



# JOURNEY OF HOPE

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**“With Gratitude for our Yesterdays, Todays, and Tomorrows.”**

## Generosity - Time, Talent, and Treasures - Support

Thoughtfulness - Kindness - Love



Compassion - Affirmation - Help

## 1980-2017 HOPE THRIVES because of YOU!



We are the family  
and we are the  
home, we are  
Hope Rural  
where love can be  
known, We are  
the voices and we  
are the hands for  
bringing peace to  
our land.

**(School Song)**



Hope is  
in the rain,  
Hope is  
in the sun,  
Hope is in  
our hearts when all  
is said and done.

Hope is in **YOU**  
Hope is in **ME**  
Hope is in **LOVE!**

# WARM WELCOME FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Sister Elizabeth Dunn, OP

## Board of Directors

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## Mission Statement

The mission of Hope Rural School is to offer hope to families.

The school primarily serves children from immigrant families by providing them with a Catholic Elementary education in grades Pre-K through 5 in an environment that nurtures the Gospel values of mercy, justice, and love, through fostering the principles of Christian discipleship; supporting, guiding and encouraging parents in the education of their children; developing an appreciation and respect for heritage; encouraging and enabling graduates to reach their full potential through advanced education.

Dear Friends,

It is with gratitude for our **YESTERDAYS, TODAYS, AND TOMORROWS** that I greet you with warm wishes from all of us at Hope Rural! Featured on the cover of this newsletter is our courtyard being blessed by the rising sun that beckons a new day of hope! As I walk around the campus, I never stop thanking God for the countless men and women who have said YES to the needs of Hope Rural School. As a group of visitors said to me this week, *“This school is really a piece of heaven, the campus is so lovely, the faculty, staff and children so welcoming and polite. This is holy ground and when we leave here, we’ll know we have been changed!”*

Many of you have become longtime friends and supporters and have never grown weary of bringing hope to our children and their families. I can’t thank you enough for what it means to all of us that you have been with us in our **YESTERDAYS, TODAYS, and will be with us in our TOMORROWS**. We simply couldn’t do what we do without your loving support and belief in our mission. HOPE thrives because of you! Relationships are at the heart of our mission. You give us energy and enthusiasm as we plan for a future unknown.

As we look back on the journey of Hope Rural, 10 years ago we began our Pre-K3 program. Featured in this newsletter are pictures of some of our students who started with us in Pre-K3. They will graduate from Hope Rural this year. *“There is cause for rejoicing here!”* This is also the 38th year since our founding. We have a steady enrollment of 144 students in Pre-K3 - Grade 5 and we forge ahead with our mission of serving children of immigrant families. This year our student body is 90% Guatemalan or Mexican, 5% Haitian, and 5% Caucasian. In this newsletter, we highlight programs and activities that our students have been involved in during the course of this year. We also feature students who have graduated from Hope Rural, finished high school and wish to further their education, all living proof that our mission continues into bright tomorrows.

The success of our **YESTERDAYS, TODAYS, and TOMORROWS** lies in the dedication and commitment of dedicated faculty, staff, board members, volunteers, fundraising committees, benefactors, parents, and friends who continue to give energy and excitement to endless possibilities for our children and their parents. How fitting it is in this season of giving thanks that we remember all of you with deep affection and never forget those who have gone before us.

Reflecting on the image of the sun blessing our campus, and how grateful I am for each of you, I would like to close with these words:

*Count your blessings. Once you realize how valuable you are and how much you have going for you, the smiles will be there, the sun will break out, the music will play, and you will be able to cherish the life that God intended for you with grace, strength, courage, and confidence.*

Thank you for supporting us in this deeply rewarding ministry. Just know how valuable you are and that the sun is breaking out, the music is playing and we are all moving forward in what God has intended for our mission.

Gratefully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sister Elizabeth Dunn, OP".

