

hope news

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The Browns Give a Gift of a Lifetime

by Robin Haverty

I met Tom in the fall of 1989. The first words he said to me were "Alright, we asked for a blonde!" Tom was always filled with humor and just wanted to be treated as an equal. Tom's family was very involved and active in parent groups. Through the Chesapeake Community Services Board, the parents group formed a group home in Chesapeake. Much like our roots in Norfolk, this was another group of families who wanted their children to live in the community rather than being shipped off to institutions.

Tom worked all the years I knew him, and he worked hard. His parents instilled in him a strong work ethic and spirit. Tom Sr. and Jeanette loved their son and wanted him to be happy. Their perseverance allowed him to live a full life in the community. Tom Sr. retired from the service and stayed busy until his death. They, like many of their generation, were careful and resourceful with their money. Several months prior to her death, Jeanette asked to meet with Lynne and



me. She wanted assurance that her son would be cared for by us for the remainder of his life. She said that she would see that he was taken care of financially, and that she would take care of us as well. She never mentioned any amount, but when she died, she left Tom with a Special Needs Trust that ensured continued benefits and services. This trust provided the extras like vacations, furnishing and clothing, the kinds of things that SSI and Social Security don't provide. And Hope House continued to provide support and

care so he could continue to live as he wished.

Jeannette also made a bequest to Hope House. Tom's trust was instructed to go to the agency after his death. We never imagined that we would receive such a generous gift from the Browns, and for that we are extremely grateful. Twenty five years ago when I began working with their son, I felt like their approval meant everything. And, I felt the same way when Jeanette met with us all those years later. She knew Hope House could continue to care for

her son in the way she wanted for the rest of his life. The Brown family's memory and impact will live forever in our history.



Tom Brown



One person can make a difference

“One person can make a difference in the world. In fact, it is always because of one person that all the changes that matter in the world come about. So be that one person.”—R Buckminster Fuller

Aspects of my life that I am most grateful for have involved witnessing the force of change emulating from a single individual. I marvel at their optimism, ability to care and just plain gumption. We have examples of people who do this all around us. There are the public ones, Nobel Peace Prize winners, business leaders and yes, even politicians. These are the easy ones to see and admire.

The people who have truly inspired me are not famous, rich or well known. In almost every case, each of them started with an idea to make something better for an individual, an organization or a community. Their motives were clear, uncluttered and in most cases without judgment. On the surface, they did not have anything that was unique and special that set them apart from the rest of us

other than the will to take action to benefit others, which in turn filled their lives and hearts with purpose. The soul of their work had a range that appeared sometimes in the moment or over a



Lynne Seagle

Woman of Distinction

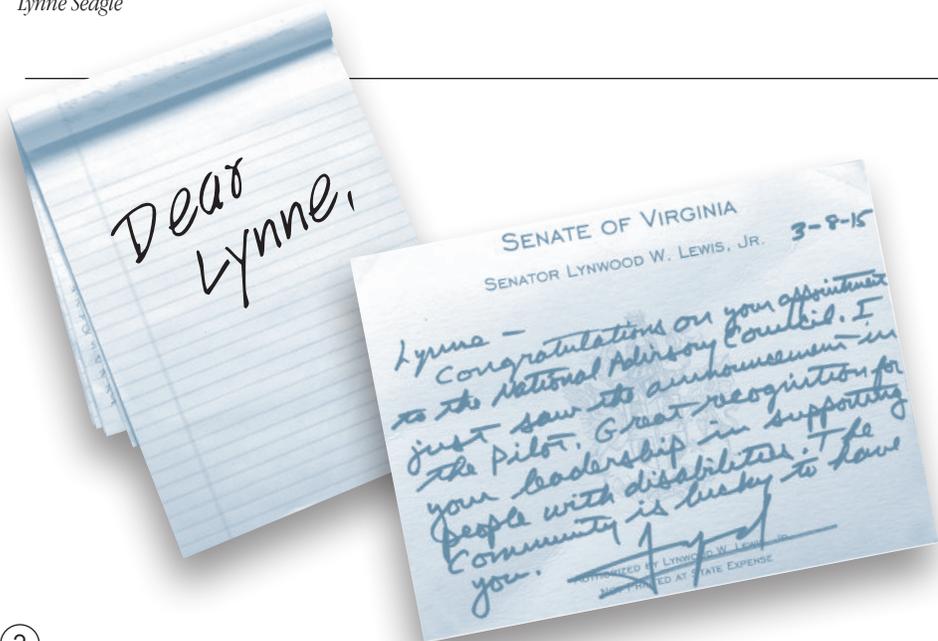
We congratulate Lynne for her recent Women of Distinction Award by the YWCA and also for her appointment to the National Advisory Council of the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals. The new council is comprised of industry leaders from across the country who share a common vision to improve the quality of support for people with disabilities.

