

# Wings

Brian Christopher Lanier Wings of Hope Foundation



June 2012

## Please Remember

- 100% of funds raised go directly to help the children
- We are a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization — all your gifts are tax-deductible
- Our officers and board members receive no compensation — children get maximum benefit from your gifts
- We rely on our volunteers and donors to make the difference — and you do!

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## From Dream to Reality

Dear Friends,

Some people thought we were dreaming way too big last year when we were working to reach a **total giving** of One Million Dollars. (I must admit, I had a few moments of doubt myself!)

But you saw the dream and believed in it, too. You chose to become a part of it. And through your support, you made it a reality.

When Wings of Hope began, the dream was small – to help at-risk children in

memory of my son, Brian. We asked family and friends to join us and they did. And then they asked their family and friends to join in. And on and on it went.

Today it's mind-boggling to think about how many of you have since become part of the journey.

Thanks a million for taking the journey with us. As a group we **can** dream big – and change lives!

God Bless,

*Kathy*

## One Step at a Time

Tyrone is a 22-year old young man who has survived a history of abuse and abandonment.

But today Tyrone is working on completing his education at Mid-Florida Tech. He made his decision to become a security guard because he felt it was a good way to earn an income and get on his feet quickly.

However, to become a security guard required clearances, fees and licenses — and all that adds up to big expenses.

With his short-term goals and dreams on the line, Wings of Hope stepped in and provided those funds.

Tyrone has more plans for his future but right now it's one step at a time and more success with each step.

We know you'll join us in sending best wishes to Tyrone.

## See You in September

Make plans now to attend the Wings of Hope 17th Annual Dinner and Auction — it promises to be full of unique auction items, fun activities and more!

**Saturday, September 29, 2012**

**Lake Mary Marriott**

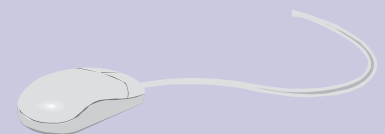
**Gourmet Food,  
Open Bar**

**Live Music**

**Fun and Friends**

*We hope to see you there!*

**Check us out on the Web  
[www.WingsOfHope.net](http://www.WingsOfHope.net)**



## Sherri's Story

Last year Sherri lived at Destiny House, a residential home for teen girls operated by Children's Home Society.

But things didn't go very well for her. She not only displayed disruptive behavior, she also vandalized staff property. After many failed chances to improve, Sherri was asked to leave.

She then was turned out from another group home and was placed in a drug rehabilitation program. When she was discharged, she asked to return to Destiny House because "that's where I can succeed."

Although she had been difficult to work with before, Destiny House accepted her back once she agreed to some stern rules of behavior.

The CHS staff worked closely with Sherri to assure that she was successful. She is now on the Honor Roll, will earn her GED this month, has a job at a local restaurant and has a savings account.

Sherri now sets a strong example of success for the other residents. She'll turn 18 in June and will be well prepared to start life on her own.

Sherri will also remain eligible to participate in WingsNet as she continues her education and employment.

Congratulations, Sherri!



*Sherri's a strong example*

## A Change for Wings

Wings of Hope was set up as a 501(c)3 private foundation over sixteen years ago. This designation was established since it was a family organization and all operating expenses were provided by the founders.

Throughout the years, however, we have essentially operated as a public charity because we raise the majority of funds from individuals and corporations.

Since a public charity has certain fundraising, administrative and tax advantages over a private foundation, we decided to apply to the IRS to formally change our status to that of a public charity.

There will be no change in our corporate name and we will continue to operate in the same way as we have in the past. And nothing will change in terms of what makes us unique:

- 100% of all that is raised through Wings of Hope goes to at-risk children and young adults "aging out" of the system
- No salaries or compensation are given to anyone affiliated with our organization
- We specify exactly how our contributions are to be used and follow up to ensure the outcome
- We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization

Let us know if you have any questions or if we can clarify anything for you.

## 2012 Sponsorship Opportunities

We'd appreciate your help in spreading the word about our Sponsorship Program. Would you be willing to find out if your place of employment or a businessperson you know would be interested? In addition to recognition on our website, through our online auction site and at our event, sponsors also receive ads in our program and tickets to our events as follows:

Level	Amount	Tickets	Program Ad
Platinum	\$5,000	10	Full-Page
Gold	\$3,000	6	Half-Page
Silver	\$1,500	4	Quarter-Page
Bronze	\$1,000	2	Business-Card
Auction Item Donor	Item/Service	0	Name Listed



*Spread the word*

## The Helper

It's the kind of phone message you love to pick up.

"I'm interested in helping you, if I can. I was told by my sister-in-law that Wings of Hope wants to remodel an old kitchen in Brian's House. I may be able to help. Please call me at your convenience."

Returning the call, Tony Gautsch talked to Reza Afshari, General Contractor. While small remodeling jobs are not his usual business — larger construction jobs are — he was willing and happy to meet with Wings of Hope and the Children's Home Society (CHS) staff to talk about what work needed to be done. What followed is most extraordinary.

