



# JOURNEY OF HOPE

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Volume 18 Issue 1 ~ December 2018

**“Shout out to the whole world”**



Being Signs of Courageous

**HOPE**

# WARM WELCOME FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Sister Elizabeth Dunn, OP

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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.

Greetings from Indiantown where we continue to SHOUT OUT TO THE WORLD THE GOOD NEWS THAT HAPPENS AT HOPE RURAL SCHOOL!

Visitors to Hope Rural School will often say, "I didn't know this wonderful school existed", and "I have never been to Indiantown until today." On the cover of this newsletter, we decided to place Indiantown on the map so everyone can picture where Hope Rural School is located. As you can see, we are very small in the sight of the world, but know we are profoundly capable of very, very important things!

Our mission continues to captivate the minds and hearts of those who have had an opportunity to be involved with Hope Rural in any way. This year we have 142 students in Prek3-Grade 5, who daily create a positive spirit that is contagious. Following are quotes from friends who have captured this energy and spirit:

*"To Hope Rural, you will always own my heart." - Ed Ricci*

*"We remain highly impressed by the meaningful and effective work being done for students. We watch closely the photos and news of achievements posted on Hope Rural School social media and we never fail to be uplifted and inspired by what we see and learn."  
-Mark and Diane Tomasik*

*"You are always in my thoughts and prayers as, "I am deeply touched to have been a very small part of a great success story." - Nathaniel Reed R.I.P.*

Since Hope Rural School opened its doors 39 years ago, many wonderful friends like you have witnessed or read about the GOOD NEWS of extraordinary miracles of HOPE that have been realized through the education the school provides. Everything we have been able to accomplish to improve our academic and campus needs has been made possible through your generosity, prayers, and belief in our mission.

BEING SIGNS OF COURAGEOUS HOPE is what we continue to SHOUT OUT TO THE WHOLE WORLD ! You will find throughout this newsletter signs of our courageous HOPE.

*What we see changes who we are, when we act together,  
the whole mission is much more than the sum of its parts.  
It is our COURAGEOUS HOPE TOGETHER  
that continues to create something that the world will remember.*

During this beautiful season of giving and receiving, we at Hope Rural School continue to be humbled by the commitment of the many donors, volunteers, and friends who have joined us along the way and have remained with us through the years. *"The root of joy is gratefulness. It is not joy that makes us grateful; it is gratitude that makes us joyful."* -Br. David Steindl-Rast

With love and warm wishes,

*Sister Elizabeth Dunn, OP*

Sister Elizabeth Dunn, OP  
Director



SAVE THE DATE Kane Center Annual Gala March 3rd.



# JOYFUL GREETINGS FROM OUR PRINCIPAL, SR. MARTHA



## What's the Good News from Hope Rural School?



Maybe it's the 20+ families - moms and dads - who gave up a Saturday morning in November to read with their children. They came together to celebrate Library Literacy Month. They left with their children knowing that reading was important and that their parents cared enough to give their time for having breakfast, receiving and reading free books, and finally playing with a parachute and bubbles before going home.

That day in November, I found the book, "The Velveteen Rabbit" in the stack of giveaway books. The Velveteen Rabbit was believed REAL by the love of a boy. Years later she really became REAL through the magic of an angel who gave life to loved ones. The story ended with the rabbit going back to visit her now grown up friend. He recognized her as the real image of his play rabbit. In fact, she was REAL!

I relate this story to parents, teachers, and friends of Hope Rural School. We help make a child REAL by the love we give him/her. They, in turn, will go out to the world and make it REAL by their Courage, Faith, and Hope. We give them the keys to the future. They create a future for themselves and for others. Thank you for helping us help our students and families.



## GIVING BACK TO OTHERS: FOOD FESTIVAL AND GIFTS

ALL the Families, Teachers, Staff, and Administration participated in a unique United Way activity and Boxes of Joy! The money made at the food festival and the presents packed into boxes to be shipped were all donated to those less fortunate. We realize that we must share our blessings and be compassionate to others by living out our Mission Statement of Hope through the Gospel values of Mercy, Justice, and Love.



Check out our WEBSITE: [www.hoperuralschool.org](http://www.hoperuralschool.org)  
Please consider clipping and sending BOX TOPS to HOPE RURAL SCHOOL.



# CAMPUS ACTIVITY!

Summer brought MANY GOOD NEWS projects we are excited and proud of, thanks to the amazing generosity of YOU - our wonderful donors through grants and successful crowd-funding activities! Our Technology Lab has NEW state-of-the-art all-in-one computers as well as memory, software, and protection upgrades to the older models which were then relocated into all classrooms! NEW L.E.D. Lighting has been installed in all buildings which greatly improves our energy usage footprint. Painters applied a fresh coat of exterior paint to all buildings, and a major tree trimming and landscape spruce-up finished off these amazing projects.

