



INHERITANCE *of*
hope[®]

helping families find joy
in terminal illness

InheritanceOfHope.org

THE PROBLEM

Every day 562 children (just in the US) lose a parent to terminal illness, and too many people who want to help feel helpless. You aren't sure what to do or say, don't know how to actually help in the midst of terminal illness. So you pull back, shy away from the situation.

Therefore too many people in young families facing the loss of a parent feel abandoned and hopeless. You feel like no one cares. We mobilize people who care and are brave enough to practice "jorrow"[™]: joy and sorrow at the same time.

Too often the reality of terminal illness is avoided, which only makes a terrible situation even harder. We tend to want to avoid the shadow of death, but that is a false "hope," a denial of reality.



THE JOURNEY

From helpless to purpose

From abandoned to adored

From denial to hope

You can face reality, even the hardest reality, with hope when you are not abandoned but adored. In the midst of trials, you don't have to feel helpless but can discover maturing purpose.

Inheritance of Hope helps you lean into terminal illness to discover joy.

Want to help but not sure how? [Find Your Place >>](#)

MISSION

To inspire hope in young families facing the loss of a parent



VISION

7 Million Favorites

Over 7 million people (just in the US) are in young families facing the loss of a parent due to terminal illness. We want each and every one of them to abound in hope by feeling loved as God's favorite child, even in their hardest trials, *especially* in their hardest trials.

DNA

How does 7 Million Favorites become reality? With [volunteers](#), donors, partners, [staff](#), and [board](#) who exemplify this mission-advancing DNA:

Deliver joy

Excellent results with excellent attitude = delivering high-value joy with entrepreneurial zest

Neighbor as self

Loving neighbor and loving self, rooted in deepening love of God

Antifragile

Improving through challenges and taking risks for bar-raising, game-changing mission advancement in quality and quantity

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WHAT'S NEXT

The Inheritance of Hope story is off to a good start, and much work remains toward the vision of 7 Million Favorites. To serve the too-many young families facing the loss of a parent that are not yet experiencing Inheritance of Hope, here's what you can help make possible next:



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FOUNDING



The Inheritance of Hope story began with one young family facing a parent's terminal illness – a mom and dad with young children looking for resources for their entire family as they all navigated the mom's illness. Surprisingly, there were none. They decided to create resources for their family and share them with others. In 2007, Deric and Kristen Milligan launched Inheritance of Hope with the mission to inspire hope in young families facing the loss of a parent.

