



Inspiring Children & Families to Move Forward

March 20, 2020

Dear HopeSpoke Friends,

We are writing to let you know that due to safety concerns HopeSpoke has canceled the 12th Annual Gourmet Comfort Classic event scheduled for Friday, May 8th. There is much uncertainty with the COVID-19 Virus and we do not want to take any chances with everyone's health. We are following along with the local, state, and national directives asking everyone to limit the number of people gathering together.

Last year, the Gourmet Comfort Classic raised over \$70,000 to support our mission of inspiring healthy futures for children and families through comprehensive behavioral and mental health services.

Our services are more critical now than ever before and we expect we will see a growing need for behavioral health and mental health services.

HopeSpoke's commitment to our community continues.

We can't do this alone. We need your help. We have generous donors who have already given an agency sponsorship and we thank you. However, we now face a shortfall of around \$37,000. In addition, we have new unforeseen costs as we adapt to the pandemic by modifying programs and adding telehealth services. **Please consider making a gift today in lieu of attending our event.** Many people in the community have asked how they can help and we wanted to share some ways that you can help HopeSpoke to sustain our services now and in the future.

We ask that you please consider what you might have spent and/or donated at this year's event – \$75 per event ticket, \$150 or more for auction items, or \$250 or more as a donation to support our mission. If you can dig even deeper that is so appreciated.

Every gift given will go to support our services and programs – Crisis & Residential Services including The Therapeutic Group Home; Extended Day Treatment Program; Outpatient Services; and Outpatient Schools.

Gifts of all sizes will be greatly appreciated. **Please give online now at hopespoke.org.** You may also mail your gift to HopeSpoke at 2444 O Street, Lincoln, NE 68510. Through gifts, like yours, we will be able to continue to play an invaluable role in providing children, adults and families with the skills to feel empowered and be successful – helping them to heal, be courageous and find strength to live well even in these unsettling times.

We are so grateful for this year's restaurants and sponsors! We hope that you will continue to support them as you are able to now and in the future.

Restaurants:



Sponsors:



Ameritas, Regan Anson, Nicki Behmer RE/MAX Concepts, Bizco, Bryan Health, Cline Williams Law Firm, Korby Gilbertson, Lincoln Public Schools, Doug and Jody McLeese, Nebraska Total Care, Pinnacle Bank, Curt and Megan Ruwe, and UNICO Group.

2020 Leader in Mental Health Awards

Community Member of the Year – Betty Medinger, Senior Vice President, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

Volunteer of the Year – Scott Johns and Aesthetics, Inc.

We will recognize the 2020 awardees at our 2021 event.

Thank you for your understanding and your support!

Please SAVE the DATE of May 7, 2021 for next year's Gourmet Comfort Classic event.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Neal".

Dr. John P. Neal, President
HopeSpoke Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie McLeese Stephenson".

Katie McLeese Stephenson, MSW
Executive Director