



CAFÉ HOPE

Building Hope for Our Youth

CAMPUS EXPANSION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Barry

2017 Graduate

Dear Community Members,

I have served as the executive director of Café Hope since its founding in 2010. In that time, we have engaged over 600 young people in our community and witnessed the initiative, drive, and responsibility needed to push themselves forward. In turn, Café Hope offered them life skills, workforce development training, industry-recognized certifications, and job development coaching. We've placed our students in some of the best restaurants in New Orleans. We offered them constant support in their personal lives and have given countless hugs, shared many laughs, celebrated together, and faced challenges as a team.

Over the years, I've often wondered what would happen to our young people if Café Hope wasn't here. Would they continue to be overlooked and left behind because there was nobody to nurture them and see their value? Would our community miss out on all they could have been because nobody cared enough to see their many possibilities? For our young people, without the right skills and encouragement, this is the reality they face. It's not only their loss; it's our loss, too, and we can't afford that.

At Café Hope, we believe that engaged and empowered youth build a solid and thriving community. It is our "why," and it motivates us to look for new opportunities, consistently strive for more, and create solutions to challenging obstacles.

Like many in our local community, Café Hope's home suffered severe damage when Hurricane Ida hit our region. Just like our neighbors, we are still working to rebuild and repair. Just like our city, we are resilient and believe the future still looks bright.

The new Center for Youth Advancement and Workforce Training will include upgrades and expansions that will allow us to better serve our students and community. With a state-of-the-art teaching kitchen, an expansive restaurant/bar, dedicated class and meeting rooms, and upgraded ballrooms and event spaces, we're able to envision a future where our home is once again a place where students come to learn and grow, where friends and colleagues share a meal, where families gather for celebrations, and where community members find support.

I invite you to share our vision for the future sustainability of our organization and our belief that when young people are encouraged, cared for, and empowered, we all thrive. Together, we can reach our goals and transform lives.



Warmly,

Luis Arocha

Café Hope, Executive Director

A close-up portrait of a woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing black-rimmed glasses and a dark collared shirt over a light-colored turtleneck. She is smiling slightly and looking directly at the camera. The background is a soft-focus mix of green and blue.

All the Ingredients for a Successful Future for Our Youth

Café Hope supports young people ages 16 - 24 who primarily reside on the Westbank of New Orleans, a community that is isolated from the opportunities that can be found on the Eastbank of the City. The young people we serve are not currently engaged with school or a job, yet they desire to gain meaningful employment, care for their siblings, secure reliable transportation, gain confidence, and be active and engaged community members. They are motivated, eager, and driven to create better lives for themselves and their families.

With your help, we can pave a path forward for youth to attain professional and personal growth and fulfill their potential.

Chasity

2016 Graduate



Did you know?

Because of partners like the Emeril Lagasse Foundation, Café Hope is able to offer workforce training skills that results in many of our students gaining employment at some of the finest restaurants in New Orleans.

Scan the QR code below to learn more.



Why Café Hope?

Because every young person deserves a chance to succeed, and we have the recipe for success.

Café Hope was built from the vision of local New Orleans leader, Timothy Falcon, to provide opportunity youth in our community with resources, training, and support to reach their full potential. Students in our programs have struggled to finish high school, and those who have still lack essential education, training, life skills, social connections, and transportation access needed to obtain a well-paying job.

Our students:

- face mental health struggles.
- are recovering from substance abuse disorders.
- have a history with the juvenile justice system.
- are aging out of the foster care system.
- are caring for young children.
- are uninsured.
- lack reliable transportation, clothing, and housing among many other challenges.


Without a program like Café Hope, the only one of its kind on the Westbank, many of these students would continue to be disengaged, left behind and ultimately lost.

What We Believe

The youth we serve have the potential and desire to push themselves forward. If we can remove barriers to education, life skills, and support services, not only will it bring forth change in each young person that walks through our doors but also in our community.

It is essential that instead of discounting opportunity youth, we leverage their strengths and offer them options to enroll in workforce training and vocational programs that can lead to living wage jobs, a more skilled workforce, and a better economy.

Even in the face of societal gaps and inequities that have historically held them back and institutions and individuals who have failed them, all of our students come to us seeking help and support to attain the skills and tools needed for a better life.



Sydney
2015 Graduate



Our Values

At Café Hope, everything we do is steeped in our values.

We uphold integrity to show mutual respect and understanding.

We emphasize empathy to center the experiences of those closest to our work – our clients, our community, and each other.

We bring authenticity to deepen connections and build relationships across lines of difference.

We embrace perseverance to find solutions to our most pressing challenges.

We value curiosity to continuously learn, iterate, and improve.

Lorriel

2014 Graduate



What We Witness

All young people, provided with the appropriate guidance, can thrive.

All young people deserve nurturing environments to help them learn and grow.

Strong communities are ones in which individuals care for and support one another.

