TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 BACKGROUND
2 STAFF
5 PARTNERS
9 READ ALOUD GUEST
12 AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES
14 FIELD TRIPS
15 FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Additional Sections
Sponsors and Board
2017 Assessment Results
HYPE After Harvey Newsletter
Executive Director’s Letter
BACKGROUND
The mission of HYPE Freedom School, Inc., a nonprofit organization, is to empower people with knowledge to be successful and self-sufficient by providing education enrichment services to children and families beyond school hours.

In 2000, HYPE Freedom School, Inc. was selected by the Children’s Defense Fund (CDF) to join community organizations around the country and serve as a local sponsor for CDF’s six-week, literacy-rich summer programs called Children’s Defense Fund Freedom Schools®. This program allowed HYPE to reach hundreds of youth and families in the Sunnyside, South Park, and Third Ward communities initially. In 2017, HYPE expanded to the Kashmere and Wheatley areas through a partnership with The City of Houston’s My Brother’s Keeper Initiative. HYPE also collaborates with Inspire, Encourage, Achieve in Beaumont, TX to serve youth who have been involved in the juvenile justice system.

As the first greater Houston-area site and the oldest CDF Freedom Schools site in Texas, the consistency and determination to serve others has enabled the program to run each summer and has touched the lives of over 700 children and families.

2017 PROGRAM INFO
Program Dates: June 19, 2017 to July 28, 2017
Amount of Scholars Served: 250
- Level 1 (K-3rd): 103
- Level 2: 81
- Level 3: 56*
- Level 4: 10*
* Includes IEA scholars
EXECUTIVE STAFF

The executive team of HYPE Freedom School is composed of educators, program managers, and professionals whose track records reveal a continued dedication to the success of children!

- Brandi Brown, Executive Director
- Drucilla Bolden, Program Manager
- Paulann Comins, Regional Coordinator (North)
- Crystal Momie, Regional Coordinator (South)
- Carolyn DeVaughn, Volunteer Coordinator
- Carolyn Barnaba, Parent Engagement Coordinator
- Jessica Bailey, Administrative Assistant

SITE COORDINATORS

HYPE site coordinators ensure that scholars are welcomed into safe and enriching environments daily. They also provide guidance to our interns who work directly with scholars.

Bethany Baptist Church
Kaya Savannah - Educator, Pre-K, HISD

Blue Ridge United Methodist Church
Ashley Ethridge - Educator, Pre-K, HISD

Cullen Missionary Baptist Church
Taylor Bass - Educator, Grades 4 & 5, Palmer Elementary Extended Learning

Greater St. Matthew Baptist Church
Silvester Robinson Jr. - Educator, HISD

Wheatley High School/Harris County Precinct One
S. Antonio Wade - Educator, Grades 6 - 8, HISD

Junior Servant Leader Intern Manager
Ashley Turner - Marketing & Events Freelancer
Our safe and structured sites are enhanced by our dedicated Servant Leader Interns. Interns lead a class of 10 students, all within the same age group. The scholars are duly benefited by the daily influence of a relatable intern who is in or has recently completed college.

US Armed Forces 5%

Out of State 14%

Houston Schools 24%

Texas Schools 57%
SERVANT LEADER INTERNS

- Erin Breaux
- Heaven Murphy
- Jalen Johnson
- Keyana Tompkins
- Christina Craft
- Amari Jones
- Brooklin Ware
- Jazmine Clemons
- Tamirah Collins

- Desmond Watley - Calloway
- Tonee Jones
- Alexis Solomon
- Christian Doty - Watkins
- Jonathan Hamilton

- Dovante Carter
- Brianna Patterson
- Da’Vonte Lyons
- Morgan McDonald

- Essence Murphy
- Brandon Gilmore
- Dovante Carter
PARTNERSHIPS

HYPE’s model is to facilitate meaningful partnerships and high quality activities that strengthen the commitment to developing our youth and lead to sustainable change. Most importantly, HYPE believes in connecting children to a broader community that believes in them.

Annually, HYPE collaborates with Inspire, Encourage, Achieve (IEA), a Beaumont, TX based organization serving children from Southeast Texas who have been involved in the juvenile justice system.

In addition, 2017 was the inaugural year of HYPE’s partnership with the City of Houston My Brother’s Keeper Initiative. Through this partnership as well as support from Touchdown Houston and Moody Endowment Fund, HYPE increased the amount of scholars served in 2017 from 100 scholars at two locations to over 250 scholars at five locations.

