

...UNTIL JUSTICE ROLLS DOWN LIKE WATERS  
AND RIGHTEOUSNESS LIKE A MIGHTY STREAM

MARTIN LUTHER KING



How It Started



How It's Going

It was in third grade that Sam Gaston first realized teachers at New Hope Academy were more than educators. That year, he had Mrs. Kathy Peabody, and he was struggling with anger issues at home related to his dad having to travel often to find an adequate job to provide for the family. “Mrs. Peabody would pull me aside and counsel me,” Sam recalls. “She continued to check on me, showing a care that went far beyond academics.”

At New Hope Academy, teachers are indeed mentors, supporters, and influences who help launch our students into becoming everything that God intends for them to be. Sam Gaston, a proud NHA alum (class of 2009), embodies this truth. Sam started as a scholarship student in Pre-K, and he is now a Lieutenant in the United States Navy stationed in San Diego. He currently flies the MH-60R helicopter with missions including anti-submarine and surface warfare. But no matter where the Navy takes him around the world, Sam carries with him the values New Hope instilled in him, including the importance of community and generosity. Inspired by the lessons he learned at New Hope, Sam is committed to giving back.

One of seven children, Sam attended New Hope Academy from Pre-K through 6th grade alongside four of his siblings. After graduating from New Hope, he attended Montgomery Bell Academy, graduated from a school in Texas after his family moved, and eventually attended the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. All the while, he remained closely connected to his NHA friends and teachers—a testament to the deep, lasting impact of his time there.

The influence of New Hope Academy is woven throughout Sam’s life, shaping not just his education but also his faith and character. In addition to Mrs. Peabody, he recalls how Mrs. Cochran shared the gospel with conviction and how Mr. Goodwin inspired a love of learning that still drives him today. “New Hope Academy didn’t just teach me—it shaped me,” Sam says. From an early

age, he felt the power of New Hope's message: that no matter your skin color, financial situation, or background, each person is made in God's image. At New Hope, generosity and community were woven into daily life. "People gave freely and shared with one another," he remembers.

Sam would not have been able to attend New Hope Academy without the generosity of others who, through scholarships, allowed him to attend when financial challenges might have stood in the way. Grateful for this support, Sam now feels a strong desire to pay it forward. "New Hope Academy is special—there aren't schools like this everywhere," he says, noting that the teachers work not just for a paycheck, but out of love for the mission and students.

"There's no ministry I'd rather support than New Hope," Sam shares. "I am incredibly grateful for this place—it's a part of me, and I love it deeply."

In this season of generosity, we hope that Sam's journey—from receiving a scholarship at New Hope to now supporting the school as a donor—inspires you to help provide scholarships for nearly 100 students like Sam, students for whom God has great plans. Your support will empower today's students, who will one day become alums. The students whose scholarships you helped fund 10 years ago are now at Purdue University, Tennessee State, and Vanderbilt University. **The students whose scholarships you helped fund 20 years ago are now military leaders serving our country like Sam, as well as teachers, doctors, pastors, and business leaders.** And, in supporting New Hope, you are also uplifting our amazing faculty and staff, whose influence leaves lasting impressions, as Sam's teachers did for him.

**But as much as their families and their teachers matter, they can't become everything that God plans for them to be without you. God has called us to depend on each other, connected within the Body of Christ. New Hope depends on over 1000 donors each year to provide \$1.67 million in scholarship funding so that our students can receive this life-changing education. Would you prayerfully consider providing one of those scholarships? Or funding one of our scholarship students for a month? Or a day? Or maybe becoming a Partner in Hope monthly donor at whatever level you are able? Thank you for supporting Sam and so many others like him over the years, and we hope that our entire New Hope Academy family will have a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year!**

You can help us by making a gift of any amount, but here is some guidance as you consider the impact you could make:

**\$80**  
One Day Scholarship

**\$400**  
One Week Scholarship

**\$1,400**  
One Month Scholarship

**\$7,000**  
Half Year Scholarship

**\$14,000**  
Full Year Scholarship

Donate to the New Hope Academy Scholarship Fund



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*We deeply appreciate you and your prayerfully considered generosity to the students of New Hope Academy. We have enclosed an envelope with a gift form for your use, or you can donate online at [www.nhafranklin.org/donate](http://www.nhafranklin.org/donate). We are also available to discuss gifts of stock. Please contact Parker Page at [ppage@nhafranklin.org](mailto:ppage@nhafranklin.org).*