



Dear Kids Hope USA Directors,

We hope your Thanksgiving was a peaceful time of gratitude and reflection with family and friends. Isn't it fitting for the Christmas celebrations to begin after a time of thankfulness? As Christians, our deepest gratitude is reserved for the Savior – the One who came from Heaven to earth as Emmanuel – God with us – for the purpose of being Yeshua – our salvation. From all of us at Kids Hope USA, we hope you have a wonderful and blessed Christmas season.

For this newsletter, we're highlighting the January National Mentoring Month webinar and resources. We look forward to collectively celebrating the impact of mentoring while giving you an opportunity to draw attention to your program so more children can be served. Please reach out to us if we can answer any questions or if we can pray specifically for you.

Merry Christmas!

The Kids Hope USA Team

National Mentoring Month Webinar

***8 Great Smarts* Nurturing Your Student's Intelligences**



Every child wants to be smart...When you and your child [student] understand there are eight intelligences, the question changes from 'Am I smart?' and 'How smart am I?' to the much more valuable 'How am I smart?'

In honor and support of all KHUSA mentors, KHUSA is excited to present this learning opportunity for mentors, featuring Dr. Kathy Koch. Dr. Koch is the founder and president of Celebrate Kids, Inc., an organization dedicated to helping parents and educators understand and meet the needs of today's children. She'll be sharing the *8 Great Smarts* and how mentors can discover and nurture their students' intelligences.

While Dr. Koch will be addressing KHUSA mentors, the content is helpful to all

children, and you are welcome to extend the invitation to others who could benefit from this webinar – including your children's ministry team!

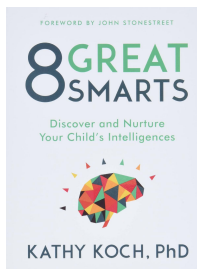
Webinar, Wednesday, January 19, 1:00-2:00 pm EST

IMPORTANT - Please register in advance at the link below – you'll be sent a replay if unable to attend live. Please encourage your mentors to do the same.

P.S. Make sure your mentors are listed in your Volunteer Center so they'll also receive an invite and reminders directly.

REGISTER AT THIS LINK

From 8 Great Smarts



"Smart" is a power word. Children who believe they're smart excel more in school and approach life with greater confidence. But children who don't can struggle to apply themselves. Do you wish your student could see how smart he or she is? Find hope in [8 Great Smarts](#). You'll be empowered and equipped with new language and creative ideas.

National Mentoring Month Resources



January is National Mentoring Month – a time to celebrate mentoring and the positive effect it has on the lives of children in our community. Make plans now to celebrate!

Visit our NEW [National Mentoring Month Landing Page](#) for ideas including:

- [Tips for celebrating](#)
- Sample communications with your pastor, school, and volunteers
- National Mentoring Month downloadable graphics
- Thank you [postcards](#) or [yard signs](#) for your volunteers, and more!

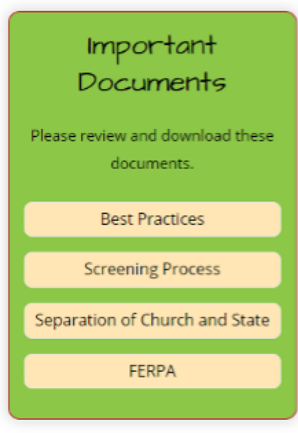
Start brainstorming today about how you'll celebrate your mentors in January!

See additional ideas on our Pinterest page:

<https://www.pinterest.com/kidshopeusa/national-mentoring-month/>

Annual Partnership Renewal

KHUSA is committed to providing you with current, research-based guidelines and best practices for running a safe, fun, and meaningful mentoring program



in your community. We've sent a link to your supervising pastor to communicate program updates and changes – changes designed to protect, strengthen, and expand your mentoring program with your partner school and ensure current guidelines and best practices are being followed.

For directors who stay current with KHUSA best practices and ongoing communications, there should be no surprises in this document. The Annual Partnership Renewal helps ensure that we've communicated well to the supervising pastors of each program. They were sent a unique link allowing them to sign and submit the renewal form electronically.

We've asked the pastor to [review the renewal](#) with you. Please take this opportunity to also share program updates and make plans for celebrating National Mentoring Month in January.

Seasonal Pinterest Ideas

As you're planning for Christmas and winter, don't miss these two additional Pinterest boards:

[Party Ideas](#)

[Christmas/ Winter Ideas](#)

Mentor to Student Gift Giving



Mentors, by nature, are generous people – yet giving gifts can be counter-productive to building healthy relationships with children (and families). Creating and communicating gift-giving guidelines establishes safe and positive boundaries for mentors and reduces confusion among children and mentors alike. We recommend setting a low dollar maximum (such as \$10 or \$15) or limiting gift-giving to a book. Your guidelines should also limit when gifts are appropriate, such as birthdays,

Christmas, and the end of the year. If a child or their family needs something more substantial, always discuss with the school's principal or counselor the appropriateness of the gift and the best way to distribute it. The gift should be made on behalf of the church and not an individual mentor.

From the KHUSA Store



In honor of National Mentoring Month, give the gift of a warm cup of hot cocoa to your volunteers. Check out the KHUSA store for a winter special on coffee mugs, 10 mugs for \$40! This is a simple and unique way to say thank you! Let your creativity flow. There are so many options to make this a simple and fun gift (such as hot cocoa, peppermint sticks, chocolate candies, or even chocolate-covered spoons)! Personalize each mug with a ribbon and handwritten gift tag to send warm winter wishes.

[Visit the KHUSA Store](#)

We Need Your Help to Reach More Kids

As we find ourselves in the season of giving, we're grateful for everyone who gives generously to Kids Hope USA and supports our mission and our work financially each year. If you, your church, your mentors, or someone in your network would like to make a financial gift this Christmas season, a donation can be made at www.kidshopeusa.org/donate. Each gift propels our mission forward, bringing mentors and students together in life-changing relationships.

Connect with the Program Success Team



Beth Wassink - Program Success Specialist

(616) 536-1012

bwassink@kidshopeusa.org

Cheryl Molhoek - Program Resource & Training Director

(616) 202-6877

cmolhoek@kidshopeusa.org

Davina Pennington - Program Support Director

(770) 727-1478
dpennington@kidshopeusa.org

Kari McLennan - Launch Success Specialist
(847) 971-0963
kmclennan@kidshopeusa.org

Kate Cochran - Launch Success Specialist
(210) 288-7520
kcochran@kidshopeusa.org

Lori Cyr - Program Success Specialist
(281) 772-4338
lcyr@kidshopeusa.org

Tammy Johnston - Program Success Specialist
(817) 717-3116
tjohnston@kidshopeusa.org



Walking together in 1 on 1 mentoring relationships.