

**Mobile Hope Receives \$50,000 Grant from Google to Assist in Enrolling 20 At-Risk Youth in Trade School Program**

*Donation will promote educational and career equity by supporting 17 at-risk youth that will acquire trade skills, soft skills and certifications which will allow them to compete in the modern workforce.*

**(Leesburg, VA) (1/20/23)** – Mobile Hope, a non-profit organization serving at-risk and homeless youth up to age 24, received a \$50,000 grant from Google’s Global Data Center RISE program, which supports programs, organizations and nonprofits working to create a robust pipeline of tech talent from underrepresented groups.

The funding from Google will support Trading Up, a program that employs an innovative model to drive success for students who fell through the cracks of traditional systems and approaches with a particular focus on a diverse, equitable and inclusive environment and selection process.

Trading Up was launched as a pilot program in January, 2022 with five students, through a previous grant from Google. Each applicant achieved significant progress in their chosen area of focus. By March, the census grew to seven and piqued the interest of more youth. The grant will help with expansion, hiring a full-time job coach/case manager, updating the facility, and achieving our goal of enrolling twenty at-risk youth in Trading Up this year.

Over the years, Google and their Loudoun Data Center team have been supporters and a sponsor of Mobile Hope’s various programs which focus on workforce training, fighting hunger, and STEM education.

“We are honored and humbled to receive this continued support from Google”, said Donna Fortier, Mobile Hope’s founder and CEO. Not only has Google been an impactful partner, but they epitomize a trust-based and committed funder. Googlers can often be found on our campus, volunteering, getting to know our kids and becoming an integral part of their journey.”

“Google understands the importance of providing accessible workforce training and education to underserved groups and the transformative impact it can have within the community,” said Yolanda Washington, GDC Program Manager - Talent Pipeline. “Through this grant program, we are able to support organizations that are reaching these underrepresented groups and providing them with the skills and training to succeed in tech and other trades. We are proud to support Mobile Hope and their efforts to build the future workforce.”

“Google is proud to continue our support of Mobile Hope’s Trading Up as they enter their second year and work towards expanding the program to enroll more students,” said Amber Tillman, Head of Community Development for Google’s Data Centers. “Mobile Hope continues to make an impact with at-risk youth in the community and provide this group of students with the education and skills they need to be successful in the workforce.”

“I became a student in the trade school in January, 2022,” said one of Trading Up’s first students. “I was able to get my work permit, my license, and work as an auto-mechanics apprentice. I fixed the car Mobile Hope gave me, so now I can get to work. I feel like things are coming around, you pushed me to not give up on myself and were there for me no matter the challenge.”

**About Mobile Hope**

Mobile Hope, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, empowers at-risk, homeless and precariously-housed youth to become self-sufficient and improve well-being. Since 2011, Mobile Hope has provided access to daily essentials and extensive case management at its Leesburg headquarters and through bus outreach.

In 2022, Mobile Hope served more than 400 youth up to age 24 in the Crisis Care Program. For these young adults, Mobile Hope offers: emergency shelter, essential support items such as clothing, coats, shoes, hygiene items; donated cars and help with transportation; financial assistance; extensive case management; job skills training and life skills training—such as cooking, grocery shopping and money management. Since March 2020, more than 397,000 family members have been served through the bus outreach program, “Listen for the Honk”.

**About Google in Virginia**

Google has more than 480 employees across Virginia working in critical functions such as Google Cloud and the infrastructure that makes Google services like Search fast and reliable for users around the world. Google strives to be a great neighbor in the local community, and since 2012, Google has awarded more than \$20 million in grants to Virginia nonprofits.

###