

Sharing HOPE

HOPE NETWORK FOR SINGLE MOTHERS

MARCH 2022



Honoring Single Parents

On March 21st, National Single Parents Day, honors the mothers and fathers holding down the fort with all the; hard work, devotion, and sacrifices involved in single parenting. Raising children can be challenging. Doing it without a partner doubles the burden. Whether by choice or circumstance, single parents carry a heavy load. Between work, school, daycare, doctor visits, and the list goes on, one person can only do so much.

Many single parents find support from family. Much like other families, grandparents, siblings, and other extended family help out. It's important that they do. According to the 2016 U.S. Census, 23% of American children are living with a single mother and 4% are living with a single father. This is a wonderful time to celebrate to courageous and resilient single parents all around the globe.

HOW TO OBSERVE #NATIONALSINGLEPARENTDAY

We all know of someone who is a parenting alone. Please celebrate these individuals by making this day a special one! You can also help the single mothers in your community through a charitable gift! Use #NationalSingleParentDay to post on about it on social media!

WE ALL KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO IS A PARENTING ALONE

How can you observe the day? Please celebrate these individuals by making this day a special one! You can also help the single mothers in your community through a charitable gift! Use #NationalSingleParentDay to post on about it on social media!

Here is the impact you can make with your selfless donation to HOPE Network.

- \$1,000 – Contribute to a grant for one mother to attend college for use with tuition or childcare.
- \$500 – Assist with a grant for one mother to attend college for use with tuition or childcare.
- \$150 – Provide all supplies needed for one infant layette and 1 case of diapers.
- \$50 – Stress Relief kit with a gift card for one mother.
- \$25 – A gift card for one mother.

With much gratitude,

Babette



Babette A. Honoré,
Executive Director



Tips & Resources



Lead Exposure Awareness



Lead Poisoning Prevention

PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM EXPOSURE TO LEAD IS IMPORTANT TO LIFELONG GOOD HEALTH

No safe blood lead level in children has been identified. Even low levels of lead in blood have been shown to affect learning, ability to pay attention, and academic achievement. While the effects of lead exposure may be permanent, if caught early there are [things parents can do](#) to prevent further exposure and reduce damage to their child's health.

The most important step that parents and caregivers, healthcare providers, and public health professionals can take is to prevent lead exposure before it occurs. CDC supports primary and secondary lead exposure prevention.

- Primary prevention is the removal of lead hazards from the environment before a child is lead exposed. It is the most effective way to ensure that children do not experience harmful long-term effects of lead exposure.
- Secondary prevention includes [blood lead testing](#) and follow-up care and referral. It remains an essential safety net for children who may already be exposed to lead.

How to Prevent Lead Poisoning in Children

A blood test is the easiest way to determine if a child has been exposed to lead. The amount of lead in blood is referred to as a blood lead level, which is measured in micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$). Most children with lead in their blood have no obvious symptoms. Talk to your child's health care provider about getting a [blood lead test](#).

PREVENTING CHILDHOOD LEAD EXPOSURE IS COST-EFFECTIVE.

According to an analysis from the Health Impact Project in their report, "[10 Policies to Prevent and Respond to Childhood Lead Exposure](#)," eliminating lead hazards from the places where children live, learn, and play could generate approximately \$84 billion in long-term benefits per birth cohort. Additionally, permanently removing lead hazards from the environment would benefit future birth cohorts, and savings would continue to grow over time. CDC is committed to helping address this threat and improving health outcomes for our nation's most vulnerable citizens—our children.



Spotlight Organization

The Life of a Single Mom

The Life of a Single Mom is a national, nonprofit organization that exists to see that no single mom walks alone. We are leading a global movement to ensure they don't by provide support groups and education in 3 core areas: Parenting, Finances, and Health & Wellness.

Our services include:

- Support groups throughout the U.S.
- Online and in-person life skill classes
- 2-Day Intensive Boot Camps
- National Conferences & Events
- Case Management services & counseling
- Free weekly podcasts, videos, articles, & weekly chats ...and so much more!

Need help navigating those tough parenting seasons? Looking for ways to better your finances? In need of emotional support? Take advantage of Single Mom University (SMU) - an online classroom providing self-paced learning to address single mothers' unique needs. This platform hosts over 100 life skill classes. Each class includes short video lectures of only 15 minutes, designed with busy single moms in mind. Whatever it is that you need, we have you covered! Learn more about The Life of a Single Mom and our additional services by visiting thelifeofasinglemom.com.

Parenting Resource

The Life of a Single Mom exists to see that no single mom walks alone. When you connect with us, you have access to parenting workshops, events, and free podcasts, videos, and articles to help you along your parenting journey. Through our Single Mom University platform, we offer 100+ online courses that include: Navigating Parenting Seasons, Co-Parenting, Raising Boys, and much more. To learn more about our services and free materials, visit thelifeofasinglemom.com.