MBK Houston’s investment, the ongoing collaboration with IEA, and support from generous partners and donors validates the effectiveness and expansion capabilities of the HYPE program model.
The My Brother’s Keeper (MBK) initiative, aims to address these inequitable conditions faced by boys and young men of color. MBK invests time, energy, and effort to improve outcomes for underresourced, minority youth and to improve the quality of life for all Houstonians. MBK's partnership with HYPE is based on common goals, data and collaborative action to improve the systems (i.e. education, health, social services, and families) responsible for assuring the health and well-being of children/youth.
Inspire, Encourage, Achieve (IEA) is a nonprofit organization established in 1997 to help under resourced youth involved in the juvenile justice system. IEA operates in partnership with Lamar University to introduce IEA’s Camp Bright Star Program participants to enrichment opportunities on campus. The partnership with HYPE provides the curriculum and materials used to execute the literacy and cultural enrichment components of the program. Additionally, IEA provides volunteer experiences and internships for Lamar University students and the Beaumont, TX community. IEA has succeeded in reducing recidivism rates and has impacted nearly 600 youth.
HYPE celebrates its site partners whose tireless dedication enabled our interns, staff and community partners to provide a safe and inspiring space for our scholars. Each partner hosted up to 70 members of the HYPE community five days a week for six weeks. Their continued partnership will enable HYPE to impact even more scholars in the years to come!

Bethany Baptist Church  
7304 Homestead Road, 77028

Blueridge UMC  
2929 Reed Road, 77051

Cullen Missionary Baptist Church  
13233 Cullen Blvd

Greater St. Matthew Church  
7701 Jutland St. 77033

Wheatley High School/  
Harris County Precint One  
4801 Providence St, 77020

Special thanks to our site representatives

Mr. Anderson Evans  
Ms. Carolyn Richardson  
Ms. Sharde Chapman  
Mr. Kenneth Basile  
Mr. Jonathan Rivers & Mr. Calvin Williams

and the other members of our site partner communities that made HYPE possible.
READ ALOUD GUESTS

Meet the community leaders who exposed our scholars to new realities!

After Harambee (jubilant collective gathering), guests are introduced to the scholars, they share a book of their choice and then welcome questions about their careers, education, and daily life!
READ ALOUD GUESTS

Alexandria Smiley - United Airways
Anat Kelman Shaw - Children’s Defense Fund
April Herin - CBS Rental
Ashley Clemmer - Rothko Chapel
Billye Moutran
Blessin Mitchell
Brandi Nichols - CASE for Kids
Brandy Bullock - CASE for Kids
Carlos Antonio Caldwell - Changing the Atmosphere
Charlene Slack - Wayne Duddleston Foundation
Charles Savage - Fifth Ward Enrichment Program, Inc.
Chasidy Celestine
Christina Carter - H.I.S.D.
Ciera Avery - Sun Behavioral Health
Cindy Puryear - H.I.S.D.
Cindy Alvarado - The Rockwell Fund
Crystal Toussant - Crystalized Productions
Dario Contreras Enciso - H.I.S.D.
Dolores Sandling - H.I.S.D. (Retired)
Dr. Jerry Gaither - Educator
Elizabeth Duffin - United Methodist Church
Elizabeth Hall - H.I.S.D.
Emily Chapman - St. Marks United Methodist Church
Eric Metoyer
Erika Kimble - NQ Henderson
Erin Champs - Connect 4 Literacy / H.I.S.D.
Gabriell Gaiter - Junior Achievement
Gina Carroll - Lazarus Energy
Glenda Lara - Communities in Schools
Gloria Hickerson - M.D. Anderson (Retired)
Jamie Bars - H.I.S.D.
Janaycia "Dominique" Parker - DeBakey High School of Health Professions
MEET THE COMMUNITY LEADERS WHO EXPOSED OUR SCHOLARS TO A VARIETY OF BOOKS AND CAREERS.

Jennifer Harding - CASE for Kids
John Kimble - Educator
Jonathan Rivers - Harris County Precinct One
Julia Jarrell - H.I.S.D.
Julius Wardley - TSU Wesley Foundation
Karen Lozano - Children’s Defense Fund
Kenneth Basile - Greater St. Matthew Baptist Church
LaMecia Butler - NFL, Super Bowl
Leah Taylor - Texas Methodist Foundation
Linda Holman - Educator
Linda Kaye Nwoke - Educator
Liz Coleman - Child Protective Services
Ma’Ma Busi Peters - Educator
Malene Golding
Mattie Lewis - Educator
Monique Smith
Munirah Jinwright - CASE for Kids
Niles Dillard - Superior Dides Production
Patricia Rosenberg - Education Volunteer
Ramona Pierre - Educator
Raquel Moral - H.I.S.D.
Ravel Johnson
Rita Cofield - St. Mark’s School
Shannon Treadville - Great Expectations Literacy Coaches
Shaterra McBride - Marvelous University
Sheree Kelly
Stacy Auld - United Methodist Minister
Stephanie Davis- Summer Search
Tom Lloyd - Marathon Oil
Toni Walton - March of Dimes
Venita Johnson-Braud H.I.S.D.
AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

Afternoon Activities occurred daily and provided our scholars with exposure to a variety of fields. The activities were typically hands-on or movement based. HYPE’s partnership with Harris County Department of Education’s Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids (CASE for Kids) provided daily opportunities for scholars at each location. We are truly thankful for our 2017 vendors listed below.

