 **BECOMING THE PERSON SHE WANTS TO BE**

**Scholar Profile: Angeline Palmer**

**By Victoria Vickers**

Little did Karen and Angeline know that their lives would soon converge.

Angeline “immediately got online and looked up the program” after reading about how Generation Hope had helped teen mothers, who, like her, wanted a college degree. “I applied in the following weeks after I had lined up teachers to write letters of recommendation,” she said.

Determined, focused and a loving mother is how Karen, Angeline’s Sponsor, describes Angeline. “I think she draws her strength from wanting the best for her and her children,” said Karen, who was matched with Angeline through the Scholar Program in July.

“She is a very impres-” (Continued on page 3)
On June 29, 2012, you proved that great things happen when people come together for a cause. “Pep Rally Under the Stars” was Generation Hope’s first gala. We didn’t have a blueprint for exactly how things would go. We did, however, have an awesome Gala Committee and a clear vision. In the end, it was a success in every sense of the word.

“My favorite quote from the evening was Jennifer’s when she said, “I wouldn’t be where I am today without Generation Hope.” Where is she today? Working a full time job for the Department of Defense, cheering at her son’s football games, and working hard in her first semester of graduate school. She was 15-years-old when she became pregnant, and I’m sure that reaching this point in her life seemed unattainable at times. I’m honored that Generation Hope made her journey that much easier.

You may remember a big storm that evening that took out our power, but that didn’t hamper the enthusiasm. While our Scholars wrapped themselves and their children in umbrella bags to weather the storm outside – snapping pictures of the fashions that they came up with – guests were asking how they could get even more involved.

Your support never ceases to amaze me. You made “Pep Rally Under the Stars” possible. You made it a tradition that will continue to be a vital support for our program. You have really started something, and for that, I thank you.

Nicole.
Angeline is a step closer to achieving her goal of a Bachelor’s degree in science. She is up by 5:30 a.m., gets her two children dressed, packs meals for the three of them, and then drops her little ones off at daycare near the campus by 6:45 a.m. “I go to school from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., work from 1 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., go home and eat dinner by 7:30 p.m.”

A junior at George Mason, Angeline is majoring in chemistry. Of all the many challenges she has faced and overcome, her studies are the least of them. Finding out she was pregnant was the last in a string of life-changing events that Angeline contended with her senior year in high school. She, her parents and two younger sisters had moved in with her aging paternal grandparents that year. Angeline was still adjusting to the move when she was diagnosed with Celiac disease – an autoimmune disorder of the small intestine – which meant adjusting to major dietary changes.

Pregnant, overwhelmed and unmotivated, Angeline graduated from high school and got a job. Then a couple months after her daughter Launa was born, she began taking classes online at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA). She took one class at a time, paying out of her own pocket.

“I had to do something,” she said. “I missed school.”

Shortly after she had enrolled at NOVA, Angeline became pregnant again with her son Julius. Her mother agreed to babysit while Angeline took evening classes on campus at NOVA. Angeline’s perseverance paid off when she was accepted to George Mason in June 2011.

Now Angeline is proud to be a part of Generation Hope’s growing community of strong, confident young mothers by whom she continues to be inspired.

“So far it is an amazing program,” she said. “I hope to attend more events, continue to work with my mentor and get to know everyone in the program. I hope to gain support from other women like myself. I hope this program will help me continue to grow and become the person I want to be.”

Angeline is one of six ambitious Scholars who entered the program this year. The average grade point average (GPA) of the incoming Scholar class was 3.5, illustrating their tremendous commitment to their college education.

“...it’s an amazing program.”
A Mother Giving Back

Why I Sponsor: Julie Kwon

BY NICOLE LYNN LEWIS

Julie Kwon became a Generation Hope Sponsor this summer to Scholar Me’Chelle Campbell, who attends Prince George’s Community College while raising her daughter. Julie is also a mother to her two-year-old son and lives with her husband in Centreville, Virginia.

Why did you decide to become involved in with Generation Hope?

I have been a stay-at-home mom for the past two years, and I understand the challenges of raising a child. But for many teen mothers, it seems that those challenges are amplified by the demands of school, work, family, and all the changes that come with having a child at a young age. I joined Generation Hope because I want to be a source of support and encouragement to a teen mother who is striving towards stability, academic success, and a promising future for her and her child.