Sister Elizabeth Dunn, OP, Director

## SAVE THE DATES

Kane Center Annual Dinner ~ March 4

Golf Tournament, Jupiter Island ~ May 3

# JOYFUL GREETINGS FROM OUR PRINCIPAL, SR. MARTHA

It is almost time to turn the calendar from 2017 to 2018. The turn of every year or every new birthday causes one to look back, to remember, as well as to dream, or make plans for the days ahead. The theme of this year's newsletter is about the past, present, and future. How is this lived out at Hope Rural School? A past of 38 years, the presence of 144 students in grades Pre-K3 through Grade 5 and 110 families, and a future for these students and our graduates who are taking advantage of the Vilma Shaw scholarship promise a bright future. You have been part of our past, present, and future by your generous gift of time, talent and donations to Hope Rural School. For this we will always be grateful and hold you in love and prayer.

I looked for quotes about our theme and found the following: The **PAST** teaches us a lesson, the **PRESENT** helps us in our decisions, the **FUTURE** helps us dream. If someone accepts your past, supports your present and encourages your future, he or she is a **keeper**. You are our **Keepers**-and for that we are most grateful. Happy New Year!



## \*All Saints celebration \* Happy kids!

\*Adult Education Classes



\*Smiling faces! \* Families

## \* Volunteers \* Red Bench \* LOVE



Check out our WEBSITE: [www.hoperuralschool.org](http://www.hoperuralschool.org)

Please consider clipping and sending BOX TOPS to HOPE RURAL SCHOOL. MAKE OUR SCHOOL A CUT ABOVE!



# 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOPE AMBASSADORS!

We celebrate a milestone! Along with a few additions of new students through the years - the 20 students in THIS year's Fifth Grade Class include students who were our FIRST PRE-K3 "Little Hopes" class in 2007. We are very proud of this amazing group! Hope Ambassadors embody the 6 Pillars of Character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.



Precious friends from **YESTERDAY** and **STILL VOLUNTEERING** with us **TODAY** 10 years later!  
Mr. & Mrs. Nye



Faithful friend from **YESTERDAY** and **STILL VOLUNTEERING** with us **TODAY** 10 years later!  
Mrs. Gretta McAndrews

## 2017 - 2018 HOPE AMBASSADOR PLEDGE

*As a Hope Rural Ambassador*

*I pledge to be responsible,  
trustworthy, and fair.  
I promise to be  
a good citizen  
and to respect and care  
for people and the earth.*

*To help me do this,  
I call upon God,  
my teachers, my family,  
and my classmates.*



Can you find Danny? Manuel?  
Juan? Alicia? Bradley? Juancarlos?

### Duties of Ambassadors:

- \*Tour guides for visitors
- \*School Service Projects
- \*Assist Little Hopes (PK3)
- \*Active witnesses of the 6 Pillars of Character
- \*Representatives of School at public events



Back Row: Sr. Martha, Zuzzette, Tainisha, Pascual, Juana, Duilio, Esperanza, Christian, Luis, Juancarlos, Bradley, Sr. Elizabeth  
Front Row: Nella, Jasmin, Ms. Daly, Danny, Alicia, Angela, Christopher, Manuel, Keyli, Juan, Jason

## NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

**We extend a warm Hope Rural welcome to our new Kindergarten Teacher - Mrs. Maria Cruz!**



It gives me a great pleasure to be part of this amazing school! I myself being an immigrant from Mexico, feel at home at Hope Rural School. I was brought to the United States when I was 5 years old from Puebla, Mexico. I am a wife, mother, daughter, sister, and now a kindergarten teacher. I live with my husband, two daughters, and son. I graduated from South Fork High School in 1997, received my Associate Degree from IRSC in 2011 and a Bachelors degree in 2015 from FAU. Before coming to Hope Rural, I worked with the Martin County Head Start program for 10 years. As long as I can remember, I've always wanted to be a teacher, although my life has been a struggle, working at the age of 14 in the fields doing everything from picking peppers, painting the trunks of orange trees, carrying sticks for tomatoes, then a dishwasher, then a legal secretary, and even a pastry chef! I still managed to make my dream come true. I love being able

to make a difference in my students lives. It's the glow in their faces when they are beginning to read that is priceless. I feel very blessed to work at Hope Rural, because I am a person of great faith and what other place than not here where children are provided with a Catholic education that nurtures the Gospel values of mercy, justice, and love. ~ Maria Cruz