ARTIST BOAT

Artist Boat serves scholars with hands-on, place-based and experiential learning through art, science and marine ecosystems.

BOT SHOP

Bot Shop is a high tech camp that teaches scholars to build, program, and compete in small teams. Scholars gain cutting edge, hands-on experiences in robotics, aerospace, green energy and engineering.

COUNCIL ON RECOVERY

The Council on Recovery provides activities that teach the skills necessary to make positive decisions.

FOTOFEST

FotoFest uses photography and creative writing to inspire students to communicate effectively.

HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT ONE - STREET OLYMPICS

The Street Olympics team comes once a week to facilitate “street” games such as hopscotch, jump rope, track and field, etc.
HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

HPL provides experimental activities within the mobile unit that visits each site.

JUMPBUNCH

Jumpbunch is a sports and fitness program for kids.

MATHAMATICS

MathAMatics gives students the opportunity to work on STEAM (science, tech, engineering, arts, math) specialty projects as well as team based activities.

PRAIRIE VIEW UNIVERSITY

PV staff visits sites and does activities that expose the children to agriculture and personal gardening.

PROJECT ALPHA

Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity members mentor scholars on positive male behaviors through a proven curriculum.

THE WOMEN’S FUND

The Women’s Fund provides the What About Me? curriculum that spotlights several aspects of social-emotional learning including nutrition, physical activity, sexual risk behaviors, decision making skills, and positive thinking.

YOUNG AUDIENCES

Young Audiences provides a cross-section of arts programming across all disciplines (specifically music and dance)
Every Friday scholars explored a variety of enriching local activities!

**Week 1:** Wellborne Cinema Four  
**Week 2:** Houston Museum of Natural Science sponsored by ConocoPhillips  
**Week 3:** Moody Gardens  
**Week 4:** The Health Museum sponsored by The John P. McGovern Museum of Health and Medical Science  
**Week 5:** Prairie View A&M University Sponsored by Prairie View A&M University 4-H Club  
**Week 6:** #YearofJoy Wonder Woman Empowerment Bowling Party sponsored by Joy Sewing
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Partnering with parents/guardians to provide support and ideal solutions is a key component of HYPE’s success. 88% of HYPE families were regularly engaged and attended weekly meetings where speakers from a variety of organizations presented resources and activities.

Our Speakers

You Are the Root – Shanterra McBride, Marvelous University
College Readiness - Dr. Jerry Wallace, UHD- Male Minority Initiative
Know Your Sugar – Houston Food Bank
Love Language – HCDE/CASE For Kids
Teen Pregnancy Prevention/ Sexual Health – Benaye Bell, UT School of Public Health
Reading On-line Library – Linda Bassmer, MyOn
Houston Health Department – WIC, Family Planning and Immunizations
2017 Sponsors and Board

We extend our thanks and appreciation to our Organizational Sponsors and Board of Directors. Without your vision and support, our many years of success and our depth of impact would never have been reached.

2018 ORGANIZATIONAL SPONSORS

Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation
City of Houston Summer Food Program (In-Kind)
City of Houston Summer Youth Jobs (In-Kind)
HCDE CASE for Kid Afterschool Sustainability Initiative
Moody Endowment Permanent Fund
My Brother’s Keeper/Houston Health Department/City of Houston
Rockwell Fund
The Simmons Foundation
Touchdown Houston Grant

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brandi Brown, Executive Director
Willie Capers, President of the Board
Kenneth Basile
Tonya Bradley
Tonya Jones
Toni Walton
Kaye Wright
ASSESSMENT RESULTS

YOUTH OVERVIEW

A total of 97 HYPE Freedom School scholars participated in the 2017 CDF National Assessment as well as the Basic Reading Inventory Assessment (11th Edition) which measured the following performance outcomes:

- Reading comprehension and reading proficiency levels
- Attitudes towards reading, education, and non-cognitive skill

YOUTH FINDINGS

- Instructional reading levels increased by 10 months
- 86.6% maintained or gained in instructional reading levels and did not experience summer learning loss
- 78% improved in instructional reading levels as measured by BRI at the end of the program
- Positive beliefs about school and education,
- Positive desire to participate in social action
- Increased positive awareness of their own ethnic identity
- Increased social problem solving skills after participation in the CDF Freedom Schools program.
ASSESSMENT RESULTS

PARENT OVERVIEW

Parent's were asked to evaluate the curriculum, HYPE program model, and their children's progression over the summer.

