



Annual Report

2024 - 2025

Felipe Sousa-Lazaballet Executive Director

Dear Hope Family,

Your support has been critical to Hope's ability to continue providing life-saving services, empowering our community, and driving real change.

This past year brought immense challenges, from family separations and the urgent needs of children in our schools, to the ongoing fight for due process and human dignity. Through it all, we have worked tirelessly to remind our community and our country that immigrants are not the problem, we are indeed a vital part of the solution.

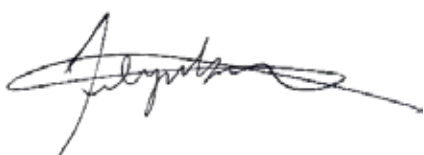
While detentions and deportations have reached an all-time high, we have continued to provide legal services, English classes, and empowerment programs for youth, women, and their families. We have trained hundreds in community organizing, civic engagement, and in knowing and exercising their constitutional rights. We have also led the Immigrants Are Welcome Here Coalition and Faith Network to counter anti-immigrant sentiment and mobilize Central Florida at critical moments.

This year, I found myself often in prayer, holding tightly to the belief that change is still possible. I never thought I would have to fight to shut down a detention internment camp in the Everglades, and yet here we are, facing this reality as part of an ever-growing humanitarian crisis. Joshua 1:9 has been a steady guide for me: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Though we faced the loss of hundreds of thousands in funding, I remain rooted in our collective faith for change. But faith alone is not enough, we need your voice, your courage, and your commitment to stand with immigrants, defend human dignity, and demand justice.


Hope is planning bold and innovative ways to continue delivering life-saving services while pushing for systemic change. We are not stopping; we are just beginning. Join us. Speak out. Give. Organize. Stand with us in this critical moment.

Thank you for your solidarity. Together—¡Sí se puede!

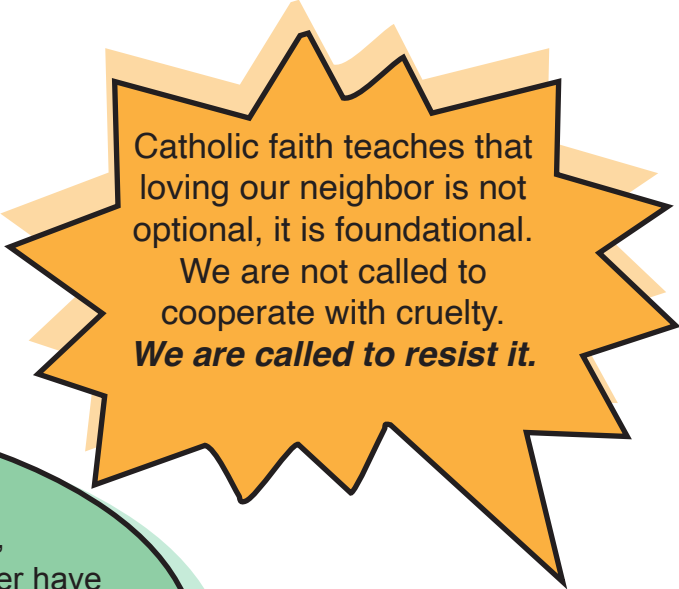


Sr. Ann Kendrick Founder


WELCOME TO HOPE




I have worked for over fifty years with immigrants, farmworkers. They are the most amazing, hardworking, family and faithful people I have ever known. They have evangelized me, change my life! Do not demonize them. People with heart, faith.
Speak up! Resist!



Catholic faith teaches that loving our neighbor is not optional, it is foundational. We are not called to cooperate with cruelty.
We are called to resist it.



I fell in love with YOU ALL:
with your goodness, hospitality, solidarity, culture, faith, resilience and FIESTA! We together have made changes, fought injustices, and created the BELOVED COMMUNITY among us. A few of the results of this work include Community Health Centers, Farmworker Association of Florida, Homes in Partnership, Self-Help Credit Unions.



The immigrant “strangers among us,” are parents, sons and daughters, essential workers, trauma survivors and people who are fleeing life-threatening conditions at home. Many were granted access to live here for decades, own homes and businesses, and contribute meaningfully to our economy and community. economy and community.

Sr Ann



Our Mission

Hope CommUnity Center fosters diverse, empowered, learning communities engaged in personal and societal transformation. Through service and advocacy, we stand together with immigrants and others who are tenacious and courageous in the face of all systems of oppression.

Our Programs & Services

Youth & Family	Notre Dame Mission Volunteer Americorps	Social Impact	Social Services	Access to Education
Women Empowerment	Hope CommUnity Center	Community Organizing	Medicaid	Hope Rising
Adelante Caminantes	Harbor House	LGBTQ+ Organizing	Medical Referrals	Elementary Tutoring
Art-Ivist	The Farmworkers Association of FL	Youth Organizing	SNAP	ESOL
Sin Fronteras Youth Group	Zebra Youth Coalition			
Kids Camp	Grace Medical Center			
Service Learning	Immigration			
Schools	Citizenship			
Corporate	Legal Services			

SCAN ME!



