

## Sponsorship Opportunity Taste of Hope & Circle of Hope

Good afternoon. My name is Colleen Kenney and I am privileged to serve as the Chairperson of the Taste of Hope Committee for Hope Academy, the high school for students in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction located on the Fairbanks campus in Indianapolis.

As Indiana's only recovery high school, Hope Academy has graduated more than 140 students and served over 700 youth in its 12 years of existence. Hope Academy has been highlighted in news stories as our state and nation determine how to address the ongoing opioid crisis. Staff and current and former students were interviewed for the **PBS Newshour\***, U.S. Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos visited Hope Academy in September 2017, and in November 2017, Hope Academy hosted a meeting of the Indiana Commission to Combat Drug Abuse where Sophi Herrick shared her story with the membership and others in attendance. The Sunday, October 15, 2017, edition of the **Indianapolis Star** shared Sophi's story\*\*. Sophi concluded her high school career as the Valedictorian of the Hope Academy Class of 2018. Hope Academy is making a difference!

Indiana's dramatic increase in substance use and opioid-poisoning deaths has brought Indiana to the level of a large-scale epidemic. We need you to join the effort to help Hoosier teens in recovery from substance abuse by supporting Hope Academy's 9th Annual Taste of Hope event on Sunday, February 24, 2019. The 2018 event was sold-out with 200+ guests and raised a record-breaking \$69,000 thanks to the support of donors and 50+ sponsors. Plans are well underway for Taste of Hope 2019. This fundraising event provides much needed financial support for the operations of Hope Academy.

My hope in sharing Rachel's story below is that it will inspire you to give serious consideration to offering sponsorship support of Taste of Hope 2019.



Rachel had always been a straight-A student. She came from a stable middle-class family in a safe suburban town. But she also struggled with substance abuse. "The first time I smoked I thought this is it. I found something I didn't even know I was searching for," says Rachel. Soon, her grades began to suffer. By the time she entered treatment, Rachel was in the midst of getting expelled from her high school and in legal trouble because of her substance abuse. "I wouldn't have graduated without Hope Academy," says Rachel. "Not only did I complete my high school education, but I was with people who understood the disease of addiction." After graduating from Hope Academy, Rachel enrolled at Ivy Tech before earning an Associate of Arts degree, with high honors, from College of DuPage. Rachel is currently working with adjudicated youth with substance use disorders and will graduate in December 2018 from the University of Michigan, School of Social Work, with a Master's Degree in Social Work.

My husband, Phil Kenney, has shared with me the commitment of the construction industry in addressing the issue of substance abuse and its effect on the industry workforce. The support offered to individuals facing these issues often serves to assist their families and ultimately, has a positive impact on local communities, as well. Hope Academy offers a similar positive impact to Indiana communities by empowering our youth with the education and skills needed to remain in recovery as they enter the workforce or pursue further education in a trade skill or in a college/university program. As a public charter school, students attend Hope Academy free of charge. Costs to provide the specialized teaching, recovery support, and one-on-one attention these students need, however, exceed the funding provided by the state of Indiana. Our challenge is to raise an additional \$9,000 per student each year to support the operations of Indiana's only recovery high school, one of a limited number of schools in the U.S. accredited by the Association of Recovery Schools. Hope Academy remains committed to its work of enriching the future for youth in recovery.

With your generous support, more than 90% of Hope Academy students like Rachel will earn their high school diploma. I encourage you to visit the Hope Academy website, [www.hopeacademyrhs.org](http://www.hopeacademyrhs.org), to learn more about the academic achievement, sobriety, and personal growth opportunities the school provides. You will find attached sponsorship information and a commitment form for Taste of Hope 2019. Please give serious consideration to adding your name to the growing list of sponsors that are helping us meet the challenge!

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

*Colleen Kenney*

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Taste of Hope Committee Chair

