

A Message From the Board

This has been a very exciting year for Project HOPE Foundation and at the same time one of our most challenging years. Our successes are great. Hope Reach, our ABA Therapy program has grown to serve over 60 children. Students at Hope Academy are thriving both academically and socially. Our Hope Link DVD, designed as a resource for caregivers, health care providers, and parents, is complete and available for purchase on Amazon.com. Our new website is up and running, allowing easy access to updated information on all our programs.

Unfortunately, our challenges are equally as great. With our struggling economy, Project HOPE Foundation has suffered greatly. We are without \$80,000 in grant money that would normally provide funding for our programs. With tuition covering only 40% of our operating budget, this shortage puts us in a crisis to find funding to avoid cutting any of the programs that benefit the children we serve. With new reports that 1 in 91 children will be diagnosed with autism, the need for our services is more urgent than ever before.

In this season of giving, please consider Project HOPE Foundation. Your financial support will have a great impact on our ability to continue providing these much needed services to all the children of HOPE.

On behalf of Project HOPE Foundation's Board of Directors we wish you all a very blessed holiday season.

Lori Schur
Chairperson



Although a small foundation, Project HOPE leads the way in serving children with autism in South Carolina through four programs, each focusing on a particular aspect of our mission to:

Help families

Open minds

Promote inclusion

Expand potential



Hope Link is a program of Project HOPE Foundation designed to help families deal with the challenges of autism by providing information about autism spectrum disorders, including symptoms, therapies, interventions, services, funding options, and coping skills.

In our **Hope Reach** program, we open minds by providing 25 - 30 hours per week of intense Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy focusing on language, behavioral, social, and cognitive skills to over 60 children with autism.

We promote inclusion through **Hope Academy**, a school specifically designed to provide children with autism the opportunity to learn in classrooms with typical peers and typical curriculum. Since its inception in 1997, this unique school has served over 1,000 children, building relationships that have changed lives. Hope Academy currently has a waiting list of over 80 children with autism.

Our newest challenge, **Hope Alive** is an innovative approach to expand potential of children, older youth, and young adults with autism who are not best served through the traditional model of grouping people with wide-ranging disabilities as a single unit.

Hope Link

Helping families through information, education, and support.

We are delighted to announce the release of our first DVD, entitled **Understanding Autism: A Resource for Families, Pediatricians, and Caregivers**.

The first segment (21:50 minutes) traces the journey of one child from birth through his teenage years, including an overview of autism and the intervention of Applied Behavior Analysis.

The second segment (27:36 minutes) provides a more detailed compilation of information about the symptoms of autism, using videotaped clips of a variety of children at different ages. The third segment (16:35 minutes) gives a glimpse of living with Asperger's Syndrome from the perspective of an insightful, articulate 13-year-old.

The final segment (6:44 minutes) describes the unique Hope Academy program, specifically designed to include children with autism in classrooms with typical peers.

Consider purchasing this DVD for \$25 to give to a physician, teacher, or church worker:
www.projecthopesc.org/hopelink.

Wish List

LCD projector

Copy paper for use at Hope Academy and Hope Reach

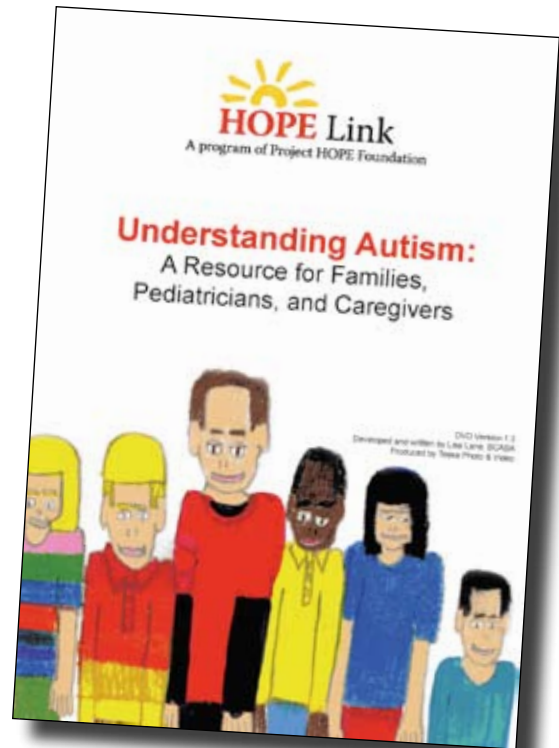
Self-adhesive chart paper for Hope Academy and Hope Reach

Laptops

Database software

(5) \$250 sponsorships for the launch of our NEW website

Project HOPE Foundation is a tax-deductible 501(c) (3) organization.