WATCH THE SR. ACT VIDEO PERFORMED AT SR. ANN'S 80 BIRTHDAY.

Our Board of Directors

- **Terrance Hunter.** Director of Development, 26 Health. ***President.***
- **Pastor Sarah Robinson.** Pastor, Audubon Park Covenant Church. ***Vice President.***
- **Astrid Rodríguez Pineda.** Agent, State Farm Insurance. ***Treasurer.***
- **Evelyn Rivera.** Paralegal, Children in Need of Defense. ***Secretary.***
- **Chevalier Lovett.** Chief of Impact and Advocacy officer at 26 Health. ***Development Chair.***
- **Melissa Byrd.** Board Member, District 7, Orange County Public Schools.
- **José Luis Dieppa.** Senior Manager of External Communications, Advent Health.
- **Anne Piervil.** Attorney, Florida Legal Services.
- **Mahjabeen F. Rafiuddin.** Director, Inclusive Culture and Experience, The Walt Disney Co.
- **Tessa Petit.** Executive Director, Florida Immigrant Coalition.
- **Samuel Vilchez Santiago.** Movement, Affairs, and Charities. Manager, ActBlue.
- **Sadaf Knight.** Executive Director and Deputy Director, Florida Policy Institute.

Our Staff



At Hope CommUnity Center, our staff embodies the very spirit of hope. More than 70% have come through our programs, and over 80% are immigrants or the children of immigrants. Many are directly impacted by the very struggles we confront as an organization—yet every day, they show up with courage, resilience, and deep belief in the power of this work. They are among the bravest people we know, leading with integrity and hope for a brighter future.

PEOPLE OF HOPE

THE POWER OF HOPE

At the heart of everything we do is hope, the belief that everyone deserves dignity, opportunity, and a future full of possibility. This past year, that hope came to life through health fairs, educational workshops, scholarships, and community events that supported and uplifted those we serve.



Sin Fronteras
Graduation



Naturalization
Ceremony



Hope Rising
Scholarship Awards



Hope CommUniversity
Training



Sr. Ann's 80 Birthday



Summer Kids Camp



Health Fair
Mi Salud Importa



Meet in the Middle
for Relief



FEMA Application
Clinic



Trunk or Treat



Day of the Dead



Hope Fiesta: Aqui Estamos



49th Annual
Toy Sale



MLK Parade Apopka



Mock Graduation
Protest



Food Pantry
Opening

.... and much More!

College & Career Access

Support students with postsecondary education.

We supported **29 families** with K–12 school navigation, helping them understand options and advocate for their children.

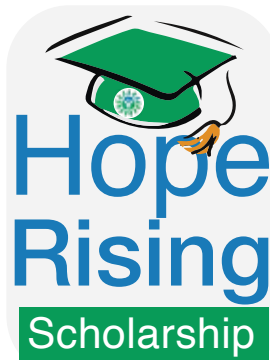
We assisted **12 newly** arrived families with the full school enrollment process.

Our team conducted **113 sessions**, focusing on college and career exploration, connections to scholarships, training, and workforce opportunities.

We provided direct support for over **50 FAFSA applications**, guiding both students and parents through the financial aid.

Through the Hope Rising Scholarship Program, we **awarded a total of \$55,000 to 41 students**. Additionally, we provided: **Eight full-year scholarships** to Seminole State College, covering both tuition and books. **One scholarship** to Rollins College.

6 Hope Rising Scholars graduated this year from Seminole State College, Rollins College, and Orange Technical School.



Adult ESOL Classes.

Beginners to advanced.

60 students.

33 classes during the year.

50 hours of instruction.

Over 60% students showed improvement.

Elementary Tutoring

Literacy and Math.

20 students received tutoring.

14 student volunteers.

54 hours of tutoring time.



THIS IS WHAT ELEMENTARY TUTORING PARTICIPANTS THINK ABOUT THEIR TUTORS.

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Adelante Caminantes

(Onward Walkers!) English, cultural adaptation, and belonging for teens who came to the US with no adult accompaniment.

146 students attended English Classes.
72 students attended Mental Health support.

82% of the students maintained perfect attendance (10 classes per trimester) throughout the year, showing improvement in English language acquisition.

Yuridia M. graduated from high school this past school year, and also passed her FSA exam.

Yonathan C. participated in online classes on Mondays and attended in-person classes on Wednesdays. He earned a score of 94/100 on the final exam for the second quarter.



Alex N,
 one of our
 advanced students
 also became
 one of our most
 loyal volunteers.



