

# THE LIGHT

MARCH 2020

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Star of  
hope



HOPE, RENEWAL AND NEW LIFE

# New Life Bursting Forth



**Hank Rush**  
President & CEO

Dear Friend,

It is spring — the season of renewal. After a stark winter, we see God bringing new life to the world around us. It is as if the trees, flowers and animals are rejoicing with new energy.

Spring is the perfect representation of how the men and women at Star of Hope receive forgiveness from God through believing in His Son, Jesus. When they realize Jesus Christ died to forgive them, their guilty burden is lifted. Then, it is time to rejoice! They know they are going to Heaven, and the Lord will walk with them during their time on earth.

Knowing God loves you helps you through every trial. Knowing all is forgiven, and that God will always help you, takes the pressure off. Being loved by God is like springtime after the winter. It draws us together, and joy fills this place. Everything is right when you know God loves you and will never give up on you. He is always there to help.

Star of Hope exists to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people in hard times. Poverty, addiction, fear and the

troubles of life lose their grip when God enters a person's life. Even death is overcome.

I hope you enjoy the blessings of Easter and this spring season more than ever this year. Your kindness to the people here provides fertile ground for them to grow deeper in love with Jesus Christ. When you know God is with you, you can weather every storm. You are victorious.

Thank you for your part in giving hope to those who come here. May we all share in this joy this Easter!

Serving with you in Christ,

Hank Rush  
President & CEO

**P.S.** In a world that is not always forgiving, you provide a place for men and women to claim a second chance at life. Your gifts to Star of Hope help all coming here find peace with God, the strength to make a fresh start and the resources to help. God bless you for caring!

Because of the LORD'S great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

~ Lamentations 3:22-23, NIV

**Our Mission** Star of Hope is a Christ-centered community dedicated to meeting the needs of homeless men, women and their children. Positive life changes are encouraged through structured programs, which focus on spiritual growth, education, employment, life management and recovery from substance abuse.

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# A Safe Place to Heal

Mary's mother raised her three children all alone. Her father wasn't around to help, so her mother worked three jobs. She was rarely in the house and did not have much time for her children. Mary grew up longing to hear the words "I love you" from a parent, but they never came.

To make matters worse, much worse, her mother's boyfriend was often alone with the children in the house. Things were done which should never have been done. Early in her teens she began to act out.

"I began to rebel and turned to the streets to fill that void in my life. Starting at 15 years old, I began to get in trouble with the law. I was in and out of prison for many years after."

It became a vicious cycle. "I was doing the same thing over and over again, expecting different results. I was broken with self-esteem issues, feeling worthless, hopeless, ashamed and lost," Mary said.

When she became a mother, Mary knew she had to make a change. She moved to Houston for a fresh start. Her older sister promised to help her get settled. But things didn't work out well. Very quickly, Mary was alone in a new city, out on the street with her child in her arms.

Mary said, "Not knowing a soul in Houston or even knowing which direction to go ... I, and my beautiful 2-year-old daughter, began to walk the streets." Mary asked strangers where she could go, but no one helped. Fear consumed her, Mary said, "I cried and cried until my eyes were red and my face swollen."

Then a man approached and asked if she needed help. He told her about "a nice shelter on the other side of town" and offered to give her and her daughter a ride.

"That was the day we pulled up to Star of Hope," Mary said.

This place became the safe place she and her daughter needed, and the pieces of her broken life soon began to come together. Mary is developing the skills she needs to be able to provide for her family. She knows God guided her to this safe place, and she is thankful.

The pieces of Mary's broken life are coming together, thanks to you.





# Welcome New Trustee

## Buzz Baker

Greg “Buzz” Baker has served as President of Network Funding, L.P. since he co-founded it in 1998. He has more than 32 years of experience in the mortgage industry.

Buzz is a native Houstonian. He attended at Westbury High School and holds a degree in finance from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas.

Previously, he served for more

than 12 years on the board for LifeHouse, a Christ-centered ministry ensuring life for unborn children.

Now, Buzz lives in Richmond, TX where he and his wife of 30 years, Lisa, have raised their 3 children: Benjamin 23, Nicholas 20 and Lily Grace 16. In his personal time, Buzz enjoys family time, hunting and golf. Buzz is a member of Christ Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

*“I have always loved and admired the work of Star of Hope. I am looking forward to contributing to the good work at Star of Hope to care for Houston’s homeless.”*

# Nip Family Conflict in the Bud

A *Reader’s Digest* commenter quipped, “Ours was a family of eight children, but only one boy. One day, I was complaining to my brother about having six annoying sisters. He retorted, ‘What are you griping about? I have seven!’”

Sibling rivalry is common, but every parent hopes their children grow to share a healthy relationship.

One way you can help your adult children experience peace is by creating an up-to-date will. Through this one simple action, your family will hear important messages like, in this family we ...

• **Value peace.** Your children will see the steps you took and appreciate that you cared enough to plan ahead, creating peace before there was even a chance for conflict.