Health & Wellness Resource

The Life of a Single Mom exists to see that no single mom walks alone by connecting every single mom to a support group. There, she will find a community to walk alongside her and encourage her. Additionally, we host several events throughout the year - including our National Single Moms Conference - to encourage you in your season. To learn more about joining a group, free resources, and events, visit thelifeofasinglemom.com.

Education Resource

The Life of a Single Mom exists to provide support groups and education in parenting, finances, and health & wellness. Through our Single Mom University platform, we offer 100+ online courses that include: Navigating Parenting Seasons, Co-Parenting, Sex & Dating, Healing from the Past, Moving from Broke to Breakthrough, and more. We offer events throughout the year to aid in areas that our moms struggle in the most. To learn more about our services, visit thelifeofasinglemom.com.



Member Opportunities



SHOPPING WITH HOPE 3

Saturday, April 9 | 10 am – 12 pm
Benjamin Franklin School
2308 W. Nash, Milwaukee



We're at it again! Shopping with HOPE is coming back to Benjamin Franklin School in Milwaukee on Saturday, April 9, 2022 from 10 am – 12 pm. This free "shopping" event for our members was such a success we're bringing it back for spring!

In December of 2021, we were able to give away thousands of items to our moms including diapers, wipes, clothing, toys, blankets, COVID-19 safety kits, hats, gloves, and much more! We are so happy to have this event and grateful that Benjamin Franklin School in Milwaukee let us use their cafeteria and transform it into a grand boutique.

Scholarship Recipient SPOTLIGHT

HOPE Network scholarships address the unique challenge of our single mother's education. Recipients use the scholarship funds for tuition or for childcare while they attend school. In this issue, we continue to share the testimonies from the ladies who received scholarships in 2021.



Nigeria Smith-Beckom
MILWAUKEE AREA
TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Surgical Technology

My name is Nigeria Smith-Beckom. I am a single mother of a five-year-old girl. I found out I was going to be a mother at the young age of 19. There were so many thoughts and emotions going through my head and knew that this would not be easy to achieve before wanting to become a mother but God had other plans for me. The day I found out I was pregnant I put my life on pause. The most important dream that could not be put on hold was to finish school and have a great career.

I chose to become a student while being a single mother because it was very important to me that my daughter and I have good life. Many times, I wanted to give up but every time I looked into her eyes, I kept pushing harder. I am currently enrolled at MATC working towards a degree in surgical technology. I chose this program because I like to do everything I can to see people with a smile on their face. Becoming a surgical technician gives me a chance to do just that. I have sacrificed so much to get to where I am today, and now graduation day is approaching! I am going to walk with confidence and my head held high. My advice to single mothers would be to never give up on your dreams. When life hits you hard, hit it back with success. Big dreams are the key to big success.

— Nigeria Smith-Beckom



For More Information ...

To learn more about HOPE Scholarship opportunities for single mothers, go to our website at hopenetworkinc.org.

Compare Our Numbers

Single Parenting by the Numbers

25%

of parents living with a child in the United States today are **unmarried.**

27%

of solo parents are **living in poverty** compared with 16% of cohabiting parents.

Women

ages 35 to 59 in the U.S. are **more likely** than men ages 35 to 59 to live as single parents.

Single Parents

make up **6% of the workforce** in the U.S.

74%

of custodial parents who were due child support in 2013 received either **full or partial payments.** Less than half



HOPE Network for Single Mothers Profile

Single Mothers Served	246
Average age	38 years' old
Reside	53209, 53218
Number of Dependents	1



Thank You Generous Donors!

START BY
DOING
WHAT'S
NECESSARY

THEN WHAT'S
POSSIBLE

AND SUDDENTLY
YOU ARE
DOING
THE
IMPOSSIBLE

—SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

By Babette A. Honoré, Executive Director

Throughout this unprecedented time, you have chosen to stick by our side. On behalf of our board, staff and single mothers we want to thank you for your commitment, it has meant so much to us all.

Your generous gifts has given us the ability to make a real difference, helping members and providing benefits during these difficult times. We are so grateful.

Babette

Ackeret Family Charitable
Fund at Greater Milwaukee
Foundation
Pauline Beck
Debra Block
Marsha Bukofzer
Timothy & Lynn Buszkiewicz
Mary Chingery
Linda Christman
Hanna De Graaf
Patricia De Guzman
Debra Doolittle Kappes
Ellen Drewry
Lynn & Peter Engel
Edward & Claire Fink
Jean Galvin
Robert & Nancy Gorzek
Mary Grenier
Kaye Haskins
Phil Helchen
Maria Holley
Joanne Jackson

Steven Johnson
Judith Kinney
Gary & Cynthia Kubesch
Alan & Kathleen Luening
Michael & Mary Ann Lynch
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John McCormick
Karen McQuestion
Robert Meiksins
Lynn Morrison
Thomas Mullooly
Robert Nelesen
Jane Niebler
Judy Ostrowski
John Pankau
Kermaine Petty
John Reuter
Matt & Pam Riesen
Phil & Karin Ritter
Rita Saavedra
Don Schauf