When you met your Scholar, Me’Chelle, at the training, how did you feel?

I was nervous and excited to meet her! I hoped that we would connect right away, and we did. The luncheon was a great ice breaker, and we enjoyed our chat the entire time. We were so involved in our conversation that we didn’t even realize the rest of the group was on stage for pictures!

What do you think will be most challenging about sponsoring a Generation Hope Scholar?

Building any relationship takes time and effort. Me’chelle, and I definitely hit it off at our first meeting, but I know it will take time for us to build a solid relationship based on mutual respect and trust.

What is your personal philosophy on giving back to the community?

Invest in ONE person – a family member, friend, co-worker, mentee, whoever! – and it will make a world of a difference in the community and in your own life.

What has surprised you most about working with Generation Hope thus far?

I am very impressed by how far Generation Hope has come in just two years. With a staff of three dynamic ladies, this organization has built a strong platform through media and press coverage, raised funds to successfully complete its first year of the Scholar Program, organized exciting fundraising and networking events, and created an informative (and regularly updated!) website and blog. There are many non-profit organizations in D.C. providing services to teen mothers, but none compare to the mission and successful output of Generation Hope.

What might people be surprised to know about you?

I am not cut out to be a stay-at-home mom!

What are you most looking forward to regarding sponsoring Me’Chelle?

I’m looking forward to seeing Me’chelle make huge strides in her education and personal life. She hopes to become a nurse one day, and I’m excited to see how her first year of college will contribute to that
Why I Give: Holly Smith

Every month I make an automatic donation to Generation Hope, and I do it because I believe in the organization’s mission and goals. Generation Hope’s founder, Nicole Lynn Lewis, has also been one of my dearest friends since we met at the College of William and Mary in 1999.

Nicole was a dedicated student and an excellent mother to her daughter, Nerissa, who became like an adopted daughter of mine. Nerissa came with us everywhere — to the campus cafeteria and football games. I know it was not easy for Nicole to study and raise a daughter, but she accomplished so much academically and personally. I never shared with her how much of an inspiration she was to me.

When Nicole created Generation Hope to support the educational dreams of other teenage parents, I knew she would continue to be an inspiration to countless other young men and women. I decided to make a monthly contribution to provide whatever financial support I could for the program. I also attended the first gala, “Pep Rally Under The Stars,” a powerful night to celebrate the accomplishments of the first cohort of Scholars. It was a truly moving experience. I was proud of Generation Hope, and I was proud of my dear friend.

Where does my monthly gift go?

You can easily set up an automatic gift to help with our ongoing expenses, such as:

- Monthly check-ins with Scholars and Sponsors
- College-readiness workshops
- Email communications

How do I get started?

To volunteer with Generation Hope, simply visit www.supportgenerationhope.org/volunteer and fill out the Volunteer Assessment. Questions? Contact our new Volunteer Coordinator, Monique Wisdom, at monique@supportgenerationhope.org.

Thank you in advance for your interest!
it is not just another nonprofit organization mentoring teen mothers, but it is a mission and a movement to break the cycle of poverty by empowering teen parents to pursue their college education and widen their horizon of opportunities. It’s not about just graduating from high school and barely getting by; it’s about rising above the obstacles of teen parenting, obtaining your college degree, and pursuing a quality future.

What mantra or saying do you live by?
“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, bring your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:7

We will inevitably confront struggles in life, and they will always stir about heartache, fear, and anxiety. But, I believe that through prayer and trust in the Lord, we fight through the negatives and overcome them with peace and excitement for the blessings ahead.

Another EASY Way to Give

Generation Hope is pleased to announce that we are now a part of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) for the National Capital Area. The CFC is the only authorized charitable-giving drive for employees in the Federal workplace, and it is the largest and most successful workplace fundraising model in the world. To give to Generation Hope through the CFC, simply designate your gift using our CFC number 33970.

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2012 Scholar Me’Chelle and her Sponsor Julie (Photo: CMJphotos)

What do you wish people knew about Generation Hope?
I want people to know that

Why I Sponsor (Continued from Page 4)