• **Value communication.** Even though discussions about death can be difficult, no one wants to deal with a messy estate. You have an opportunity to communicate your wishes (and love for your family) while you are still alive.



• **Put our values into action.** By including a gift in your will to a ministry like Star of Hope Mission, you will set a powerful example of living your values.

*For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of “How to Get Your Family on the Same Page” by contacting Jeff Kramer at (713) 440-5317 or [jkramer@sohmission.org](mailto:jkramer@sohmission.org) — or bless your family today with a God-honoring will at [www.christianwill.org/sohmission](http://www.christianwill.org/sohmission).*

# NEW YEAR AND NEW SHOES

On January 3, more than 150 homeless children living at Star of Hope's Women & Family Development Center received a pair of brand new shoes and socks to walk into 2020 with confidence!

This uplifting event was hosted by Trees of Hope, a nonprofit organization that raises funds and provides support for our Children's Critical Care Fund, with support from generous sponsors — Raising Cane's, Kappa Kappa Gamma Foundation, Dick's Sporting Goods and KSBJ.



After the event this year, the children did crafts and enjoyed refreshments provided by Raising Cane's. Plus, there was a special visit from the Buddy the KSBJ Prayer Bear. Meanwhile, the teens in the Starz of 2morrow ministry were treated to a shoe shopping outing at Dick's Sporting Goods!

**“We believe in the power of a new pair of shoes to boost a child's self-image, and thus, self-worth. The greatest gift you can give to a child is confidence, and we hope that by providing these shoes, we can play a part in boosting the self-confidence of kids at Star of Hope,”** said Alina Schrom, director of Trees of Hope.



## URGENT NEEDS

- ✓ Regular or Large Lotion
- ✓ Regular Toothpaste
- ✓ Hairbrushes
- ✓ New Underwear for Men (desperately need)
- ✓ New Underwear for Women, Boys & Girls

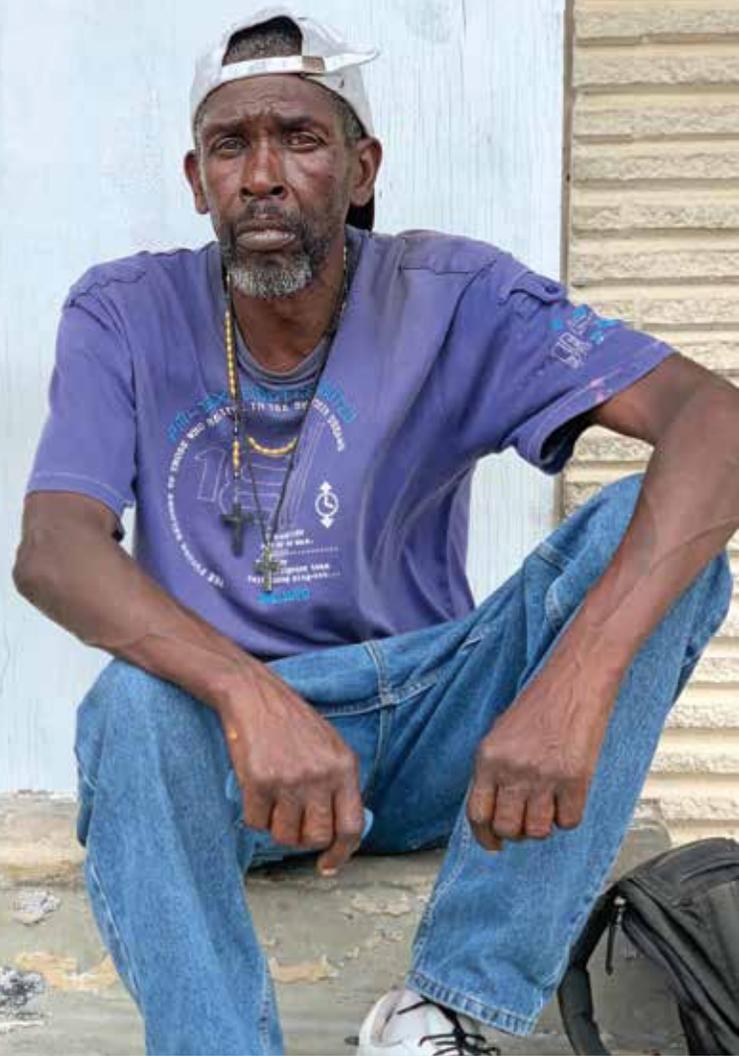
**We are in desperate need  
of shower shoes for men**

## ONGOING NEEDS

- ✓ Twin Sheets-Blankets
- ✓ Baby Wipes
- ✓ Regular or Large Shampoo
- ✓ Regular or Large Conditioner
- ✓ Regular or Large Soap for Men & Women
- ✓ Regular Deodorant for Men & Women
- ✓ Cotton balls
- ✓ Q-tips

Please bring donations to *Star of Hope's Cornerstone Community*<sup>®</sup>  
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. located at  
2575 Reed Road, Houston, TX 77051 or  
Donation & Distribution Center, 2320 Lamar St. Houston, TX 77003

You can also go to our Amazon Wishlist at  
[sohmission.org/ways-to-give/amazon-wish-list/](http://sohmission.org/ways-to-give/amazon-wish-list/)  
and purchase donations to be shipped directly to us!