Las Promotoras

Women's empowerment group promoting engagement, activism, and community leadership.



Women's Health Fair
 (Official Launch of Promotoras).
 Hablamos Mas meetings.
 Power of Attorney Training.
 Know Your Right Training.
 4 roots (Visits their facilities)
 Pineapple Health
 Orlando (Nonprofit clinic partner).

Sin Fronteras Youth Group

High school youth group encouraging leadership, activism, belonging, and power-building.



123 Registered students.

67 Active students within the program.

25 Sin Fronteras students participated in HCU Trainings and Organizing efforts.

20 High school seniors graduated.

18 Seniors enrolled in College/Tech School.

17 Seniors applied to HCC Scholarship.

4,030 volunteer hours were accumulated by Seniors.

14 students participated in the Monarch Theater Group.



Art-Ivist

Arts education for middle schoolers; explores justice issues and the role art plays in social change; led by ArtReach Orlando.

51 registered students.

18 returning students.

Diego, an Artist Program alum, has been an incredible support to the Youth and Family Program. He understands first-hand the meaningful impact it has on our middle school students. Diego consistently shows up, helping with events, guiding students one-on-one, and ensuring they can fully embrace their creativity.



Summer Kids Camp

Youth engagement and empowerment.

3,153 student meals, **240** family meals, **123** participants, **160** snack bags provided.



YOUTH & FAMILY

Over the past year, Hope Community Center (HCC) has led transformative organizing efforts to build community power, promote civic engagement, and defend the rights and dignity of communities across Central Florida. Through voter engagement, grassroots advocacy, coalition building, and faith-based organizing, HCC continues to strengthen leadership and solidarity among those most impacted by injustice.

Civic Engagement and Voter Mobilization

In the fall of 2024, HCC spearheaded the Vota Por Mi Campaign as part of our civic engagement strategy, with support from Way to Win and Vote Your Voice. This multi-county campaign empowered voters in Orange, Seminole, and Osceola counties to participate in the 2024 elections and actively shape their communities for themselves and on behalf of folks who are too young or unable to vote.

110 volunteers contributing 976 hours across 365 shifts.

20 paid phone bank workers contributing 990 hours across 19 shifts.

HCC staff contributing to events, phone banking, and voter education during social service interactions.



Notable events



Día de los Muertos: 71 conversations, with transportation provided for 14 voters to polling locations.

FEMA Application Event: 135 conversations.

Meet in the Middle: 425 conversations

Trunk or Treat: 40 conversations.

The campaign demonstrated the power of collective action, reaching thousands of voters, building trust, and setting a strong foundation for future organizing.

Organizing Against 287(g) and Local Cooperation with ICE



HCC mobilized citizen allies to amplify the voices of undocumented and vulnerable community members. Local residents spoke at County Commission meetings, reading testimonies from those directly impacted. Faith leaders and children of immigrants also traveled to Tallahassee to share powerful stories and oppose harmful legislation.

Know your Rights

HCC organized public forums, trained residents in **Know Your Rights**, facilitated storytelling, and coordinated advocacy with local and state officials to oppose cooperation with ICE. We helped equip community members to speak at public meetings, meet with decision makers, and demand accountability, all while providing emotional and logistical support.



Immigrants Are Welcome Here Coalition



Includes 60 organizations representing grassroots, labor, faith-based, and institutional partners. The coalition has become a critical platform for aligning

strategy, amplifying directly impacted voices, and coordinating action to advance immigrant and worker justice in Florida. Over the past year, the coalition organized press conferences, issued public statements, and engaged in joint advocacy campaigns to challenge anti-immigrant policies and strengthen solidarity across movements.



Faith Network Organizing

HCC's Faith Network, led by our Board Vice President Pastor Sarah Robinson, continues to engage over 40 faith leaders from across Florida. This diverse network includes clergy and faith-based advocates who view immigrant justice as a moral and spiritual imperative. Faith Network members have spoken at public hearings, provided pastoral care to families in crisis, and collaborated on messaging that frames justice work in faith and ethical values.

Our Faith Network held "The Washing of the Feet" service outside of the Federal Immigration Court in Downtown Orlando on April 17, 2025.



COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

FIND OUT MORE & #BeBraveWithUs



Hope CommUniversity (HCU) was launched in 2023 to nurture and equip a new generation of youth organizers across Florida. In its first year, HCU welcomed over 600 participants focused on foundational movement-building skills. These early efforts sparked statewide momentum and helped solidify HCU's role as a key incubator for youth-led change.

In 2024–2025, Through our partnership with Youth Action Fund (YAF) and the Florida Youth Power Table, we continue to offer introductory training opportunities, while we expanded our programming to include professional development and campaign-based fellowships that cultivate the next wave of Florida's movement leaders.



