

NEWSLETTER

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The Letter I Keep Reading



A former client sent us something last month, not an update, not a progress report, but a letter trying to put words to what your generosity actually made possible. She began with this:

**“I have no idea where I’d be now, if it weren’t for you.
Thank you for all you have poured into me!”**



**Youth across
Rogers County
are learning
their lives matter.**

Here's what gets me about that sentence. She's not talking about us, **she's talking about you.** The person who made sure someone would answer when she finally worked up the nerve to ask for help.

She went on to describe what your support gave her: real coping skills she could grab onto when emotions felt too big to hold, the kind of boundaries that kept unhealthy people at arm's length, and the radical idea that her life, her actual life, held value worth protecting. She's setting goals now, ones that used to feel like they belonged to someone else's story. And she's not the only one.

Young people are building relationships that don't hurt them, facing hard things without falling apart, and dreaming again.

You did that.

Did You Know You Can Measure Hope?

You can. And when you do, here's what you find:

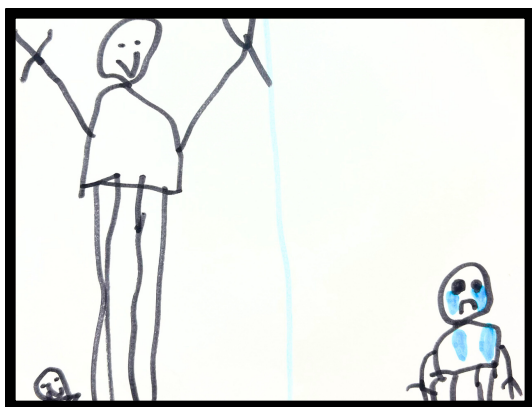
Children and youth in our counseling program averaged a 10.65% increase in hope.

That's not a feeling. It's science. It's proof that something real is happening in these kids' lives.

Higher hope means they believe in themselves again. They do better in school. They build healthier relationships. They can finally see a future worth working toward.

After receiving services, clients reported a 67% decrease in the severity of their problems.

The struggles that were crushing them, reduced by two-thirds. Hope isn't just a nice idea. **It's measurable. It's real. And it changes everything.**



When Big Feelings Have Nowhere to Go

Ashley is a typical elementary school girl. She feels things deeply, the way all kids do.

But Ashley didn't have the words to explain what was happening inside her. The big emotions she was feeling had nowhere to go, so they came out

sideways. She was acting out in school and falling behind in her work.

That's when she got resiliency skills training through RCYS. Ashley learned to name what she was feeling, to understand it, to talk about it instead of burying it or exploding.

She drew a picture to show what she'd learned, two simple stick figures standing side by side: "When I'm happy, I feel high, and when I'm sad, I feel low. When I look at my happy picture, I feel happy. And when I look at my sad picture, I feel sad."

Ashley's doing much better now, coping with her emotions and doing better in school. Her drawing's a powerful reminder of what's possible when someone like you invests in giving a kid the skills she needs.

Why We Believe in Miracles

The 1980 US Olympic Hockey Team is the ultimate underdog tale, and it deeply resonates with our mission.

That legendary team was made up entirely of college athletes and was on course to compete against the seemingly unbeatable Soviet professional team.

That classic underdog story is why I love my job. We work with underdogs every single day: the kids and families in Rogers County who face their own impossible obstacles.

They're battling poverty, peer pressure, and social challenges that require incredible grit and a deep belief that they can get back up when life knocks them down.

The US coach knew his team couldn't win on talent alone. Their only path to victory was to become faster, stronger, and tougher. So he pushed them hard. He developed a team characterized by grit and a determination to never quit.

In the Olympics they came from behind to achieve what the world now calls "The Miracle on Ice," defeating the Soviets. Then they did it again in the finals against Finland, rallying from behind one more time for gold.



Your support develops the grit these kids need to face impossible odds. You're teaching them they're worth fighting for. *You're showing them they can come from behind and still win.*



Most of these kids will never play hockey, but every single one of them is learning to get back up.

That's the miracle you're making possible.

Herb

688 Students You May Never Meet

Last school year, your support reached 688 Rogers County students across seven school districts, kindergarten through senior high.

These are the kids that live in our community, in your neighborhood, play in our parks, and shop where you shop. You may never meet them. But your investment in prevention specialists taught them self-control, good judgment, and resilience, the skills they need to succeed in school and in life.

The data proves it's working. Students are showing significant improvements in coping skills, self-control, responsibility, and empathy. These aren't just nice outcomes, they're the building blocks of healthy, successful adults.

Students are replacing detrimental habits with lifelong skills. They're showing up to school more. Acting out less. Building better relationships.

A teacher at Roosa told us:

**"MY STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE SERVICES FROM RCYS ARE
HAPPIER THIS YEAR THAN I HAVE EVER SEEN THEM BEFORE."**

Happier. Not just performing better or behaving better. Happier. That's 688 kids across Rogers County who are better equipped for life because of you.

*Thank
you*



*You're
Invited!*



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tickets



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