

When a Child Feels Lost, Boys Hope Girls Hope Offers the Resources they need to Succeed

In 1977, Father Paul Sheridan, SJ, an educator here in St. Louis, created a new program—Boys Hope Girls Hope—to address the needs of children whose potential was threatened by shattered neighborhoods, distressed families, endemic poverty, and other factors beyond their control.

Boys Hope Girls Hope applies an innovative whole-person approach to meeting children's needs by recreating a family dynamic that provides love and support—and imposes responsibilities and expectations. Well-trained, energetic staff and a well-resourced, attractive living environment provide the structure, nurturing, individual attention, and accountability found in the best of natural family settings. We do not take the place of guardians, but engage them as partners in co-parenting. They retain legal custody.

Our scholars are placed in the top-rated schools best suited to their needs. They participate in comprehensive college preparatory curriculum that prepares them for all aspects of college life. Our staff collaborates proactively with the school representatives to promote academic achievement and citizenship. Throughout the year and in the summer, we provide tutoring, study time structure, and remedial as well as advanced learning opportunities.

The scholars work one-on-one with a residential counselor to set concrete goals. This weekly coaching helps establish milestones for physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and civic development into actionable goals. On a quarterly basis, progress is formally assessed through a service plan conference in which the scholar and his/her support team attend.

The children we serve also participate in a full range of extracurricular activities that teach them about their world and themselves, and they participate in community service projects that teach them the value of serving others. Upon high school graduation, they receive financial, academic, psychological, and spiritual support through the successful

completion of their college degrees.

In addition to the St. Louis flagship affiliate, Boys Hope Girls Hope serves children-in-need in 14 other U.S. cities and four foreign countries. Boys Hope Girls Hope's holistic approach addresses both the symptoms and root causes of poverty and illiteracy, and does so with a unique effectiveness.

Admission criteria include:

- 10-15 years old upon admission
- Ability and willingness to live in a structured, family-like setting
- Capability and motivation to thrive in a college-preparatory school
- Systemic and entrenched environmental obstacles
- Guardian commitment to a strong partnership

Admission Process:

- Gathering of academic and personal records
- Guardian and child interviews
- A four-day stay at the program home
- Academic and psychological evaluations

Ways You Can Help:

- Donate- cash, goods, marketable securities, services, or planned giving
- Volunteer- mentor, tutor, administrative, special events, board membership, home maintenance, meal preparation, driver, host family, etc.
- Employment- Consider restoring hope by serving as a residential counselor or other team member. See website for openings.



Boys Hope Girls Hope
Inspire. Empower. Nurture. Succeed.

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