One of the year's most significant innovations was launching our Summer Camp and Capstone Fellowships — two 3-month programs designed for youth already engaged in their communities. These initiatives equipped young leaders with training, mentorship, and support to lead campaigns on issues like immigrant justice, education, criminalization, and LGBTQ+ rights.



Our partnership with the Youth Action Fund (YAF) and the Florida Youth Power Table was key to this year's success. Together, we created a shared curriculum, aligned coaching, and launched a statewide outreach campaign. A May 2024 retreat helped strengthen team capacity and led to coordinated communications, branded materials, and recruitment tools.



The joint campaign for the Summer Fellowship drew **70 applications, of which 59 were eligible, 50 confirmed, and 47 completed orientation** and launched their fellowship experience in June.

Through these collective efforts, Hope CommUniversity has not only built a training pipeline but also a powerful, connected ecosystem of youth organizers committed to long-term transformation. By equipping young people with skills, networks, and real-world experience, HCU is helping chart a path toward justice, equity, and democracy in Florida and beyond.



FIND OUT WHAT GENERATION HOPE IS.

Citizenship Classes

Civics and English training for Lawful Permanent Residents who aspire to become US citizens.

131 Citizenship students this past fiscal year.
110 new US citizens.

Legal Services

685 immigration legal services provided.

We the People Event

In September 2024, in honor of Citizenship Week, our Pathways to Citizenship program celebrated the students who became U.S. citizens during our “We the People” celebration.

Naturalization Ceremony



As part of our partnership with USCIS, Hope CommUnity Center proudly hosted an Oath Ceremony where 20 individuals became U.S. citizens.

“Three years ago, my wife’s friend told us about the support she received from Hope Community Center to become a U.S. citizen. Inspired, we drove two hours from Poinciana to Apopka and found a warm, professional community ready to help. For two years, my wife attended weekly citizenship classes, supported by amazing teachers and staff who became like family. On April 25, 2025, she passed her interview, and we cried tears of joy. Thank you, Hope, for making this dream possible.”

-Angel & Aury



IMMIGRATION PROGRAM

AMERICORPS NDA

6 members completed the program successfully.

We had **5 total sites**. Grace Medical Home, Harbor House, Hope Community Center, the Farmworker Association, and Zebra Youth Coalition.

Full-time members commit to a total of **1700 hours** of service, part-time members commit to **900 hours**. All six members served for a total of **8784.5 hours**.

We completed **3 total team service projects** this year with Society of St. Andrew, Second Harvest Food Bank, and at A New Hope for Kids.

This year, we said goodbye to our longtime AmeriCorps program, which closed due to a loss of federal funding. While we're saddened to see it go, we remain deeply grateful for the thousands of volunteer hours and lasting connections it brought to our community.



"I've had the pleasure of serving with AmeriCorps in some capacity since 2022. AmeriCorps set me on a pathway to a career in service with the community, and I'm incredibly grateful for everything the organization has given me. Unfortunately, due to federal budget cuts, there will not be a 2025-2026 NDMVA service term in Apopka. In the face of our program's looming fate, however, the AmeriCorps members finished out the year strong, all of them going above and beyond their required hours for the sake of doing their part to continue the mission of building agency in communities. It was truly an incredible honor to work with such an extraordinary group of people who centered caring for the Apopka community to the very best of their abilities and talents, facing each day with gratitude, an eagerness to learn, and a deep, unwavering passion for the wellbeing of others."

-Finn Spencer

SOCIAL SERVICES

Clinic Letter assistance: **3,042.**

Medicaid/SNAP Application + Renewal: **1,258.**

Medicaid/SNAP Replacement Request - Hurricane Milton: **239.**

Other Services

(Unemployment, Social Security, Birth Certificate, Copy/Fax/Print - and more): **85 people.**



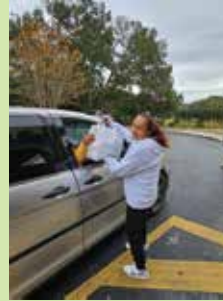
Roundtable Conversation

(Brazilian - Haitian - Venezuelan): 40 participants.



Food Pantry Distribution:

1,183 families: 4,732 people.



Hablemos Mas in partnership with Pineapple Healthcare: 50 participants.

Mental Health in partnership with Pineapple Healthcare: 25 people.



2024 - 2025

REVENUE

Donations	744,896.79
Grants	3,444,240.86
Program Income	175,095.22
Other Income	245,390.11
Total	4,609,622.98



EXPENSES

Programs & Services	2,290,630.91
Administration	945,315.63
Fundraising	289,018.47
Total	3,524,965.01

FINANCIALS



HOPE
CommUnity Center
Building Community. Enriching Lives.

CONTACT US!



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hccapopka



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