

December 12, 2022

Dear Friend of Rising Hope,

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In this last year the Rising Hope program has continued to educate, empower, and transform the lives of individuals incarcerated in New York State prisons. We wanted to share with you some of our highlights from this past year.

In the 2021-2022 academic year, we were required to limit our classroom sizes, and still 17 Rising Hope professors volunteered their time to offer 25 courses to 30 students at our 3 facilities. In addition to our regular certificate program we offered 5 short-term workshops to 48 participants.

In the spring our courses were reviewed by the National College Credit Recommendation Service (NCCRS) and each of the 18 courses we submitted were recommended for credit. This benefits our students continuing their education at degree-granting institutions.

In the early summer we held an in-person completion celebration for our Rising Hope students at Sing Sing Correctional Facility who completed their certificate. The students were proud that the entire cohort finished the program together.



(Rising Hope Program Completion Celebration - July 2022)

In the fall, we were finally able to gather in person together with our Rising Hope alumni. We invited a professional photographer to set up a pop-up studio in Harlem in order for our alumni to get fresh headshot photographs for their professional pursuits. We were so pleased that many of our alumni, faculty, and board members were able to attend. The room was buzzing with reunions, introductions, and encouragement.

We wanted you to hear directly from a couple of our students about what your support has meant to them.

*“Rising Hope has given me its namesake, hope. Rising Hope has reintroduced me to the meaning of humanity. Education, counseling, justice, forgiveness, unity, gratitude, and spiritual evolution are just a few things I’ve learned through this program that will help me grow mentally into the man I want to become. Thank you.”*

*-Marvin D. ‘22*

*“Rising Hope has been influential in putting me in a position to go to college and earn a degree. My children are inspired by my academic achievements and they’re extremely proud of me. So I want to thank the Rising Hope program for not only making me a better student, but a better father and role model as well.”*

*-Christopher P. ‘22*

We look forward to all that the coming year will hold. We are able to provide this free high-quality education through the care of so many dedicated volunteers and supporters. A year of college-level education for one of our Rising Hope students is just \$300. Please consider a donation to Rising Hope this giving season as an investment in advancing hope, dignity, and success for our students, their families, and our communities.

Sincerely,

The Rising Hope Board of Directors

\*\*To make a donation to Rising Hope, Inc. visit our website at: [risinghopeinc.org](http://risinghopeinc.org) and click the “Donate!” button on the header. Or make a check payable to “Rising Hope, Inc.” and send it to:

Rising Hope, Inc.  
260 King’s Mall Ct. #124  
Kingston, NY 12401

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(Some of the participants from the October Alumni gathering)