



Family members and friends gather at a Pomona Hope Kids Program

### A Parent's Appreciation by Erica Garcia, Pomona Hope Parent

Luis and I are the parents of three kids. We became involved with Pomona Hope Kids through a family member. He told us how great and wonderful the program is for the children and that the program helps and benefits children in a positive way as they grow up and in their studying.

We have been involved with Pomona Hope Kids for the last two years. Our commitment to the program is so strong that, after planning to move to a different city, we changed our mind and decided to stay in Pomona so that our kids could attend the After School Program. Luis, our fourth grader, especially didn't want us to leave Pomona, because Pomona Hope Kids meant that much to him.

Also, we have stayed committed to the program because we see that our kids are doing very well in school. Their statewide tests show that they are keeping their ability in school at-or-above grade level:

Jessica, our second grader, is reading at the fourth grade level. When she began attending the program last year, she could barely read.

If Pomona Hope didn't exist, our children would have a more difficult time doing their homework because sometimes my husband and I don't understand it and can't help them. Also, our son Luis would probably be on the streets or doing nothing after school every day, like many other boys his age.

In our neighborhood, what Pomona Hope is doing for kids is really needed. I am thankful for God and the volunteers who make time and support our kids. I want Pomona Hope to continue helping the kids and showing them the right steps to take to succeed in life. Like all mothers, my dream is that, with the help of Pomona Hope, my kids become somebody and become volunteers to make a difference.

### *A Season to be Grateful and full of Hope:*

- Pomona Hope held a successful fundraising event, raising over \$16,000 and hearing powerful testimonies from students and parents involved with Pomona Hope.
- Pomona Hope received a generous grant from Stater Bros. Charities
- Pomona Hope is serving over 35 students daily and hopes the new year will allow us to serve those on the waiting list.
- Both Northminster Presbyterian Church and La Verne Heights Presbyterian Church included Pomona Hope in their Alternative Christmas Fairs. Congregants gave generously for needed supplies. Thank you!

### **Make a year-end gift before**

**December 31st**

(Envelope enclosed):

Pomona Hope  
401 North Gibbs St  
Pomona CA 91767

(909) 623-0400

[www.pomonahope.org](http://www.pomonahope.org)  
[info@pomonahope.org](mailto:info@pomonahope.org)  
[donate@pomonahope.org](mailto:donate@pomonahope.org)

**Pomona Hope**



Jelitza, an older youth at Pomona Hope Kids, is a leader and role model, spending hours helping younger youth.

### **Miracles** by Tanya Eveleth, Board Member

This past October I attended the Pomona Hope fundraising event. I was encouraged by a number of things, but especially by testimonies shared. It was clear that a community is being formed and lives are being changed in Pomona.

I have been involved with Pomona Hope for over 5 years as a Board Member. I have served on a variety of subcommittees, work on a variety of projects, and often wish to see even more results for efforts made. I am often in conversations with other board members asking what steps we should be taking, and what we need in order to expand the impact we have on the city of Pomona.

As I celebrate Advent, I am reminded of the wonder of God incarnate, choosing to live life among us, as one of us. God's love for us is perfectly and powerfully proclaimed in the life of a tiny baby. Similarly, the value of Pomona Hope is proclaimed in a single testimony from a parent, student or volunteer who has been given more hope, has been challenged to dream for greater things, has caught a glimpse of God and His love for them, a single and invaluable life changed.

We shared in our last newsletter that our programs have been tremendously successful at improving students' academic performance. This letter highlights the less quantifiable and incredibly important impact Pomona Hope has within a community in Pomona.

We will continue to dream for more, we will continue to plan for more, but for now, we are incredibly grateful for the miracles that have occurred, and the role that you have played in making it all possible.

### The Importance of Pomona Hope Kids in the Students' Words...

*I kept coming to Pomona Hope because it's just a very fun place to come to. I mean like it's so fun that Emily had to make a waiting list because so many kids want to come. I feel bad for the kids that are on the waiting list. I just love Pomona Hope Kids. It's a place to chill out and make friends and do homework. And the volunteers are cool.*

*I talk about Pomona Hope Kids 24/7, that's how much I like this program. Pomona Hope Kids means a lot to me.*

Erik , Grade 7

*If Pomona Hope Kids didn't exist, I would've been in serious trouble. This place totally changed me. Who doesn't like this place?! Pomona Hope Kids gave me a purpose to why I'm alive.*

*It's a safe place to be. Without this place I wouldn't have done my homework.*

*Pomona Hope Kids is like home. The volunteers make you happy. You can also get treats for bringing academic awards. Without this place my life would be horrible.*

Omar, Grade 5

*I like coming to Pomona Hope. I can't do my homework by myself. Plus, if I didn't come I would be bored at home, doing nothing except just needing help on my homework. Even my mom can't help with my homework so that's why I come to Pomona Hope Kids, so that's why my mom is going to English classes.*

Pablo, Grade 4

*I'm the most thankful for Emily. She watches out for us. I am also thankful for the volunteers because they help us. I am also thankful for Miss Marge, because she is kind.*

Jesus, Grade 3

*When I think about Pomona Hope, I am most thankful for Emily because she made this program. She keeps us safe. The way Emily keeps us safe is she has rules for us. She teaches us lots of stuff. She lets us play in the gym. She gives us treats.*

Brenda, Grade 5

*I like coming to Pomona Hope without it my life would never be fun. Since I started to come I started to feel more responsible for everything. When I go I feel the future.*

Luis, Grade 5