission of Mobile Hope and wants to do all she can to help that grow. Welcome Lauren!

Online Shopping this season??



Plan on shopping online for Christmas gifts this year?? Shop for your gift list this holiday at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-2268732> and Amazon donates to Mobile Hope. ... and it costs you nothing! Mobile Hope is a part of Amazon's Smile Network so you can make Mobile Hope your Amazon Smile recipient and you can support this work while you shop all year! Thanks for believing in this ministry!

Year-End Giving Information



If you are interested in contributing to the work of Mobile Hope as part of your year-end giving, donations can be made online at www.MobileHopeMN.org or mailed to Mobile Hope at 7900 Maple Hill Road Corcoran, MN 55340. Mobile Hope is a 501(c)(3) registered nonprofit organization capable of accepting contributions, stock donations and non-liquid assets through our partner the National Christian Foundation. Feel free to call Brian with any questions: 612-716-0885. Thank you for your support of this ministry! EIN: 46-2268732



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Mobile Hope

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There is no greater power in this ministry than prayer. Please join us in lifting these items up to God in prayer.

- **Frozen Homes** - Mobile Home living comes with additional challenges in the winter. Please pray for those who will be without heat or with frozen pipes as the cold weather approaches.
- **Mentors** - Many of the students at TreeHouse are still without one-on-one mentors. Please pray the Holy Spirit would prompt new mentors to step forward and walk along-side these amazing students.
- **Praxis** - Mobile Hope has applied to take part in a nonprofit incubator program that would provide practical assistance as we take Mobile Hope to scale. Please pray for favor and acceptance into this year-long program and for the future of the organization.
- **Expansion** - As Mobile Hope moves into new communities, new relationships, funding, and staffing needs are critical to make it a success. Pray for wisdom and discernment for these steps to reach new youth and families in these communities.

Thanks for your prayers!



Individuals often ask “what’s on your wish-list for the ministry?” So, here is a sample of things we could use...

- **Sound-dampening** - The Hope Center is a wonderful building but with 28’ high ceilings the sound can be deafening. Sound panels are needed for this space, especially when working with students who are dealing with sensory overload. The cost for this necessary process is between 6-8,000 dollars.
- **Computer replacement fund** - One of the biggest challenges of running a computer lab with 11 computers is ongoing maintenance and replacement. With such heavy usage, software upgrades, and viruses, computers will soon be in need of replacement.
- **Appliances Needed** - We have a very practical and immediate need from a resident that is in need of a standard gas oven, dishwasher, and refrigerator because these appliances are broken in the home they are moving into.

If you are interested in making a contribution toward any of these items, please contact Brian at 612-716-0885 or send him an email at Brian@MobileHopeMN.org.