



FIRST RECIPIENT RECEIVES BUILDING HOPE SCHOLARSHIP DURING COVID PANDEMIC

BUILDING HOPE SCHOLARSHIP WAS AWARDED TO ITS FIRST RECIPIENT FOR CHILDCARE DURING COVID PANDEMIC.

CARY, NC January 7, 2021 - When the leadership team at Oak Village Academy established the nonprofit foundation for the Building Hope Scholarship, a pandemic was not foreseen. They simply wanted to help a family in need and give back to their community. They were well aware of many hard-working families that did not have resources to provide high quality childcare and oftentimes families would be scrambling on a week-to-week or even day-to-day basis. The Building Hope Scholarship was developed to help families overcome that challenge.

With 2020 came the pandemic and many applications for the scholarship were received. Alicia Fink, Building Hope Scholarship Foundation President, explained, "Our board went through each application very thoroughly. We knew we had to take it very seriously and had many virtual meetings to narrow it down to the finalists." They also knew it wasn't just about awarding a scholarship for tuition. It was about the families also.

It was important to make sure that the finalists had an opportunity to meet with the board, visit the campus and meet the administration team and teachers. Also allowing the child to visit and explore was an important step to ensuring it was a good fit for all. Each finalist family had significant needs which made it a very difficult decision to choose just one family.

Kela Jeffries-Glover was on the search for childcare for her 17-month old daughter Halo. Kela works full time, her husband Marcellus attends ECPI and her mother-in-law was helping to take care of Halo. She knew she was lucky to have that help but at times it didn't work out. Her mother-in-law also had other responsibilities and Kela just thought it would be best to find a different childcare situation for Halo.

During her search, Kela found Oak Village Academy. What she was particularly drawn to was the outdoor learning environment not found at other preschools. She found she could also bring lunch and snacks for Halo and that they had a lower student to teacher ratio than other preschools. Kela requested more information but felt deep down that she would not be able to afford the tuition.

As Kela continued to research Oak Village Academy further, she learned about the Building Hope Scholarship and submitted an application. After receiving notice that she was a finalist, Kela toured the campus and a few weeks later Halo was invited to visit a classroom. "All my interactions with the staff felt very family-like" said Kela. "I felt their kindness and compassion towards the children. It was a loving environment that I had not felt anywhere else."

A few weeks later, Kela received a call that Halo was the recipient of the scholarship and she couldn't be more pleased. Since attending Oak Village Academy, Halo's personality has evolved into a vibrant and curious child and her vocabulary has grown significantly. "It is a learning environment that excels with activities for the children, an outdoor experience like no other and opportunities for them to learn, share, grow and interact with others," says Kela.

Not only has Oak Village Academy impacted Halo's life tremendously but it has also changed Kela and her husband Marcellus as parents. They have been connected to resources that they would not have known about otherwise. Kela attended a virtual toddler conference which has helped her and her husband interact and communicate with Halo and understand the mind of a toddler. "It has changed my whole mindset as a parent," said Kela.

Kela can now also focus on work knowing that Halo is in a caring and safe environment and that she's happy to be there. There is also comfort in knowing their childcare is secure and they will not experience interruptions in work as they had done so previously.

"This Building Hope Scholarship has given us a glimmer of hope," shared Kela. "2020 has been absolutely insane and this has given our family something to hold onto when doors have closed and budgets are tight. I'm hoping other families can benefit from this scholarship for years to come."

"Seeing how this scholarship has impacted Halo and her family is exactly the reason why we did this," said Adam Zabrud, Vice President of Building Hope Scholarship Foundation. "We hope to make this scholarship available to many families in need."

To make a donation or submit an application, visit <https://exploreoakvillage.com/buildinghope/>.

ABOUT BUILDING HOPE SCHOLARSHIP

The Building Hope Scholarship Foundation was established to raise money to provide a scholarship for a child, or children who, due to their parent's financial situation, do not have the opportunity to attend a [Oak Village Academy](#). Money is raised through donations to fund a recipient's tuition for the year. The foundation continues to raise money for the duration of the child's attendance at the school for up to five years or until they go to kindergarten. Individual and corporate levels of scholarship partnerships are available. To make a donation or submit an application, visit <https://exploreoakvillage.com/buildinghope/> or call 919-377-1802 for more information.

ABOUT OAK VILLAGE ACADEMY

Oak Village Academy™ is a high-quality preschool located in Cary, NC. It was founded to provide imaginative and encouraging indoor and outdoor learning environments with low child-to-teacher ratios. This allows teachers to have more time to work one-on-one with children while trying different activities that engage children in learning. We prepare all our students for the next classroom experience by shaping our curriculum to fit the needs of each child individually (Infants and Toddlers) and then as bridges to the next classroom making the transition a little easier. Our students progress from Infants (6 weeks–12 months) to Toddlers (1–2 years) to Preschool Prep (2–3 years) to Preschool (3–4 years) to Pre-Kindergarten (4-5) then transition to kindergarten adequately prepared for a kindergarten classroom. Operating with the highest standards when it comes to our staff and learning environment, we have designed our infant, toddler and preschool educational programs that respects individual differences, honors every child's culture and sees family members as equal partners in a child's growth and learning. Our campus offers a unique preschool environment with a focus on outdoor learning. Our six different buildings, one for each age group as well as one multi-purpose room, brings a new perspective to the meaning of preschool. Oak Village Academy has a 5-star rating from the NC Division of Child Development and Early Education, the highest standard of professional childcare set by the state. For more information call 919-377-1802 or visit <https://exploreoakvillage.com/>.

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