lifetime. I suspect you know people like this or maybe you are one of them.

The countless acts of kindness demonstrated everyday are often unseen or unrecognized. The person, who stops the bully, opens their home for the veteran or befriends a person with a disability are everyday examples of what humans can do that literally change things for the better. In just the last week, I reminisced with a friend about his time in the Peace Corps in the Ukraine, met with a woman who is an integral part of the Chabad Inclusion Initiative, an effort to establish friendships for people with disabilities who are Jewish, and discussed with a staff member the comfort she felt from a colleague's support after the recent loss of her father.

When people talk to me about their fears for people with disabilities and how they could be hurt or treated badly by living and working among the rest of us instead of segregated in gated communities or congregate settings, I do understand their concerns. Certainly we have evidence that people with disabilities have been mistreated, abused and neglected throughout history and even now. But if you look closely at the facts you will learn that this is much more likely in these closed settings. A long time ago a staff member who lost much of her family in Nazi-ruled Germany told me that all these forms and assessments we required to make sure people were safe in our services really did not matter. She said in her 60 years of experience the only thing that kept people safe were other people “who gave a damn about them.” I find some truth in this statement.

The people supported by Hope House Foundation have been the recipients of the good in our communities. Their lives have been touched by individuals who decided to make a difference and in turn changed a life. But here's the kicker, I know so many people we support who do the same thing. Give their last dollar to the man who is homeless, seek to provide comfort to a neighbor in distress, collect donations for cancer research or volunteer to pick up trash in our neighborhoods and shorelines. We can all be that “one person” and more importantly, we can find joy in just recognizing them.



Lynne,
I'm writing to thank you for facilitating our board retreat. I sincerely appreciate your willingness to sacrifice your time for our cause. Your guidance and leadership will sharpen our efforts and improve our efficiency. It was a pleasure to spend time with you, and I hope to have an opportunity to work with you in the future. Sincerely,

—Michael Bertucchi
Vice President, Hampton Roads Pride Board of Directors

Dear Lynne,
We all are in agreement that we came out a much better board on Saturday. Thank you for your help and commitment.

—Hampton Roads Pride Board of Directors

Presented by  TOWNE BANK



Sat. May 16, 10 am–5 pm • Sun. May 17, Noon–5 pm

Saturday, May 16

10:0am, James Arellano
10:30am, Kings of Ukulele
11:30am, Amanda Raye

1:00pm, Uncle Jack

3:00pm, Jacob Vanko Band
5:00pm, Art Party with Anthony
Rosano and the Conquerors

Sunday, May 17

Noon, Lena Klett
12:00pm, Mountaintide
1:30pm, Brandon Bower Band
3:30pm, Outta the Furnace



Billie Luckie & Bill Wroton



The Eyes of Hope

Shamrockin' in Ghent



“Thank you for helping me have a good life.”

— Linder Lawrence AKA Hollywood



Shamrockin' in Ghent



“Give freely to the world these gifts of love and compassion. Do not concern yourself with how much you receive in return, just know in your heart it will be returned.”

— Steve Maraboli



VEER Magazine Local Music Awards

Proceeds from the VEER Local Music Awards benefit Hope House Foundation.

