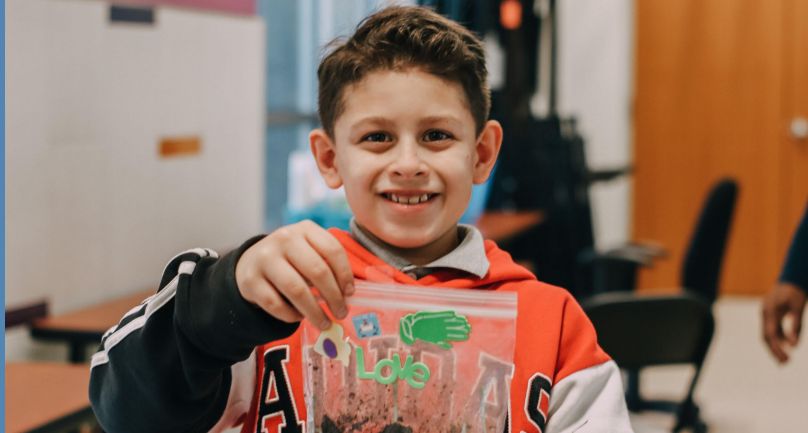


40 Years of Serving West Dallas through Faith-based Out of School Time Programs



Classrooms are not the only places that kids learn, and academic learning is not the only learning that students have lost because of the pandemic. More than 80% of Texas students' time is spent learning outside of school. High-quality out of school time (OST), which includes afterschool, summer, and enrichment programs, provides hands-on learning opportunities that help kids develop critical life skills as well as nurturing mentor and peer relationships that accelerate academic learning and prepare youth for their futures.

OST is a critical component of the functioning ecosystem of support necessary for whole child development and whole communities. Community-based providers have been essential during the pandemic, standing up additional health and safety measures to continue offering in-person care and learning, while also connecting families to critical services and resources, such as food, technology, and healthcare. Strong partnerships between schools and these community-based organizations are vital to our state's successful recovery and future.

In 2022, [Voice of Hope Ministries](#) will celebrate 40 years of serving thousands of West Dallas children and their families through faith-based out of school time programs. Through biblical teaching, Christian character models, life skills coaching, and educational support, Voice of Hope helps children become productive, Christian citizens.

All Voice of Hope OST programs are state licensed and certified by [Dallas Afterschool](#), which supports and assesses low-cost out of school time programs across the Dallas region through their Program Quality Initiative (PQI). Voice of Hope's programs focus on preparing youth for college, career, and contributing to the economic vitality of their communities and the world; an informed, committed, and passionate life for Christ and His mission; and servant leadership in their local and global communities.

Scholars receive year round support through afterschool and summer learning programs offered at Voice of Hope's Main Campus and school-based sites. The ASPIRE Afterschool Program provides expanded learning opportunities five days a week for grades pre-K–5 through community partnerships at both [Uplift Grand Preparatory](#) in Grand Prairie and [Tom C. Gooch Elementary](#) within Dallas Independent School District (DISD).

All ASPIRE programs start with prayer and a meal provided in partnership with [City Square](#), a local nonprofit that fights the causes and effects of poverty through service, advocacy, and friendship in the Dallas community. Scholars then receive tutoring and homework assistance followed by Christian spiritual enrichment and character development, structured social emotional learning activities, and/or physical recreation. All programming is aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) curriculum and delivered by supportive, caring adults.

At the end of the academic year, Voice of Hope offers SOAR Summer Camp five full days a week for eight weeks. With the delayed 2020 Summer Olympics taking place in 2021, the most recent theme for camp was "Summer of Champions." Scholars became champions of STEM, sports, arts, and their faith through engaging activities and field trips around Dallas.



Reimagining out of school time learning during COVID-19

When in-person learning paused, Voice of Hope had an opportunity to reflect, evaluate, and rebuild its programs to better serve kids. At the same time, schools needed additional support getting and keeping kids online for learning, so Voice of Hope launched a free virtual tutoring program in partnership with SMU Mustangs for Hope. Then, when students returned to school in small groups, Voice of Hope learned that cohort-style programming helped scholars learn better and improved program management. Voice of Hope continues to expand tutoring services and reimagine ongoing programs.



Voice of Hope recently launched their new Redeeming STEM program for middle school girls of color at their Main Campus. Taking place after school and during a two-week summer program, Redeeming STEM bridges science and theology while addressing the opportunity gap young women of color from the West Dallas community face in pursuing STEM careers. Voice of Hope engages many of the [Million Girls Moonshot](#) transformative practices in this work, such as partnering with [Southern Methodist University's \(SMU\) Lyle School of Engineering](#) to develop and deliver high-quality instruction. Edward Franklin, Voice of Hope President/CEO of over 17 years notes, "This program really highlights the value of partnerships between community-based organizations and higher education. Voice of Hope is a tree within a global forest."

In partnership with [TXPOST](#) and [VentureLab](#), Voice of Hope will also engage their ASPIRE scholars in youth entrepreneurship programming this spring. Through learning to be creative and active problem solvers, scholars will serve themselves and their communities throughout their lives.

Faith-based OST providers like Voice of Hope are a foundation and stabilizing force for their underserved communities. They support the whole child by serving families through educational events and resources, like their food pantry in partnership with [North Texas Food Bank](#), and working with schools to accelerate academic learning. "Although schools and out of school time programs are different, we are partners. We are together in the desire to empower kids and help them grow," says Mr. Franklin. "[Faith-based OST providers] have been here for decades. We are here. We are here to help."



Youth Impact & Outcomes

- Voice of Hope has served **thousands of children** since 1982.
- Many Voice of Hope scholars have self-reported a **greater interest in school** and that their **relationships with staff have been vital in their academic pursuits**.
- Scholars have also self-reported that their **knowledge about God and the Bible has grown** as a result of their participation in the Voice of Hope spiritual enrichment pathway.



“As a parent and a single mother of three, I can humbly say that Voice of Hope is one of my answered prayers. Over the years, Voice of Hope has impacted my children’s lives in such a positive, educational, and spiritual way. Voice of Hope has been a great example for my children and others I know by showing kindness, compassion, good leadership, and helping our community. I am so thankful and appreciative for such a great program and the resources they provide. They are changing the world, one student at a time! —Voice of Hope Parent



The Texas Partnership for Out of School Time (TXPOST) is a statewide intermediary whose mission is to convene, educate, and advocate to improve the quality and increase the availability of out of school time (OST) opportunities, like those offered by Voice of Hope, for Texas youth. TXPOST works in partnership with vital regional and local organizations, which invest deeply in their own communities to offer professional development opportunities, engage in system building work, advocate for the OST field, and support local programs.



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