Cover artwork by student *Michael Sachs*

Hope Alive

Expanding potential of children, older youth, and young adults living with autism.

In addition to the inclusion-based classrooms of Hope Academy, Project HOPE is developing several innovative models for Hope Alive classrooms that will focus on children on the autism spectrum.

One model targets students with autism who may possess the academic skills to complete a high school curriculum but who would struggle with the social demands of a traditional high school program. This Hope Alive classroom model will use self-paced virtual curriculum on computer facilitated by a Hope Alive teacher, who will also provide direct instruction in life skills and social interaction.



Hope Reach

Opening minds through providing Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services for children with autism.

- Since opening its doors in June 2007, Hope Reach has grown over 1300% in number of children served.
- Hope Reach staff has grown 1140% in staff.
- Hope Reach is the only non-profit ABA provider in the upstate.
- All four Hope Reach supervisors are Board Certified Behavior Analysts.
- Hope Reach is the only ABA service provider in the Upstate to offer a clinical option based in the B.J. Workman Hospital facility in Woodruff, SC, thanks to the generosity of Spartanburg School District #4.
- Hope Reach was one of only four new programs accepted by the United Way of Piedmont for funding this year.



Hope Academy

Promoting inclusion through personalized classes that foster knowledge, character development, and social responsibility.

- Hope Academy is one of nearly 40 schools throughout the state partnering with The Carolina First Center for Excellence (CFCE), one of the Chamber Foundation's premier programs. On October 20, Hope Academy hosted a Users' Group workshop to demonstrate to local schools the use of Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) strategies in an inclusion-based environment.
- Every week, Hope Academy students celebrate the arts. Susan Wilson from The Art Haven provides art instruction to each class of our 1st-8th grade students. Johnny Larrabee is our drama instructor for the 4th/5th graders and the 7th/8th graders. He also teaches both a Beginner and an Advanced Guitar class, open to 4th-8th grade students. Additionally, Bettye Butler currently leads a weekly clay class for 4th/5th and 7th/8th grade. Lisa Lane provides weekly music class for K4-5th grade, focusing in the 1st semester on identifying classical pieces and understanding musical terms.
- Over a dozen Mauldin high school students are volunteering 3-4 days each week at Hope Academy as part of their Service Learning Classes.
- In their weekly assembly, 2nd-8th graders join together to discuss character issues and celebrate triumphs. Students have the opportunity to acknowledge their own achievements and those of their classmates.

Upcoming Events

Barnes & Noble Holiday Shopping: Use a HOPE voucher to shop at Barnes & Noble (Greenridge) Dec. 4 - 6th. Our percentage from sales is dependent upon the total dollars spent with vouchers.

Winter Holiday Program: Hope Academy students perform at 7:00 p.m. at United Methodist Church Sanctuary, on Thursday, December 17th.

A Night of Hope: Benefit concert at Belleview Baptist Church, Woodruff, SC at 6:00 p.m. No tickets required; love offering accepted

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Greenville, SC 29607-5994

A small foundation doing big things for children with autism



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Since his diagnosis of autism in June 1996, my son, Colby, has worked nearly 40 hours a week to acquire skills that come naturally to most children. At the age of 15, he has made tremendous gains, but language remains difficult. He often strings words together in ways that make sense only to him: “Dog over white big no hungry on fast.”

So much to teach.

Last week, I was quizzing him in “category” cards. I held up picture cards with three items on each one.

“Apple, banana, and grapes are...” I started and Colby quickly responded, “Fruit.”

I followed with “Hammer, screwdriver, and saw are...” and he answered, “Tools.”

My next card was “Cloud, rainbow, and sun are...” Colby’s instant response made me stop my rapid-fire drilling.

“Beautiful,” he said.

So much to learn...

Lisa Lane

Director, Hope Academy



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