🎺 ❤️ 😊 ❤️ **Our Campus is A+, bright, and beautiful!** ❤️ 😊 ❤️ 🎺



In the Fall our wonderful VOLUNTEERS are just as excited as the students to come back to school! Having one-on-one tutoring and a special bond of love and trust makes SO much difference in the learning environment. There are also visitors who bring special supplies and surprises to every child in the school. ❤️



## NEW STAFF AND FACULTY MEMBERS

**We extend a warm Hope Rural welcome to our new Guidance Counselor - Miss Crystal Kirshner!**



I am so blessed that working for D.A.T.A (Drug Abuse Treatment Association) has allowed me to be a Guidance Counselor for this amazing school. I was born in Port Saint Lucie, Florida and lived with my mother and older brother. I graduated from Port Saint Lucie High School and got my degree in Family Youth Community Sciences at the University of Florida with a minor in Spanish. I am now 24 years old and working towards my Masters in Clinical Mental Health at Florida Atlantic University. I have always had a passion for helping children and their families. I have worked and interned at a few nonprofits that had allowed me to be exposed to many different kinds of schools. I can confidently say Hope Rural is one of the most unique and special schools I have ever seen. I have enjoyed getting to know each and every child with their diverse backgrounds and personalities. I look forward to trying to help make a positive impact on the lives of each and every

student here at Hope ~ Ms Crystal Kirshner



**We extend a warm Hope Rural welcome to our new Fourth Grade Teacher - Ms. Luz Soberanis!**

Becoming a teacher has been a lifelong dream come TRUE! It brings me much pleasure to be teaching in the same town where I was raised. It brings me even MORE joy to be teaching at a school that is full of LOVE, COMPASSION, and most importantly a school where GOD is present.

My journey first began with enrolling at Indian River State College, where I received my A.A. in Education in May of 2014. I then went on to pursue and was granted my Bachelor in Elementary Education K-6 in August of 2017 with a reading and ESOL endorsement. My journey has been such a humbling experience that I will forever hold dear in my heart. It brings me such joy knowing that I can share my experiences with my students each and every day. My heart fills with a joy, that is unexplainable, when I see a student reach a goal he or she never imagined they would.

It is my honor to serve students who are just like me in many ways. I too know firsthand how difficult it is to have parents who are not native to this country. Parents, who in their hearts wanted to help with homework, but couldn't whether it was work related, a language barrier, or even an education barrier. I was that same struggling student who had to work twice as hard as everyone else to surpass these obstacles. Now, I am that TEACHER that will care for, motivate, encourage, love, and most importantly BELIEVE in my students abilities when they don't believe in themselves. I will be their voice. I will be their hope. ~ Ms. Luz Soberanis



# THE VILMA SHAW SCHOLARS PROGRAM

For many years the **Vilma Shaw Fund** has graciously endowed scholarships towards higher education for students who have graduated from Hope Rural School. As we continue to follow our Mission Statement for advanced education, we are proud to say that eighteen of our alumni students: Jazmyn Brooks, Maria Carolina Domingo, Egidia Gaspar, Juana Gaspar, Juana Jose, Amilcar Lopez, Azucena Lopez, Melvin Mazariegos, Juan Ailon Mendoza, Kimberly Morales, Stephanie Najera, Ketty Octelus, Maria Pedro, Neyli Perez, Sandy Perez, Guadalupe Romero, Lourdes Romero, and Mariana Romero are currently enrolled for the fall semester at the the following institutions: Indian River State, Palm Beach Atlantic, Florida Atlantic, University of Central Florida, and University of Florida.

**Academic Excellence for All** ★★



The Romero sisters - Lourdes, Mariana, and Guadalupe are pursuing their education goals at Indian River State College. Lourdes will complete her AA degree in the Spring of 2019 and will transfer to UCF for a bachelor's degree in Psychology. Mariana completed her AA degree and is working towards her bachelor's degree in Health Care Management. Guadalupe will receive her AA degree in the spring and is working towards a BA in Special Education.

Brother and sister - Amilcar and Asucena Lopez are also attending IRSC. Amilcar will complete his AA degree in May of next year and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Engineering focusing on Automobile Design. Suzie will receive her AA degree on December 12 of this year and is continuing her degree in Biology at IRSC with plans to transfer to the U.of Miami Medical School to become a Pediatrician.



Our hearts are filled with gratitude to God for watching over Hope Rural School and protecting our families and buildings during hurricane season 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