Actually, it doesn't take a village

by Steven Eidelman

We have all heard the phrase, "It takes a village to raise a child." Some attribute it to an African proverb, though there appears to be some controversy about that. The phrase itself has become shopworn, utilized by elected officials, pundits and others.

Despite its uncertain history and oversubscription, the concept is a good one. We all need the support of our communities. But the support the phrase refers to is about social support, about building social capital, and people helping each other. In my mind, this all sounds like what Jewish communities have done for the last century and a half. In many ways we are ideally suited to take on this effort.

But what it does not mean is a physical community. It does not mean a gated housing development for people with disabilities, an entire apartment building for people with disabilities, a ranch, a farm, a compound or any of the other iterations of the institutions of old that housed people with disabilities that are now popping up everywhere as new segregated communities for people with disabilities.

I do not deny that there is a housing crisis for people with disabilities. Children become adults; adults living with their parents want to be more independent; perhaps their parents want more space and privacy. Parents also enter old age and

look to a future when they will not be available. A logical response is to look at housing to substitute for the family home. And facing these realities, people are proposing villages, farms, gated communities, ranches, etc.

Housing is, in part, a false issue. For many people with disabilities, especially those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the issue is support services. Housing is a small part of the cost of supporting people and perhaps the easiest to finance.

We all have an edifice complex. We look at people with disabilities and think "building." And I have seen the plans for some of these buildings and admit that they are beautiful. And their beauty is seductive.

But they are a siren's song. A beautiful building will not make people safe; in fact, when a lot of people live together, it may make them less safe. A beautiful building will not make people happy. Happiness is a lot more about control of the big things in life, having friends, having something to do each day that brings meaning, having connections. The more people with disabilities you put together, the fewer connections in the larger community they are likely to have.

The real issue that needs to be considered is not only how much care people need now, but what kind of care young people with disabilities will need as they age over their lifetime.

The trail is littered with programs that families started with their own funds, and then ran out of money as people aged and need more and more costly support. New Federal rules from the Center for Medicaid and Medicare services make it unlikely that Federal Medicaid funds, through state governments, can be used to provide the support services. So where will the money come from?

What will happen when families have aged in that twenty year period and can no longer be actively involved?

The history of congregate care for people with disabilities has a long track record of good intentions with poor results. We know that people having control of their housing, living with one or two people they choose in typical houses, condos and apartments is not only better for people, but is more accepted by the community at large. Villages, gated communities, apartment buildings and farms are just more litter on the congregate care roadside. They are a mistake.

Steven Eidelman is the H. Rodney Sharp Professor of Human Services Policy and Leadership at The University of Delaware and the faculty director of The National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities. He has worked for the last 35 years to help people with disabilities lead full lives in the community.

Planned Giving

By Brian Boys, Attorney with Atlantic Law PLC

There are many reasons to include charitable giving as part of your estate plan, such as the desire to make a positive impact on your community or give back to an organization that has assisted you or a family member. If done properly, the donation may also reduce your income, gift or estate tax liability.

A lifetime gift is a commonly used method to make a charitable donation. A bequest in your last will and testament or living trust is another widely used option. Alternatively, you can designate a charity as the beneficiary of your retirement plan

or life insurance policy or donate the policy to the charity.

Other planned giving tools include charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, and charitable lead trusts. A charitable gift annuity involves the transfer of assets to a charitable organization in exchange for the charity's contractual promise to make fixed annuity payments to the donor.

A charitable remainder trust involves placing assets into a trust with either the donor or a designated beneficiary receiving income for the remainder of the individual's life. At the individual's death, the remaining assets are distributed to a designated charitable organization.

A charitable lead trust (CLT), on the other hand, is a trust created to reduce gift and estate taxes on assets passing to the donor's heirs. Once funded, the CLT makes periodic payments to a

designated charitable organization. At the end of the trust period, the remaining assets are distributed to designated heirs.

**For more information about including Hope House in your estate plan, please review the planned giving section of Hope House's website at: <http://www.hope-house.org/donate/planned-giving-and-other-ways-give/>, or contact Elena Montello at emontello@hope-house.org or (757) 625-6161, x507.*

HAVE YOU HEARD THE BUZZ?