PARENT FINDINGS

- 80% of parents recorded positive changes in their children's interest and confidence in reading, cultural knowledge, and social problem solving skills

- 70% of parents reported a positive increase in their parenting skills

SLI AND SITE OVERVIEW

Servant Leader Intern's were surveyed to assess their thoughts about their own leadership enhancement and educational opportunities for scholars. Additionally, sites were evaluated on curriculum implementation and location management.

SLI AND SITE FINDINGS

- SLIs reported that they developed leadership techniques they will continue to use in professional and personal occurrences

- All five sites were evaluated and confirmed to have executed high quality location management and CDF Freedom Schools curriculum
A message from our Executive Director

HYPE has always been dedicated to helping improve the lives of Houston families. In the wake of Hurricane Harvey and the disastrous flooding that followed, I learned that many in our HYPE family were left without suitable child care options.

In coordination with our partners, we are proud to share that we held the HYPE After Harvey pop-up from September 5–8 at Blue Ridge United Methodist Church, a summer 2017 site-partner, had minimal Harvey related impact and gladly hosted us!

We are grateful to have offered assistance to more than 20 families and 35 scholars. In fact, a HYPE Parent said, “Thank you so much for offering to have this program this week! Allowing my children to attend while school is out, gave me a chance to start looking for somewhere to stay.” Now more than ever, our work is made possible with the support of our community of volunteers and donors.

On behalf of the HYPE staff, I thank and applaud all that have come together to help our community excel.

We are so thankful to Pastor Ramonica Malone-Wardley, of Blue Ridge UMC.

About Children’s Defense Fund and HYPE

The Children’s Defense Fund Freedom Schools program is a national literacy initiative that motivates children to read more successfully while also building each student's self-esteem.

There are nearly 300 Freedom Schools in operation nationwide. HYPE Freedom School, Inc. is a non-profit organization that has been serving children and families in the Sunnyside/South Park areas for nearly 20 years.

The mission of HYPE is to empower people with the knowledge they need to be successful and self-sufficient. HYPE’s mission is accomplished by providing parents/guardians and their children with access to educational enrichment activities outside normal school hours.
As the director of HYPE Freedom School, I am continually amazed by the output of our community in efforts to support our children. This year was no different! I’d like to take a moment to thank those who made it all possible.

In this work I want to recognize my first and most long standing partner, Ms. Drucilla Bolden! Ms.Dee, as we fondly call her, is not only a visionary but a dedicated servant. She is truly the backbone of our program. She continues to stand by and encourage me to continue forward and to enhance the organization. I thank you for your unending support, your continued dedication and the special parts of yourself that enhance the lives of our youth and young adults.

Next, I would like to thank one of our newest members to the team, Mrs. Paulann Comins. Your energy and desire to see the program succeed are necessary now more than ever! Your positive resolve truly pushed the whole team through even our toughest times.

Likewise, Mrs. Crystal Momie has been a member of the HYPE Family since 2004. She began working with us a Servant Leader Intern. Since, not only has she led her children and family members to HYPE time and time again, but she has also progressed to the position of Regional Coordinator. Your involvement and growth has proven to me that HYPE not only creates leaders but truly is a family affair!
Additionally, Mrs. Carolyn DeVauhn has been a mentor and encourager of mine since my early days with the Children’s Defense Fund. Your leadership as the executive team member of HYPE who ensures that our supporters have a clear path to volunteer with the organization is more important than you may know. You’ve shown me how to cultivate relationships and how to keep our resource channels open. I thank you so very much!

Similarly, Ms. Carolyn Barnaba, thank you so much for bringing your expertise as an educator and administrator to the role of Parent Engagement Specialist. You have been a critical force in creating true partnerships with our families in the work of developing our scholars. Thank you for being a member of the HYPE Family!

To our Site Coordinators and Servant Leader Interns, the program would not be possible without you. As you have seeded into our children and our community we hope that we have been able to seed into you! We hope that this opportunity was valuable and something you will never forget. We are excited to have you continue to grow in the HYPE family. Please don’t be a stranger.

To our scholars and families, none of this dream placed on my heart 19 years ago would be actualized if not for you. The team and I, love you and thank you. We are excited to see you again next summer.

Thank You,
Brandi Brown
TO GET INVOLVED:

EMAIL: INFO@HYPEFS.ORG
CALL: 832-510-0431