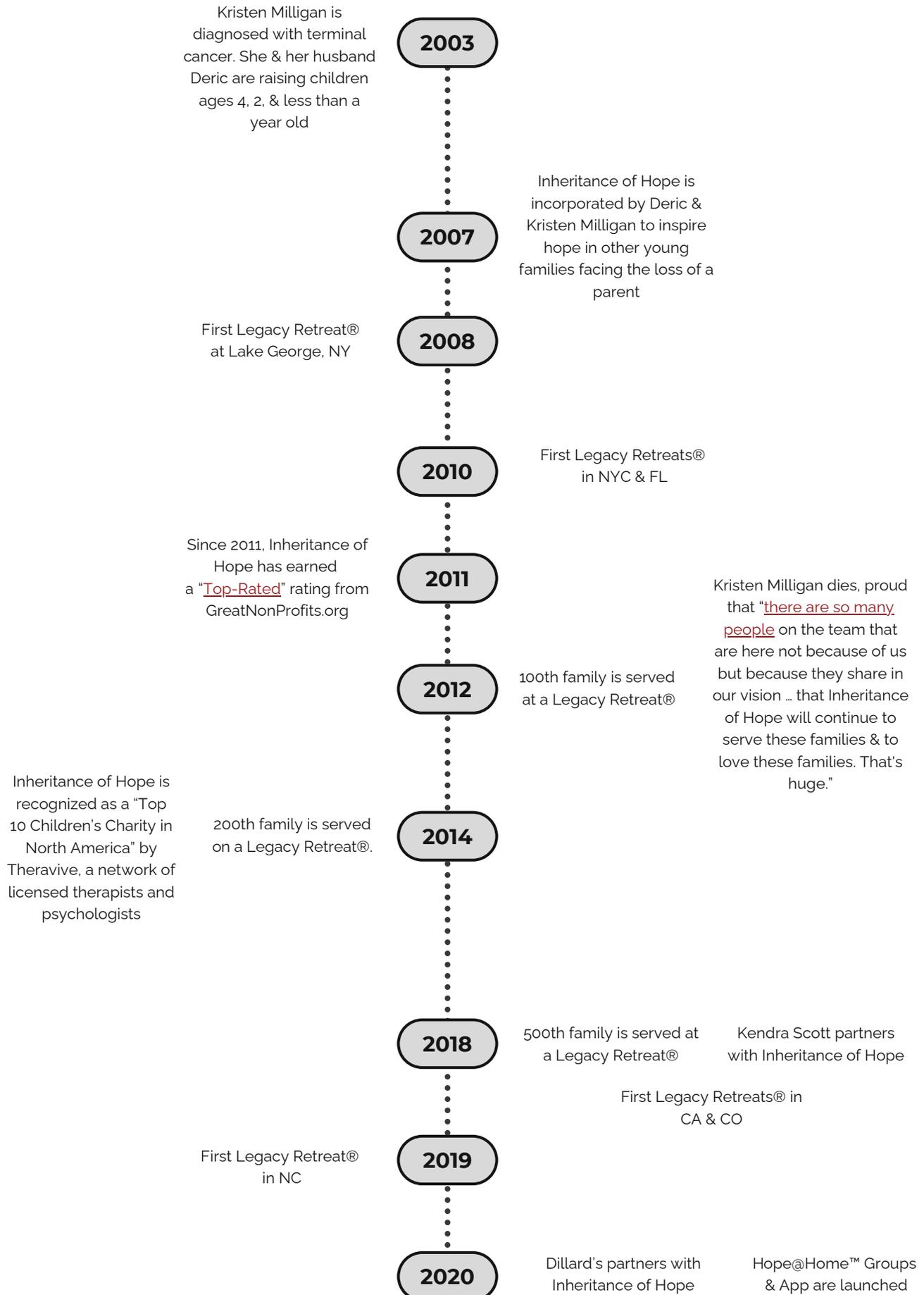
In her autobiography, co-founder Kristen Milligan shares, "I knew in my mind that God had not and would never desert me, but my thoughts continued to beat me down. 'Why are you putting yourself through these treatments? You are going to die anyway! God is not here with you! He does not care! He allowed you to suffer with this cancer! He will take you from your children!'" And, "As the pain continued, I became angry with God. I have heard others speak about their anger with God in difficult times, and I had always acknowledged this as an understandable response, but I admit I was surprised and taken aback by my anger. I had never before felt true anger towards my God before, and it increased my fear and confusion. My world would be shattered if God no longer listened to my prayers, if He no longer cared." And, "My heart continued to tell me that I would never again be useful to those I loved. I would continue only as a burden to them. I have never considered suicide, and even at this low point in my life I did not, but I could see how someone with little hope of the lifting of this dark cloud would consider suicide as a very viable option."

Yet she also shares, "I am thankful for the pause from the pain, but I long for that closeness I felt to God while there. ... I know now that God offers us a special sighting of His presence when we are struggling through the fire. He walks there with us. He ensures that we do not feel alone, unloved, punished, or abandoned." And, "I was continuously aware of God's awesome presence, never once taking His eyes off of our suffering family. God assured me repeatedly of His everlasting and unconditional love through gifts and great blessings. If I did not know that God was just and loved us all equally, I would have been convinced during that time in the fire that I, Kristen, was His most favorite child. What miraculous peace and joy this brings in the midst of great struggle!"