The Buzz is produced by people supported by Hope House Foundation and is coordinated by Kim Enesey.

Don't label me. I am what I am...

A gardener: Donald

An artist: Denise

A DJ: Willie

SPOTLIGHT

VOLUNTEER Howard Rodman

You've seen his work for years and now we'd like to recognize the man behind the camera, Howard Rodman. Howard has been volunteering his photography services for more than three years. He's the one at the events like Feather the Nest, Stockley Gardens Arts Festival and the Annual Dinner preserving the moments for our history. "I really wanted to find a way to give back to the community," said Howard. "Hope House works so hard to put on these great events, so I thought it might be good to capture them through photos."



Howard is a financial planner with Morgan Stanley and started photography as a hobby in college and rediscovered it five years ago. Currently, his work is on display at the Museum of Contemporary Art and the Artist Gallery in Virginia Beach. His past volunteer efforts include being a founding member of the Hampton Roads Gift Planning Council where he met Elena Montello. We're glad for that connection and thank Howard for all of his efforts.

"You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give"

— Kahlil Gibran

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HOPE HOUSE FOUNDATION

Lynne Seagle, A Force of Nature and Agent of Change

She's been described as a force of nature. And if you've ever heard Lynne speak, you'll know why. Charismatic, compelling and funny, Lynne will challenge assumptions, spark debate and help you and your organization arrive at new solutions.

Lynne designs and facilitates retreats, leadership development courses and development and strategic planning for Boards of Directors, as well as team-building, decision-making and communication processes.

She is one of the country's leading consultants on supported living services and organizational development, consulting widely throughout the U.S, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Asia. In addition, she is in great demand as a keynote speaker for both human service organizations and businesses. She offers these services to local non-profits, and has helped many other organizations throughout the region develop strong boards and healthy strategic plans.

To contact Lynne regarding her availability for retreats, keynote, group, or individual speaking/consulting, email lseagle@hope-house.org or call her at 757.625.6161

The Virginia Beach Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities Award

Josh Harris has been acknowledged for his volunteer service through Mayor William D. Sessom's Committee for Persons with Disabilities. Since 2008, Josh has been a member of the Hope House Foundation Board of Directors, and he currently serves as Treasurer. He also serves on the Hope House Residential Corp. Hope House is the only organization in Virginia to provide support for people with intellectual and developmental and disabilities exclusively in their own homes.

Josh's talents have facilitated community growth, improvement and inclusion for people with disabilities. Josh' role with Our Voices, a self and peer advocacy group, is also of note because he was the first person to secure funding for the committee since its inception. He attends every meeting and does so with the desire to immerse himself on the issues and advocacy opportunities. Josh was instrumental in working with Our Voices to add voter registration for people who receive services.



Hope House Foundation Board of Directors

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hope news spring 2015 events

BE OUR FRIEND!  

May 16–17

TowneBank presents the 2015 Stockley Gardens Spring Arts Festival. Enjoy the works of over 125 artists in a variety of mediums such as painting, ceramics, sculpture, photography, and jewelry. The after-hours party and artists' reception will take place on Saturday at 5 pm. There will be live music and kids' activities all week-end long. This event is free and open to the public. Volunteers are also needed. Visit www.stockleygardens.com for more information, or call (757) 625-6161.

June 25

Hope House Foundation's 37th Annual Dinner. The Annual Dinner will take place from 6 to 10 pm at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott. For more information and sponsorship opportunities, please call (757) 625-6161.

July 25–26

2015 Hope Cup. Join us at the Virginia Beach Field House for Hope House Foundation's fourth annual adult indoor soccer tournament. Contact Hope House Foundation's Development Department at (757) 625-6161 for more information or to register.

Visit Hope-House-Thrift-Store.com to find out about the Thrift Shop's daily and biweekly deals. And don't forget that the Thrift Shop is now open on Sundays from noon to 5 pm!