At Brian's House Tony met Reza and, after talking about what was in mind for the kitchen, he explained how he would help if we were interested:

"I will donate my time with a charge only for my materials and any labor costs I incur. I don't want to make a dime on this. I want to do this work to help the children."

Then he suggested many improvements that he would do to make the kitchen much more functional at virtually no cost.

Here's the plan: The kitchen will be remodeled with an effort to keep it as operational as possible during construction. Walls will be relocated to enlarge the area, cabinets and countertops removed and replaced, drop ceiling raised with new lighting, new stainless steel sink, new dishwasher, new range with microwave and new refrigerator.

An architect's plan arranged by Reza at no charge has been approved by CHS. A cabinet manufacturer has measured for new cabinets that will be provided at manufacturer's cost. Tile for the countertop will be purchased at distributor cost. Heavy duty appliances (commercial if needed) will be purchased at dealer cost.

Reza has devoted much time and effort to this project and will have it completed by the end of June. He is a remarkable man who constantly smiles as he gives his time, his talent and from his wallet as well.

The eight young men who live at Brian's House, Wings of Hope and CHS are blessed that Reza chose to make such a big difference.



*Brian's House getting new and improved kitchen*

## WingsNet Update

WingsNet was started in Volusia County four years ago to assist young adults who "age out of the system" when they turn 18 and have no family support system of their own.

The program allows participants to earn financial incentives for doing well in school, achieving academic goals and practicing good work habits.

For the first couple of years, more incentives were earned for job consistency and performance rather than academic achievement.

Last year, however, that changed. And now more youth are earning incentives based on academic achievement and good grades.

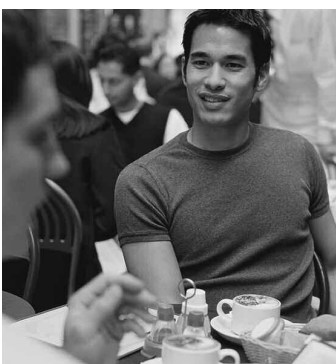
That's big news! National statistics show that only 58% of youth who age out

of foster care have a high school diploma at age 19.

WingsNet works to encourage youth to stay in school to earn their high school diploma or GED and to recognize the value an education gives them toward a successful career.

It's not easy for these young people to concentrate on their education when they not only have to cover their own living expenses, food, and clothing; but also have to provide for their own transportation.

We hope to continue the WingsNet program for many years to come. And perhaps bring it into other Central Florida counties in the future.



*WingsNet has big news to share*

## Nativity Catholic Church Lenten Project

Wings of Hope was greatly blessed by the parishioners of Nativity Catholic Church in Longwood with a \$13,150.39 donation on April 22.

Wings of Hope was selected by Pastor Ralph DuWell to be the 2012 recipient of the Lenten Alms that members of the church set aside during Lent. The donations were given during a special collection on Palm Sunday.

Kathy Gautsch spoke to parishioners at all Masses during the 1st Sunday of Lent. She explained the mission of Wings of Hope and told of the work Wings has accomplished with at-risk children and

young adults “aging out of the system” as they reach 18.

Kathy and Tony, members of Nativity Catholic Church, received the donation after the nine o’clock Mass.

Tony expressed a heartfelt thank you to the congregation and gave the assurance that, “Wings of Hope will be good stewards of this generous donation.”

He also told everyone, “individually we make a difference but together we change lives. And this donation will change a lot of lives in the community.”

Thank you, Fr. Ralph and all Nativity parishioners!



*Fr. Ralph DuWell, Nativity Pastor with Kathy and Tony Gautsch*

## Wings of Hope 2011 Partners & Sponsors

Loyalty is a character trait we all admire and hope that we can demonstrate. Wings of Hope is especially fortunate and proud to have the loyalty of the following 2011 Partners and Sponsors. Despite recent economic challenges, these companies and individuals have continued to support Wings of Hope when it was difficult for them to do so. Some even increased their support to higher levels. May God continue to bless you all.

### **Wings Partners \$10,000+**

La-Man Corporation, \$15,000  
 Masco Contractor Services, \$12,500  
 Bill and Kathie Hohns, \$10,000  
 Tupperware Brands Corporation, \$10,000

### **Platinum Sponsors \$5,000+**

Daytona Beach West Rotary, \$5,500  
 Bright House Networks, \$5,000  
 Joe and Anita Hara, \$5,000  
 Sandi Nelson, \$5,000

### **Gold Sponsors \$3,000**

Bernstein Global Wealth Management  
 Laschober & Sovich  
 Joe Trepani, Clearwater  
 Joe Trepani, Heathrow

### **Silver Sponsors \$1,500**

Brown & Brown Insurance  
 Joe and Alana Quigley  
 Enterprise Industrial Park & Volusia Rental & Equipment

### **Bronze Sponsors \$1,000**

Beata Ksel Photography	Halifax Law Group	David Maus Chevrolet
The Computer Brain	Harriett Lake	Rotary Club of Lake Mary
Couchman Printing	Mayee Leung	Westbrook Services Corp
Patti Czupka, ReMax	Linda Coerper Marketing	



*We are grateful for our sponsors!*



## Giving Report

This year we began sending a quarterly Giving Report through email.