## PRAYERS & PRAISES

### Thank God

- † For the successful partnership with ministries serving the distressed in our city. May we continue to use our strengths to encourage each other.
- † For our Lord, steadfast and true, blessing Star of Hope for nearly 113 years.
- † For the deep unity of staff and volunteers serving together.

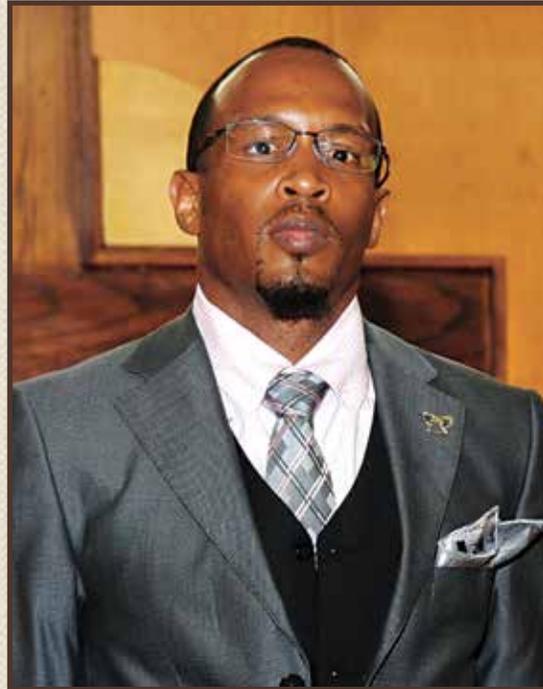
### Please Pray

- † For the power of the Resurrection to be known to those who feel lost and without hope.
- † For our volunteers, donors and friends to know how cherished they are for changing lives.
- † For the great presence of God in our worship, teaching and counseling sessions to encourage all attendees.
- † For God to give homeless and hungry people a deep hunger for a new, clean life, and for Him to lead them to Star of Hope.



# It took a crack on the head to get David's attention.

David appeared at a recent Men's Development Center graduation ceremony as a fine, well dressed man. Looking at him, you would never guess he was so troubled in his youth. When he rose to speak, he told of his high school years and when he was expelled from his first school for threatening terrorism. Forced to leave, he went to another high school, then another, and another, failing to ever graduate.



Still in his teens, he fathered numerous children without any means of supporting them.

"During that time, my life began to spiral out of control," David told us. "I started using drugs, misbehaving on the streets and being a womanizer."

David's turbulent years continued throughout his twenties, but there was calm in the eye of the storm. "I had my back and forth moments," David admitted, "but because of how I was raised, I kept a somewhat close relationship with God. I played on both sides of the fence for a while."

Eventually, David came down firmly on the right side of the fence. At that point, God corrected him ... through his grandfather.

"We got into a bad altercation, and my grandfather hit me in the head with a gun."

God can use unusual events to get a person's attention. From that crack on the head, David said, he was "drawn to Star of Hope by the guidance of the Holy Spirit. What the enemy meant for bad, God turned into good."

"Star of Hope has humbled me," David said. "It has also taught me to be a better person in God and in life, to

be a loving person and to love others as I love myself. My goal in life is to be a better man."

Today he is standing strong, trusting God each day. He quoted this powerful verse to us.

***Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.***

— Ephesians 6:13 NIV

**Today, thanks to your support of Star of Hope, David is on his way to becoming a successful businessman and a responsible father to his children.**



# SAVE THE DATE

## 22nd Annual Haute for Hope Celebrity Fashion Show and Luncheon

*Honoring*  
**Trees of Hope** for their 30th year of supporting  
Star of Hope and the Children's Critical Care Fund

**Friday, May 8, 2020**  
River Oaks Country Club

Featuring Houston's top news and media personalities  
benefitting the homeless children at Star of Hope

For more information and sponsorship opportunities visit  
[sohmission.org/fashionshow](http://sohmission.org/fashionshow) or email [fashionshow@sohmission.org](mailto:fashionshow@sohmission.org)

*Trees of Hope is a nonprofit organization that raises funds  
and provides support for our Children's Critical Care Fund.*



**Ending homelessness ... one life,  
one family at a time.**

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Every gift to Star of Hope represents a gift to our ministry: serving Houston's hungry and homeless. Gifts designated for a particular service are used as requested until that need is fully met. Any remaining money will be used for Star of Hope's general homeless needs. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

This newsletter is published by Star of Hope.

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