



# Harvesting **HOPE** this Fall

*Michael's Journey from  
Homelessness to Graduation:  
How your gift  
makes all the difference*



# YOUR *Generosity*

CURES ♥ HEALS ♥ RESTORES

**IMAGINE** for a moment: You are homeless.

A place you once called home, now vacant and marked with eviction notices. The family that once cared for you, now poverty stricken and nowhere to be found. The degree you were working so hard towards, your only chance to overcome and prevail, you are forced to give up on because of an outstanding balance you have no way of paying.

You are young, vulnerable, traumatized.

Life as you knew it, nothing but a distant memory, changed in the blink of an eye.

This story is not just a figment of imagination, but a real-life reality for Detroit and Wayne State University criminal justice major, Michael (22). A reality he has no choice but to accept.

Just as the season changes, we see colored leaves, decorate our homes, and plan our Thanksgiving dinner with family, Michael sees black and white, is alone, homeless and wonders where his next meal is coming from, if at all. There is no holiday celebration, no time with family and no color for Michael all **because there is no hope.**

Humiliation, depression and fear are normal feelings for Michael, battling through life on his own just to survive.

No one to help. No one to even listen.

“Desperate, I submitted my plea to the WSU Helping Individuals Go Higher Program. I never expected anyone to help me. When I got an email back saying the HIGH Program would pay off my entire balance, I was shocked. I read it repeatedly, thinking aloud, *this can't possibly be for me.* But it was.”

The HIGH Program helped. We heard. We listened.

**“I am proud to say I am now a first generation college graduate. The HIGH Program did more for me than I could have ever imagined. Something I thought no one could. They restored my hope.”**

This Thanksgiving season, Michael is most thankful for you.

With your help, we can turn another heartbreaking tragedy into a success story, leaving a broken student with a degree, a transformed life, and ultimately, a grateful heart this fall.

---

***There are hundreds of students alongside Michael in this battle, in desperate need of the unwavering help HIGH provides. We cannot do this without YOU.***

---



# Pearlanne Metoyer-Pollard

**W**hat does it really mean to make a difference?  
What does it truly mean to change the world?

Some might say giving a few dollars to a homeless man on the street. Others may say going out of your way to offer someone a leading hand, a good deed, or maybe even a simple smile. All good reasons. But how about doing more?

What if you could help someone so much, they spend the rest of their life repaying you, repaying the community. Where your gift to them is not just a temporary helping hand, but a permanent investment in their future.

Better yet, what if it isn't even about the money? What if

it's really about compassion: Welcome to the HIGH Program. Where Wayne State University disadvantaged, homeless college students aren't just given a house, but a home. Where a dream of graduating from the University isn't just a dream, but a reality. And finally, where our donors don't just give money, but a piece of their heart, as well.

*“HIGH sees students as they are, individuals, deserving of the basic necessities of life and all of the wonderful things a degree has to offer them, including a leg-up from hard childhoods, poor upbringings, lost parents, and buried goals.”*

The HIGH Program is hope for a single mother trying to make ends meet and earn a degree just to better provide for herself and her children. It comes in the form of a bright future for a broken-down, homeless undergraduate student working hard each day to be a productive member of society. The Helping Individuals Go Higher Program helps desperate, empty, poverty-stricken students who just need someone to say yes, I care. I want to help.

The university students we serve need hope. They need support. They need love, and most importantly, they need you. You are the heart of it all. **You are their HOPE.**

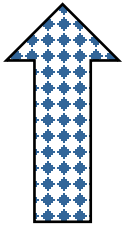
The HIGH Program presents you with the opportunity to say yes, I want to see you succeed.

*Pearlanne Metoyer-Pollard*

*Pearlanne Metoyer-Pollard has a rich personal and professional history of success and compassion for humanity. She is the board member for the HIGH Program and gave the program its name. Pollard serves as the National Uverse Retention Center Sales Manager for AT&T and Precinct Delegate of the 13th Congressional District.*

*Partner with us and together we can really change the world & make a REAL difference, a permanent difference, one underprivileged student at a time.*





# Helping Individuals Aim Even **HIGHER**



*"I have so much faith in the amazing work we do!"*

~Salma Alazmeh, President of Volunteers

"I always wanted to be engaged in the community. I was looking for a cause that would reflect my passion for helping others. I found that in the HIGH Program and so much more." Becoming emotional, "I had no idea how many lives I would touch here."

Originally from Syria, Salma knows firsthand the struggles WSU broken students face. "Words cannot describe how grateful I am for First Lady, Mrs. Wilson and the family I found through the HIGH Program. They welcomed me in with open arms."

Launched in 2013, with Salma's help the HIGH Program has reached out a hand to over 130 disadvantaged individuals. "It is an honor and a privilege to serve for such a worthy organization."

# 3

## WAYS YOU CAN TRANSFORM A LIFE

### **1. GIVE Now:**

Enclosed with your newsletter you will find an easy to fill out gift form payable by check or card.

### **2. DONATE Goods:**

We are in great need of hats, mittens, laundry detergent, personal hygiene supplies, in addition to real estate property to house our homeless students.

### **3. RAISE Awareness:**

Tell your friends and family about the HIGH Program. Let them know how they can help.

Questions? Contact WSU HIGH  
by phone at 313-577-9933 or  
email at  
[wsuhighprogram@wayne.edu](mailto:wsuhighprogram@wayne.edu)