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**Mobile Hope Receives $75,000 Grant from Google to Support New Trade School**

*Donation will promote educational and career equity*

**LEESBURG, VA**. (DATE). [Mobile Hope](http://www.mobile-hope.org/), a non-profit organization serving homeless and at-risk youth up to age 24, received a $75,000 grant from Google, which supports programs, organizations and nonprofits working to create a robust pipeline of tech talent from underrepresented groups.

The grant from Google will help expand Mobile Hope’s trade school, Trading Up, to provide opportunities for at-risk youth from historically underrepresented groups, and enable the organization to reach selected participants over the next five years. Mobile Hope is launching Trading Up to help youth learn job skills to prepare them for an independent, bright and sustainable future.

Trading Up is just one of the various programs offered by Mobile Hope with a focus on equipping at-risk youth with the skills to become self-sufficient through a career in trades.

"Through this generous grant from Google, Mobile Hope will broaden and deepen our impact on homeless and at-risk youth,” said Donna Fortier, CEO & Founder of Mobile Hope. “We are honored and grateful for this deep partnership which will build our capacity to provide a path for underserved and underrepresented youth to acquire skills and certifications that lead to self-reliance. Mobile Hope will continue to expand services and programming at our Leesburg campus to meet a growing demand; this generous grant will enable us to help more youth rise out of homelessness and poverty and into self-sufficiency and empowerment."

“Google recognizes the transformative impact of skills and training resources for high-demand trades, particularly for communities that may be historically underserved and underrepresented. Google wants to be part of that transformation by partnering with Mobile Hope to assist their students gain skills they can leverage to find quality jobs now and in the future,” said Yolanda Washington, Program Manager, Talent Pipeline.

“Mobile Hope has been making a difference in the lives of homeless, vulnerable, and disadvantaged youth for many years and we are honored to partner with them to broaden their reach to even more of these young people.” Laurel Brown, Head of Economic and Community Development, US-East.

"The opportunity to enroll in Mobile Hope’s trade school will give me choices and a chance I never thought I would have. I am excited to learn about all the different trades—like fixing engines and computers. I want to learn a lot and acquire new skills. Thanks to Google and Mobile Hope for this opportunity,” said Jose Ayala, Mobile Hope Trade School student.

**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 2021, Mobile Hope served 408 youth up to age 24 in the Crisis Care Program and provided 497 nights of emergency shelter. For these young adults, Mobile Hope offers: emergency shelter and housing, 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 253,000 family members have been served through the bus outreach program, “Listen for the Honk”.

**About Google in Virginia**

With two data centers in Loudoun County and a growing office in Reston, Google has 420+ employees across the Commonwealth 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 2009, has donated more than $25 million to Virginia nonprofits. In 2020, Google helped provide $5.98 billion of economic activity for VA businesses, website publishers, and nonprofits.

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