



**2017-18 NBA Ministry and Mission Grantees
Impact Report:
Hope Academic / Tutoring Services (H.A.T.S.)
Hammond, Indiana**

The purpose of this project, **Hope Academic / Tutoring Services (H.A.T.S.)**, is to serve as a liaison between the schools and families in our community by providing academic, career readiness, life skills, and other support for students and their families in the Hessville area of Hammond, Indiana.

Mission Area: At-Risk Children and Youth **Catalyst Grant:** US \$2,000

Goals, Outcomes, and Learnings:

- We were able to build some really good relationships not only with the students but the school staff. It helped a great deal to go into the school and help them with their tutoring alongside their teachers. It was a good start to developing a mutual partnership where we not only helped them with a very real need they had but the staff volunteered with some of our church events and community meals.
- One challenge early in the program was the cost of some of the software we had to purchase ended up being more expensive than what we planned. Our computers were on different operating systems and had to be changed to the same system for compatibility with some of the programs we use for skill review.
- We discovered that uniforms and school supplies were the greatest need, and that many of the kids needed something more substantial in terms of food as a result of food insecurity in the area.

- A community neighborhood group at the recommendation of our councilman approached us about developing an afterschool program for our kids. There was a need for a place for our kids to hang out and engage in some positive activities after school. The group came to us for help because we had been tutoring in the middle school.
- We had the opportunity to help a teacher who was losing their home and whose only source of transportation had broken down. This was at Christmas and only came about because of the relationship we were building by being present in the school. Not only did we get the van fixed, we were able to buy some coats for the kids and Christmas dinner.
- A wonderful surprise came when an adult knocked on our door on a Saturday morning inquiring if we tutored adults also. She was going back to school to get her high school diploma and she needed help with math and science.
- We are working to add ESL classes for parents who do not speak English.
- We are continuing to realize that programs like ours are very much needed in our community. We need programs that focus on the whole family and not just the student. This year we are going to add some additional programming-programs that have been asked of us and programs we have discerned are needed.
- We are trying to partner with the four other churches close to us in order to broaden our volunteer base and our programming, so we can effectively reach the three elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school in a 1-mile radius around the church. Title 1 funding has been cut altogether in the schools so we would have to move tutoring to our building and purchase a few more computers.
- We are exploring the possibility of reserving a day for the adult students we are getting since an adult education center was opened in the strip behind the church.

- We are truly connecting with families and other community servicing agencies, as we play a part in meeting real, everyday needs of the families and schools in our neighborhood. If we can help the family be empowered then they have hope that their circumstances and quality of life improves.

We had no idea that a tutoring program would touch so many people and in so many ways. The community has been blessed and we have been blessed. It is work, but we are getting to see people come together, take an interest in their community and become a part of the solution. In a community that used to seem dark and hopeless, we are seeing the light of HOPE!



As the health and social services general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the National Benevolent Association partners with congregations, regions, general ministries, and a variety of Disciples-related health and social service providers to create communities of compassion and care. Founded in 1887 by six women responding to the needs of the day and on their doorsteps, for more than 130 years the NBA has continued to serve "the least of these." Learn more at www.nbacares.org.