



# Real Children Real Hope

**M**y name is **Tiffany** and I am 15 years old. I cannot count the number of times my family has picked up and moved- it was the way of life for my family. I knew something was wrong at first with the situation, but I wasn't sure what was happening. I think that part of me wanted to ignore the problem. My mom would have my sister and two brothers pack up and leave suddenly because we were running from the cops. We would have to hide and then run. She didn't want to lose us and that is why we would keep running from the state. She'd take us to another town or state just before the police would come and take us away. My mother was on drugs and all of us kids have different dads. We've lived on the streets together and I would usually take care of my sister and brothers. It was tough, but we were together. I don't understand why my mom wouldn't just stop using drugs if she wanted to keep us that bad. It's hard to believe sometimes that she loves me since she chose drugs over us. Maybe one day she will change and we can be together again. We were taken away from my mom in Florida. I've been at Place of Hope for two and a half years now (two of my siblings are here too!). At first, I would not talk to anyone, but I am slowly beginning to open up. I have fun talking now with my cottage parents and the other kids in the house. We play games, dance, and have dinner conversations- something I wasn't used to before. I'm excited about getting involved in my church. I'm an usher and greeter every weekend. I'm in the 9th grade and am even attending a great private school, for the first time this year. I've had to stay after school every day for extra tutoring, but I am finally catching up. One day, I know I will fulfill my dream of being a pediatrician.

## Supporter Spotlight

**Timothy R. Goering** has been a devoted and strong supporter of Place of Hope since it began in 2001. In 2002, Goering became a member of the Planned Giving Council. He has also served by leading some of the Ages to Ages Life Skills classes that our youth attend. Goering has recently taken on another role at Place of Hope by leading our new Ambassadors of Hope Committee. Some of Goering's business highlights include: Major, US Marine Corps Aviation, Sales Johnson & Johnson, VP Sanford C. Bernstein, SVP Genspring/SunTrust Bank, and President Seaside National Bank & Trust. Goering is currently the Managing Director of Sales in Florida for BNY Mellon – Wealth Management. Goering is also the proud father of two awesome daughters, ages 16 and 13.

**Education:** BS in Oceanography, US Naval Academy 1989.

**How did you hear about Place of Hope?** In 2001 Charles took me for a tour and I was hooked.

**Have you been on any Mission Trips?** I did "mission-like" trips aboard the USS Bellow Wood in the early 90's to both Thailand and the Philippines.

**Why do you serve at Place of Hope?** These kids will be our neighbors when they grow older. We can choose to help them or to pretend they will be fine on their own. I choose action!

**What do you think children in foster care need most?** HOPE! They need to know that it is possible so that they can aim for bigger dreams. You often hit what you aim at, but if you don't know what to aim for, you have no chance of ever hitting it.

**Quote or principle to live by?** Always be Making luck! Expect good things to happen in your life and they will. You will become what you think about most!



[www.placeofhope.com](http://www.placeofhope.com)



[www.villagesofhope.net](http://www.villagesofhope.net)

Dear faithful supporter,

Thank you so much for your continued support of the children at Place of Hope and the youth at Villages of Hope. You are truly helping to change these young lives. You are giving Tiffany hope – for today and for her future. It really does take an entire community to care for our children. We are so thankful for all of our supporters! Tim Goering is an example of a supporter who really wants to change our children's lives. He is now chairing our new Ambassadors of Hope Committee to create even more community awareness about Place of Hope. Please contact me at [charlesb@placeofhope.com](mailto:charlesb@placeofhope.com) if you would like more information about joining the Ambassadors of Hope. Thank you again for your continued partnership!



Charles L. Bender III  
Founding Executive Director