**We extend a warm Hope Rural welcome to our new Title I Paraprofessional - Miss Azucena Lopez!**

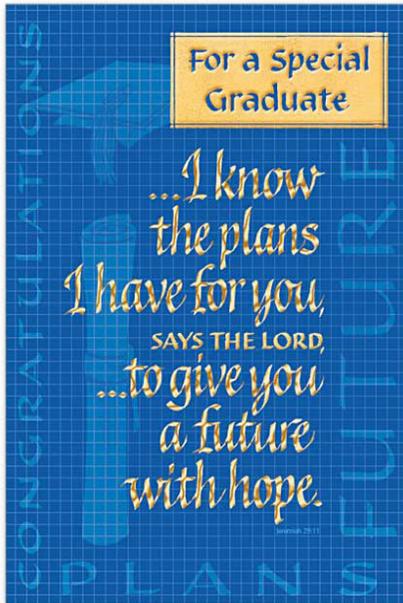
As a graduate of Hope Rural, I have created many wonderful and fundamental memories of this school that became critical building blocks to my success in higher education. I was taught many values at this school and at home, which include love, acceptance, and hope. As I continued my education, I found myself employing the values that I was taught at Hope Rural because I was no longer in the comfort of a small school where everyone knew each other. Therefore, I learned to accept the diverse backgrounds of my peers and treat them with the same amount of respect as I would anyone else. When I was offered the opportunity to work as a Title I teacher, I knew in a heartbeat that I would love the job and I'd also have the chance to give back to the school I grew up in. I am now 19 years old working towards my AA degree in Pre-Medicine. I look forward to the wonderful years to come working here at Hope Rural School. ~ Susy Lopez



# THE VILMA SHAW SCHOLARS PROGRAM

**Vilma Shaw** was a woman who believed strongly in the mission of our school. She has endowed scholarships for those students who have graduated from Hope Rural School and are now seeking a chance for higher education. As written in our Mission Statement - “we encourage and enable Hope Rural graduates to reach their full potential through advanced education.”

The following Institutions are blessed with their presence: Indian River State College; Palm Beach Atlantic University; Palm Beach State College; El Paso Community College; University of Central Florida; University of Florida; and Sacramento City College. Our newest Shaw Scholars are pictured below:



“Hope Rural was a great experience! I loved being at school with everyone and learning, not only learning academically but about God. A one of a kind learning that I cherish and love.”

~ Egidia Gaspar

**Academic Excellence** *for All* ★★



“Everything that Hope Rural does for its students is to promote a healthy loving community that continues to grow. All things considered, Hope Rural holds a special place in my heart for teaching me all these lessons that contribute to my character.”

~ Juan Ailon Mendoza

Our hearts are filled with gratitude to God for watching over Hope Rural School and protecting our families and buildings during the hurricanes this year. We feel fortunate, not only for this blessing, but also for all of the wonderful people who help us all year long. We invite you, our Hope Rural Friends, to add to our Hope Prayer Circle, the names of your family, friends and anyone you would like prayed for. All of the people named on our Hope Prayer Circle will be remembered in our daily morning prayer.



## REMEMBERING AND HONORING OUR LOVED ONES



### Memorial / Tribute Gifts

Remembering your loved ones through memorial gifts in lieu of flowers and tribute gifts in honor of birthdays, anniversaries, or other meaningful events

is a thoughtful and life-giving way to continue the mission work of Hope-

Please also consider remembering Hope Rural School in your will...a tribute for a lifetime.

Your contributions bless many! You are in our prayers and thoughts each day.

**“Providence CAN provide,  
Providence DID provide, Providence WILL provide.”**

Fr. Samuel Mazzuchelli, OP