

HOPE Headlines

Sabrina Cisneros, Editor

A newsletter written and edited by residents of the HOPE Literacy dorms at Dawson State Jail



HOPE Literacy is an educational program brought here to Dawson by Ms. Lucy Smith in 2003. This program was formed to help inmates get an education while incarcerated. With

What is HOPE?

the help of Sgt. Lavalliss, the program is going strong.

We have three dorms on the 10th floor that participate in the Texas HOPE Literacy program. We provide one-on-one tutoring for those who are getting their G.E.D. Students must be focused and willing to learn. Peer Educators are thoroughly trained before being placed with students. Students are also pre-tested.

The HOPE curriculum targets students who struggle academically as well as those who experience problems with dyslexia and other learning disabilities.

If you are seriously interested in getting your education or want to help those who are, consider this program, you'll be surprised at what it can do.

Dorm Officers

Each HOPE dorm functions as a city with its own officials. Sgt. Lavallais appoints and oversees the leadership team who are chosen for their ability to follow instructions and willingness to maintain the integrity of HOPE.

Not all positions are appointed. Everyone has the opportunity to apply for a position or run for various offices. Each dorm votes on its own name. The following hold offices in their cities:

Unity City (Dorm A) officers include Jennifer English, Ava Nix, and Shelly Simms.

Mizpah City (Dorm C) officers include Glenice Johnson, Valerie Wood, and Melissa Ferguson.



Congratulations to Agape City (Dorm F), as our newest HOPE city. The officers are Brenda Chance, LaTonya Hynes, and Christy Ann. Let's keep them in our thoughts and prayers so that they can grow like the other cities.

The HOPE Program is hard work, but it also has its fun side. HOPE has various

classes and activities to offer inmates aside from the GED preparation. We offer parenting classes, a 12-step class, and enriching Bible studies. We also have extra-curricular activities such as steppers, choir, and a crochet team. Other activities include arts & crafts, games, and movies.



Daily
Inspirational
Devotionals
Bible Studies

Activities

THANKS!

Thank you to all the volunteers without whom none of these wonderful things would be happening. We thank you for all your time and hard work that you put into us at HOPE Literacy. We love you and appreciate you!

How do I get in to HOPE?

If you have at least nine months left in your sentence drop an I-60

Eligibility

Must be working on G.E.D. or serve as a Peer Educator/Tutor and have at least nine months left in your sentence.



How HOPE is Helping Me

By Rebecca Fielden

Hello, my name is Rebecca Fielden. I am 34 years old. I have an 18 month sentence to do here at Dawson State Jail.

When I first got in here, I had trouble with my reading, spelling, and math.



Literacy Tutor and Student

My EA scores were at a second and fifth grade level.

I heard about this program, HOPE Literacy, signed up, and now I'm here.

My tutors have taught me about short vowel and long vowel sounds and how they sound with consonants, and that a base word and a suffix together is called a derivative. I can now sit down and read a book.

HOPE is also teaching me discipline. I am currently

serving as the Director of Activities.

This program is a very good program. When I leave, I will feel like I have accomplished things that I didn't get the chance to do because I quit school. By applying all that I have learned in HOPE I will not only be a productive member in society, but a better mother to my sons, Demetrius and Kyler.

I thank God for HOPE Literacy.

The Work Place

by Dorothy Anderson

The work place in HOPE Literacy is great. It provides us with jobs and responsibilities to prepare us for release. Positions include: shift managers, test monitors, and inventory clerks. To obtain one of these positions you submit a

resume and attend an interview just as you would in the free world. You will be held accountable for that job and its duties.

The work place provides us with positive experiences, and gives meaning to our lives while doing our time

here at the Dawson State Jail.

HOPE Literacy provides not only an education, but also teaches the discipline we need to help with the responsibilities of finding and holding a job after we are released.

Earn Your Wings

By Ava Nix

The destruction of one's self often feels irreparable. To be thrown in a place outside of your normal environment can be hard to adjust to. The chances of finding a place in prison that promotes healing and transformation are few and far between. God has orchestrated a program that will give you the tools you need.

HOPE Literacy was created with a foundation of faith, knowledge, understanding and obedience to help provide you with a purpose and

plan to get ahead in your new life. Once and for all you get the help needed to say goodbye to the old habits, people, places and things that have slowly helped destroy you.

The structured classes and environment teach you how to love one another, but more importantly, show you how to love yourself again. When this program is worked, and all the tools provided are used properly, you will continue to grow and repair all that has been broken within your family and yourself.

HOPE will try you and test you, but it will also provide for you and bless you. So if you're ready to peel off the labels your old life has given you, give HOPE a try, you'll earn back your wings, so you can fly.

Creative Corner

*HOPE is a window to heaven
Giving us glimpses above,
Urging us on to that haven
Completely surrounded by love.*

*HOPE is a fuel that propels us,
Giving us power to go,
Furnishing light to our pathway,
Accenting heaven's bright glow.*

*HOPE is a lifeline that saves us,
As we go struggling along,
Guiding our steps and direction,
Marching to heaven's sweet song.*

*HOPE is a balm for the
"Christian",
Soothing the tired weary soul,
Furnishing gentle persuasion
As we press on to our goal.*

Tammy Wiggins

Congratulations to Tammy Hight !!!

Mayor of Mizpah, Tammy left for home on August 15th. She was in HOPE for 20 months and served as Mizpah's Mayor since December 2006. She achieved her goal and graduated from Windham School District this past June.

She will be missed. We wish her well and will keep her in our thoughts and prayers.

Best Wishes!

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