

# Hope

## From The Director



What a joy it is for me to look back on 2023 and celebrate the transformational changes in the lives of families that we serve.

As I take time to remember these moments where lives were touched by God through MasterKey's staff and volunteers, I am awestruck at the power of **hope** for those that are struggling in our community. I am reminded that God's Word actually tells us that "Hope deferred makes the heart sick but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life." This powerful truth is observed in all aspects of our work at MasterKey Ministries.

As you read about the lives that have been touched this year, may you reflect on the power of hope to those without hope. When we meet a significant need for someone who is struggling or offer an opportunity that will change their family's future, hope is instantly kindled in the heart of a family that has experienced only despair. When we have the joy of sharing the Gospel – the Good News – that God sent His Son to accomplish a specific work on this earth so that every person that believes in Him can be saved – and live eternally with Him, a life is reborn.

Hope is powerful. It is life-changing. When hope is ignited...like a flame, it lights up the lives of those in despair. The year, 2023, was a year that HOPE changed lives.

Julie

**MasterKey**  
Ministries  
of Grayson County



## 2023

## YEAR IN REVIEW

### Food Assistance — *The Numbers*

- 1004 families received more than 100 pounds of food per family for an abundant Thanksgiving dinner.
- 522 homebound families received monthly food for the second year through our Door Dash program.
- 1000 families every week receive food through our Drive-Thru Food Distributions every Friday and Saturdays.
- We increased from 1.5 million pounds of food distributed in 2022 to 1.8 million pounds in 2023.
- 20 Hispanic volunteers heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the first time in their first language. All received Christ as their Savior. Each of them expressed that they have always wanted to hear about Jesus and salvation but they never had anyone that could explain the Gospel to them.



### MasterKey Academy — *The Numbers...and the Why*



- 80 children, ages 2-10 years were served in 2023!  
920 learning activities were held in one year. Helping children to learn through the scientific process develops vital critical thinking.
- 2800 books were read aloud in 2023!  
Reading out loud is an important tool to increase vocabulary – low income children typically have a much smaller vocabulary entering kindergarten than their middle class peers. Plus, it allows the teacher to ask questions that develop critical thinking skills – these are vital to making good decisions in their future.

### Getting Ahead — *The Numbers*

- Graduated 21 adults in 2023 from Getting Ahead
- An average of 10 graduates came weekly to Staying Ahead
- New teen program – Straight Way averaged 7 teens weekly learning leadership skills, career choices, and character training
- Children's program – average of nine children received homework help, educational activities, and an introduction to the Bible.







# MASTERKEY ACADEMY

*Every child deserves the highest quality education that we can offer*



In 2022-2023, MasterKey Academy completed its first year at its beautiful new facility. For the first time, all three programs – preschool, after school, and summer learning – were under one location. The facility glows with cleanliness and intentional learning experiences.

This past year three of the four preschool teachers completed early childhood training that places us above the bar in educational experience. For three straight years, MasterKey Academy has achieved the highest state accreditation rating – *Four Stars* – and has excelled in regulation standards from the State. Our teachers completed 920 projects last year, making our educational time exciting and fun.



*“The staff is so personable and truly cares about each and every child. They have excellent communication skills with students and their families! I know that my child will be more prepared for kindergarten than I could have ever expected!”*

*Haley, Bennett (Pre-K), Myles (age 2)*



*“The building is always clean. The staff is always nice and professional. The staff cares about our children. I love the after school program, and I have recommended MasterKey to other parents. I plan to sign my child up yearly.”*

*Erie and Zoey (2nd year in after school program)*

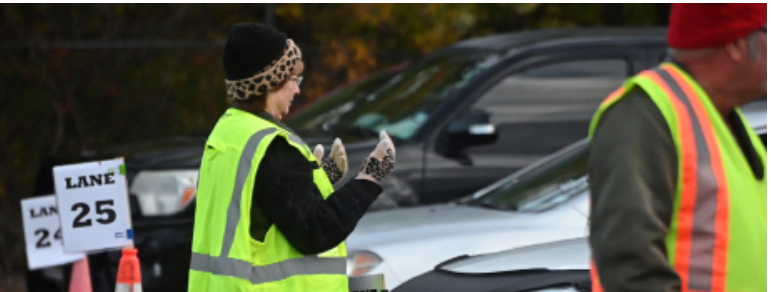


The Academy has a new mascot! Thanks to the father of one of our students, Abe Marin, who is a talented artist (and our son-in-law!).



# FOOD ASSISTANCE

*Feeding hungry and hurting families in Grayson County and beyond*



*“My husband and I are going through a tough time financially and yesterday’s pantry was a great gift, because you gave us things we really enjoy eating. We are very thankful for that.”*

In 2022, we joined a new program from the NTFB and with the help of community partners to continue in 2023, we have delivered food directly to the doors of 522 individuals that are in desperate need. Not only are the new participants overwhelmingly grateful but the Door Dashers in the program have been greatly touched as they observe the significant need in our community.



*We have run out of space!* The property we have for our school includes additional space to build a larger and more modern facility to serve an even larger number of families in need in Grayson County. We are continuing our plans to include more than 15,000-18,000 sq ft space for warehousing along with client areas. This is over three times what we have now. We plan to include offices for staff and meeting areas to put all of MasterKey Ministries in one location! More on this later!

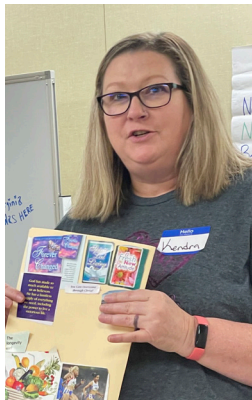




# Hope

## GETTING AHEAD

*Transformed with the power of hope*



The Getting Ahead and Staying Ahead program resulted in huge gains forward this year for the majority of participants. Some moved into better housing or found a higher paying job. Others received much needed transportation or reached major milestones in their journey to stability.

Children were exposed to stories of the Bible and interactive learning activities weekly. Teens joined Straight Way, learning valuable lessons in character, leadership, and the importance of teamwork.

*"I've learned that even with the 'hand I've been dealt with', I understand the resources needed to turn everything around."*



Every aspect of the program strengthens families with limited resources and provides the supportive environment that helps families move forward. Weekly participants not only learn how to increase their resources but more importantly they learn about the God that loves them and wants to provide.

*"What I learned this year with Money Matters is a better perspective on where each dollar is going and how to give each dollar purpose. I now have better control over money versus money over me."*



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## Giving to MasterKey Ministries

MasterKey Ministries is a 501(c)(3) organization and exists solely through the support of our community and the generosity of our donors. To donate by check, make them payable to MasterKey Ministries of Grayson County and mail to our address below. You can also give online at our website, [www.masterkeyministries.org/donate](http://www.masterkeyministries.org/donate).

**MasterKey**  
Ministries  
of Grayson County



*MasterKey Ministries is located at 209 S. Heritage Parkway, Sherman, Texas 75092.  
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