

I have a vivid memory of seeing members of First Church walk the halls of my elementary school growing up. My classmates would light up as soon as they saw their mentors, excited for an hour set aside just for them. After returning to class, they were more confident and seemed to be truly glowing. Even as a child, it was clear that something amazing was happening in those relationships.

Those memories have always stayed with me, and after moving home from college, I knew I wanted to be part of the same ministry that had made such an impact on my peers and my community.

Since 2025, I have had the privilege of serving as a Director of the KIDS HOPE USA NEXT program. KIDS HOPE USA NEXT is designed to extend the mission of KIDS HOPE USA into the middle school years, supporting students during a season of growth and transition. Through consistent, caring mentorship, the program provides encouragement, stability, and positive adult relationships at a time when students are navigating a new stage of their lives.

What continues to inspire me most is seeing how a simple, faithful presence can shape a student's confidence, outlook, and sense of belonging. When mentors and prayer partners commit to showing up each week, students are reminded that they are seen, valued, and supported, both in school and beyond.

I am deeply grateful for the volunteers, mentors, prayer partners, church leaders, and Gloria who have made this ministry possible. Their dedication and compassion are the foundation of every successful partnership. Through the NEXT program, we can continue to put faith into action, one relationship at a time.

For the kids,

Madi Snyder

Director

Kids Hope USA, NEXT

