

Testimonies from One by One Tutoring

One by One Tutoring has benefited me greatly. I look forward to Thursdays when we tutor our students for math, English, reading and of course homework due tomorrow.

Tutoring gives me an opportunity to help someone and build a great relationship. None of these kids come from well to do homes and really crave the personal attention they get. It's easy to get in your own little silo or should I say neighborhood, which is far different than what these kids live in.

It's opened up my eyes to those less fortunate and allows me to make some difference in our student's life by providing a stable and Christian relationship.

-Dave, Living Hope tutor (2012)

Living Hope was a great experience for me this past school year. It taught me to be more thankful for what God has given me and how to build into a child's life.

When I first came to Living Hope I was a little shocked. The kids weren't dressed that nice and I noticed that many of their families lived in rundown apartments, and had an old car, if one at all. Through Living Hope, my eyes have been opened to the poverty and problems people in the Twin Cities face. I sometimes can live in this bubble that everyone is okay and that there is no poverty. Living Hope popped that thinking and has made me more thankful for all God has blessed me with. Living Hope has also shown me how much excess stuff I have and don't actually need.

I tutor a kid named Fernando. He is seven years old and in second grade. When I first learned that I would be tutoring Fernando I was a little upset because I wanted to tutor a little girl. After about five minutes with Fernando though, I realized God had put me with the right kid. Of course He put me with who I was supposed to tutor. He is God after all! Fernando loves getting all of my attention and telling me about his week. I love hearing about it too. Living Hope isn't just about tutoring kids that are behind in school. More than anything else it's about building a relationship with them and sharing the love of Christ.

People always say that volunteer positions like this are more rewarding for the volunteers than the kids. I always had a hard time understanding this until I started tutoring Fernando. I get excited to see Fernando each week and hear about his day. One of the most rewarding things is that he gets super excited to see me as well. It's like an instant self-esteem boost to know that a kid is excited to see you and do school work of all things.

One story about Fernando and then I'm done rambling. Sometimes I teach the group bible study at the end of tutoring. One night Fernando asked me if I was teaching and I

said yes. He cried, "No, I don't want you to." "Why not?" I asked in confusion. "Because I want you to sit by me during Bible time," he replied.

I know it doesn't seem like a big deal, but to feel needed and wanted by a little kid is an amazing notion. It doesn't matter what the age or gender of the child that someone ends up tutoring is. There are rewarding times regardless. It's different for every tutor. Some tutors, like me, get to hear their kids run up to them and yell 'I'm here,' excitedly every week, while others get a huge hug. It just depends. Living Hope is a great opportunity for Christians to build into kids' lives, but also be changed themselves.

-Elizabeth, Living Hope tutor (2012)

Living Hope is a great way for me to share my faith through a close connection with my student. Not only can I encourage her academically and be a listening ear for her, but I have grown to love her as a sister. I anticipate Thursday nights each week because it encourages me to see God working in the lives of these young students. I'm grateful for this opportunity to serve God by serving others, and I am thankful for the lessons of patience, responsibility and love that I am learning

-Morgan, Living Hope tutor (2012)

Dear Carol,

Robert* has made terrific progress in both reading and math this year. I keep telling him that if he could get his behavior under control he would be the perfect student! I rarely have any behavior problems with him in the classroom. His problems come on the bus and other unstructured situations.

Here are his end of the year scores...

Math: 4th quarter 89%

Reading: Integrated Theme test (this is mostly written responses to a brief text) 79%

He scored 50 words per minute on the District Oral reading Assessment. The district standard is 60 W.P.M. I'm still pleased with his scores considering he started the year with no words per minute!

Just as a side note, the district average for comprehension of the texts read was 68%, our school average was 82%. Randle scored 100%!

Thanks for all of your hard work.

DeLinda Ruiz

-Teacher of One by One Tutoring student (2006)

Dear Carol Moen, Robert* is doing very well in school. This is contingent on his having his medications. His reading scores have gone up and his math scores are very good. Math

quarterly assessment is 100%. Also his reading score has jumped to 105 words per minute, well above the second grade goal of 100 words by June.

Thanks for your help, Carolyn Maier
-Teacher of One by One Tutoring student (2007)

**Name has been changed*

I was at work one day last summer when my cell phone rang.
I answered, and it was my 10-yr old student David.

"Well hello David, how are you?"

"I'm fine"

"What's up?"

"My mom and I were wondering if you could give me a ride?" "Sure. Where are you?" "In Mexico City."

"What did you have in mind?" "well, I'm coming home and need a ride from the airport...."

As it turned out, David and his father went to visit grandma. Then his dad planned to stay on a bit longer, and David was to travel home on his own. I called his mother to confirm the day and time, and coordinate the ride.

-Vivian, Living Hope tutor (2009)