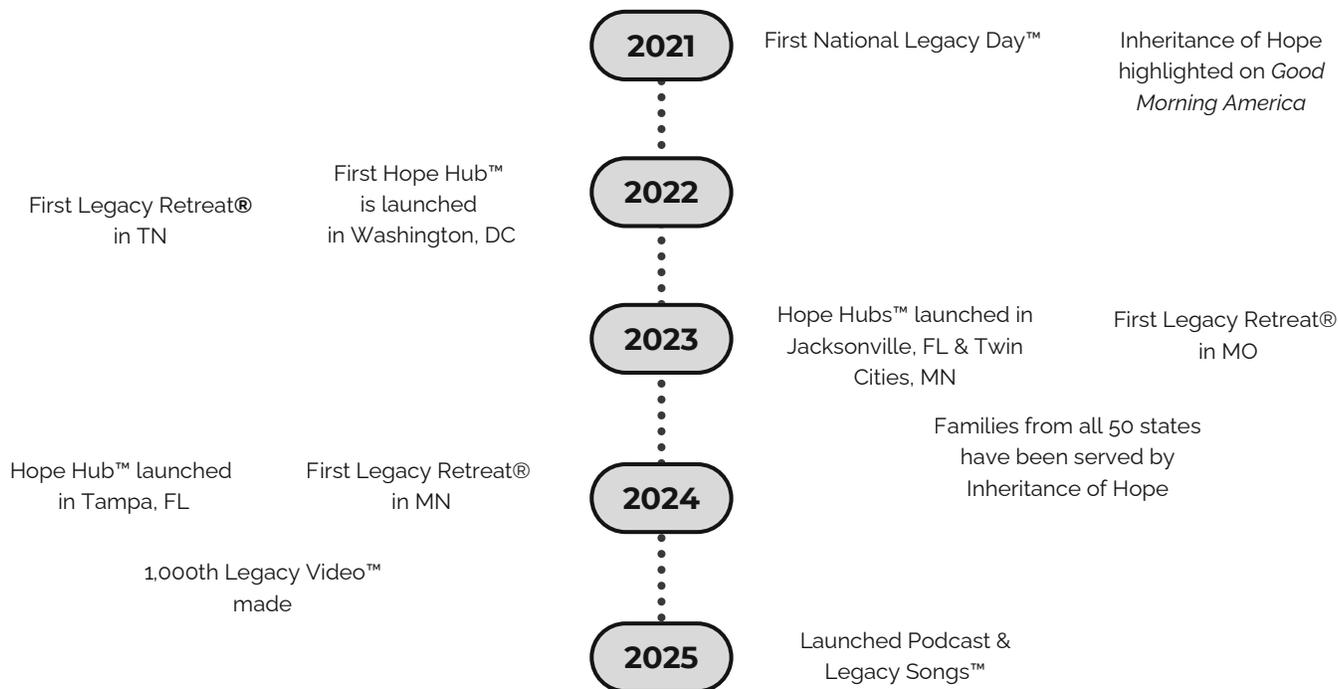
So (Inheritance of) Hope comes from vulnerably acknowledging great struggle yet being loved as God's favorite child in the midst of it! The brand has grown to serve families throughout the US by delivering hope-filled community care in a variety of formats.

Want to help but not sure how? [Find Your Place >>](#)

TIMELINE



TIMELINE



Give with Confidence >>



Inheritance of Hope
2025 TOP-RATED NONPROFIT



Reviews from **GREATNONPROFITS**

Most Recent Reviews

DebraBurns ★★★★★

Before joining IOH I was battling stage 4 terminal cancer alone for two years. I joined the "Living with..."

Chaneyll ★★★★★

The journey for families facing a loss of a parent is devastating. Kristen Grady Milligan and Deric Milligan...

mrsbrien ★★★★★

This nonprofit is a huge blessing and a breath of fresh air. As a family recipient, we were blown away...

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