Regulations dictate that we aren't allowed to email newsletters/updates unless the recipients have indicated they are interested in receiving them.

If you haven't received these reports, please take a minute to let us know you would like to be added to our list. You can reach us by emailing [info@wingsofhope.net](mailto:info@wingsofhope.net) or through [www.wingsofhope.net](http://www.wingsofhope.net).

Here's a summary of our first two quarterly reports which covered the period starting in October 2011 through March 2012:

◇ \$	100	bus passes
◇ \$	93	Florida ID
◇ \$	2,885	college apps, fees, tech training
◇ \$	2,530	tutoring
◇ \$	819	medical services
◇ \$	1,200	clothing
◇ \$	831	supplies, uniforms, equipment
◇ \$	1,096	apartment rents, utilities
◇ \$	13,301	WingsNet academic and job performance
◇ \$	34,500	Family reunification and training programs, counseling, transition housing support, basic needs

That's a total of \$57,355 so far. Our next report will cover April 2012 though June 2012.



Your support makes a difference

## Ongoing Needs

*The children have ongoing needs throughout the year.*

*Why not consider establishing a monthly or annual donation to Wings of Hope to provide ongoing support for the kids!*

*Please call Kathy at 407-312-0884 or email [Kathy@wingsofhope.net](mailto:Kathy@wingsofhope.net) to find out how!*

## A Chance to Shine

Joseph V. was a student at a local community college who also worked at the Pita Pit. Keeping his life on the right track was important to him.

Working and attending college make for a demanding schedule and little time is left for the many fun activities that all young adults like to enjoy.

Joseph received funds from WingsNet as a reward for his performance at work and his good grades at college. He was so appreciative of the help he received, he took the time to write his advisors and the staff at Children's Home Society about his thoughts, his future and his thanks:

*“ . . . Children's Home Society has done great things for me in my life: schooling, finances, guidance. . . . always reassuring me in a positive direction that will help me flourish in the future.*

*My greatest goal in my life at this time is to become something great to society and offer the world something better.”*

*Joseph signed his letter with this resolution, “Give me a chance to shine and I will blind the world.”*

Sadly, Joseph died from injuries suffered in a motorcycle accident just recently. But he continues to shine in many ways:

- through the strong example of hope he was to the other young people he knew
- through the organ donation decision he made at a young age
- through the staff and counselors who cared for him at CHS
- through all of you who have supported Joseph and the many other young at-risk youth like him

Thank you, Joseph.



Joseph's light shines on!



## Ways You Can Help

1. Donations of all kinds are welcome and needed!
  - Cash to keep the many programs running – programs for treatment, counseling, parental training and guidance, life skills training
  - Gift cards for clothing and shoes – it's important for the children to "fit in" with other youth
  - Remembrance gifts – help a child in need while honoring a special occasion or by remembering a deceased friend or loved one
  - Workplace giving – choose Wings of Hope as your charity of choice
  - Matching gifts – often companies will match donations made by their employees
2. Consider being a positive adult connection for a youth by mentoring or tutoring
  - You can provide guidance and help them build confidence and positive self-esteem
3. Be willing to offer a job to a youth for a couple of hours a week
  - Provide them with guidance, encouragement and patience
4. Tell your family, friends and co-workers about the work of Wings of Hope and the needs of the children

## Who We Are, What We Do

### What Is Wings of Hope?

The Wings of Hope foundation was created by Kathy and Tony Gautsch in 1996 in memory of Kathy's only birth child, Brian Christopher Lanier.

Brian died from injuries he received in a car crash when he was 19 years old. Throughout his short life, Brian showed compassion for others, especially children who, he said, "need a chance at a better life."

That's what Wings of Hope is about — continuing Brian's spirit of reaching out to needy children with compassion, caring about them, and taking action to make things better.

### What makes Wings of Hope unique?

- All operating expenses are covered by special donations so 100% of all monies raised goes to help the children.
- No compensation is given to officers or board members because all work is done through the generosity of family and friends.
- We specify exactly how our donations are to be used and follow up to see the outcome.
- We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization so all donations and contributions are tax-deductible.

### How can you help?

*In addition to making a tax-deductible donation, there are additional ways to help:*

- Attend our annual dinner and auction — and bring a friend.
- Invite your company to become a corporate sponsor of our annual event.
- Provide an item or service for our auction.
- Check to see if your company has a Matching Gift Program
- Find out if you can designate Wings of Hope as a recipient of your Workplace Giving Program.
- Make a donation in memory of a relative or friend.
- Keep us in your prayers.

### Want more information?

Contact Kathy and Tony Gautsch at:

**Wings of Hope Foundation**  
**8219 Narrow Leaf Point**  
**Sanford, Florida 32771**  
**Phone: 407-312-0884**  
**Fax: 407-321-8039**  
**email: [kathy@wingsofhope.net](mailto:kathy@wingsofhope.net)**  
**[www.wingsofhope.net](http://www.wingsofhope.net)**

*Individually  
we do make a  
difference...*

*Together we  
change lives.*