Mary Alice & Ronald Schueler
Jack & Sandy Shaw
Joel Slaske
Janice & James Spredemann
Stephen Springman
Blake & Mary Stuckey
Anna Sweet
Charles & Katie Sweet
Karen Tieman
Simon & Joelle Vollmer
Kathryn Walczyk
Beverly Washcovick
Hester & Jack Werner
Terre Woodward
Marianne Wrocklage
Sue Yenter
Fidelity Charitable
PayPal Giving Fund
Vine & Branches Foundation

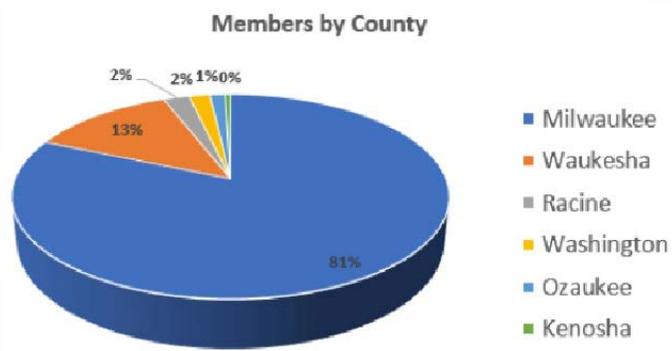
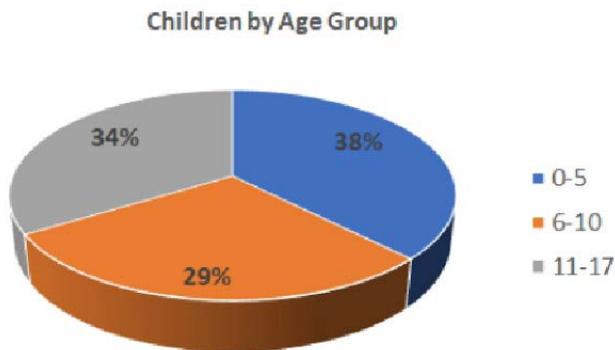
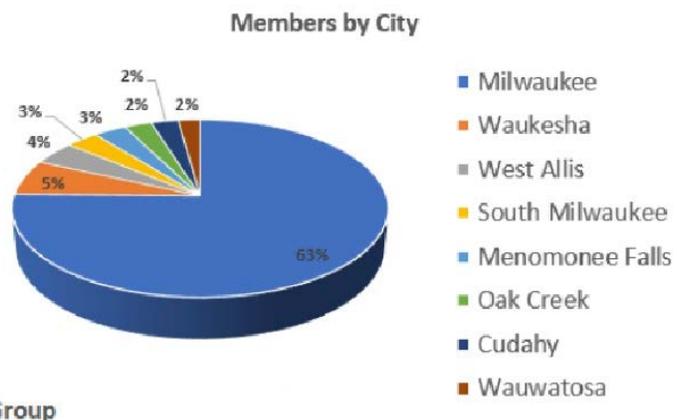
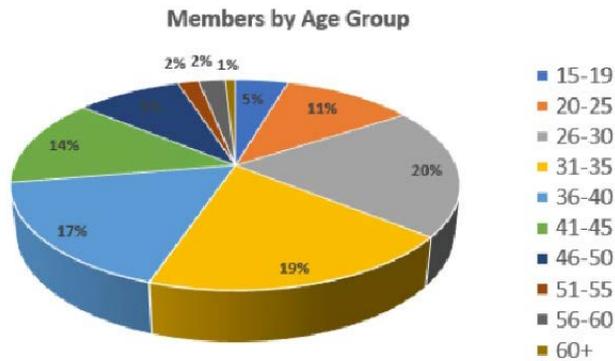
Looking for More Ways to Help?

Volunteering, Planned Giving, Wishlist Giving and Online Donations ...
Check it out at <https://www.hopenetworkinc.org/ways-to-help/>.



Our Demographics

HOPE Network Single Mother Demographics





HOPE Network for Single Mothers

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Menomonee Falls, WI 53051-2630

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Welcome Debra Block

"I am so excited to be the newest member of the HOPE Network family! I am joining the team as the development coordinator.

Just a little bit about me. I have been blessed with an amazing family. My husband John and I have lived in Wisconsin all our lives. Together we have raised two beautiful children: Candice (who is a therapist in Chicago) and Nicholas (who just graduated college in August while receiving chemo for Leukemia).

The majority of my career has been spent working for non-profits, both humane and human endeavors. My education background is in computer science, early education and business management with an emphasis on marketing. I continue to take classes at UW-Whitewater.

I am eager to meet everyone and to help spread the mission and the meaningful work of HOPE Network! Please always know I am just an email away."

Debra Block
dblock@hopenetworkinc.org



*The mother is the first teacher of the child.
The message she gives that child, that child
gives to the world.*

—Malcolm X