Love and compassion are foundational components of creating healthy and productive individuals.

Our Recipe for Success

With your support of this capital campaign, we will be able to serve more than double the amount of youth currently enrolled with culinary workforce training and life skills!

Life Skills

- Personal responsibility
- Communication skills
- Collaboration
- Problem-solving
- Goal-setting

Workforce Training

- Immersive internship in a fully-functioning restaurant
- Industry-recognized certifications
- Exposure to external restaurant operations and management
- Competitive stipend
- Transferable skills across industries
- Catering and special event engagements

Job Placement & Coordination

- Resume building
- Interview skills
- Access to network of employer partners
- Job search assistance and completing applications
- Support for one-year post graduation

Support Services

- Transportation
- Stable housing and food
- Childcare
- Benefits assistance and other basic human needs
- Constant support and advocacy

How You Can Help

Café Hope Center for Youth Advancement & Workforce Training

In 2019, Café Hope was fortunate to enter into a 100-year lease with our community partner, the Timberlane Neighborhood Improvement and Beautification District. This asset provided us with a permanent home for our program and students.

The lease terms allow for us to make capital improvements to the building in lieu of monthly rent payments.

When Hurricane Ida hit our region, it left Timberlane with severe structural damage that has limited our ability to fully reach the young people in our community.

Without a home, we are unable to offer in-person programming in our restaurant, which not only impacts our ability to offer hard skills to students, but also prevents them from experiencing the respect, support, and love our staff aspires to provide.



Michael
2019 Graduate



Our Knead

The goal of our \$5.4 million capital renovation is to create a state-of-the-art teaching kitchen, catering facility, restaurant/bar, classroom, computer lab, and event venue. This expansion will allow Café Hope to serve more youth, diversify our revenue streams, and create sustainability for our future.

Cooking Up Success

A phased approach to a new Café Hope with all the ingredients for a brighter future.

PHASE 1

Complete ✓

Remediation, temporary roof and planning

PHASE 2

Complete ✓

Roof replacement, seal windows and install gutter system

FINAL PHASE

Current phase

Café Hope interior remodel including new HVAC, electrical work, pro shop, restrooms, lounge area, conference room, event space, kitchen, dining room, classrooms and grand opening!



Now, that's cooking up
something special!

Dylan, 2017 Graduate

Our Future is Bright

Once capital improvements are completed, we anticipate the following growth over five years, allowing us to diversify our funding streams, expand our reach, and deepen our impact.

360%

Growth in catering and special event revenue

160%

Growth in restaurant sales

100%

Increase in the number of students served

Icing on the Cake

With our upgraded space, we will be able to expand our community programs, allowing us to provide opportunities such as:

- Financial literacy courses
- Health seminars
- Civic discussions
- Parenting classes

Our renovated space will provide a welcoming environment to invite students, families, businesses, community supporters, government officials, and others.



Did you know?

New Orleans opportunity youth between the ages of 16 – 24 are nearly 5% more likely than the U.S. average to drop out of school and not participate in Louisiana's labor market.

Ronald, 2019 Graduate

Ways to Support

Consider a Gift – the gift of cash is the best way to reach our goal quickly. The sooner we attain our fundraising goal, the sooner we can impact more lives and uplift our community. Sponsorships and naming opportunities are available.

In-Kind – donations such as building materials, commercial kitchen equipment, furniture, and professional services provide tremendous support.

Host a Fundraiser – do you like to host parties among friends and family? We would love to collaborate with you in hosting a fundraising event to support our campaign. Let's get creative and whip up a party with all the zest.

A close-up portrait of a young woman with dark hair in a braid, wearing a brown sweater and having braces. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

When Giving Becomes Leading

With our capital campaign, we have an opportunity to showcase our collective impact for generations to come. Café Hope is pleased to provide a number of sponsorship and naming opportunities to our generous donors.

Opportunities include:

- Naming of Entire Campus
- Classroom and Computer Lab
- Teaching Kitchen
- Upper and Lower Ballrooms
- Community Conference Room
- Dining Room
- Outdoor Patio
- Pro Shop

We are always open to creating a custom sponsorship opportunity that aligns with your philanthropic goals. Our donors are our partners, and together we fulfill our mission.

Olivia

2017 Graduate

A Real Culinary Delight

Café Hope offers youth the opportunity to secure jobs, find permanent housing, access health care, and gain financial independence, putting entire families in better personal, professional, and fiscal situations. For our city, this leads to reduced crime, better health outcomes, and higher educational attainments.

Your belief in our mission builds a strong and prosperous future for our young people and our community.

Consider a gift today.



Norman
2018 Graduate



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For additional information and to schedule a tour or meeting, please contact:

Luis Arocha, Executive Director

luis@cafehope.org • (504) 388-4631

Café Hope

One Timberlane Dr., Gretna, LA 70056

cafehope.org