

hope news

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The Skippy Fund

It was May of 1999 and Pat Jordan, as part of her duties as Hope House Foundation Development Director, was working at the Stockley Gardens Spring Arts Festival. At an event filled with art, food, and music, the last thing she expected to bring home was a new pet. But then fate intervened.

Pat and her husband David Gunzerath were mourning the very recent loss of their beloved dog, Sharon, a Rottweiler who Pat had rescued off the street near Old Dominion University. So, when Pat passed Animal Rescue of Tidewater's table and one of their representatives suggested that she purchase something for her dog, she couldn't hold back the tears as she explained that she no longer had one.

That's when she learned about Skippy. Skippy was a loving Rottweiler mix who was found, gaunt and ill, on the streets of Norfolk. He walked with a bit of a skip, most likely due to some sort of back injury, which inspired his name. The staff at Animal Rescue of Tidewater nursed Skippy back to health, but they soon found him difficult to place because of his disability. Then came the big question: Did Pat and David want to adopt Skippy?



Randy, who accepted support from Hope House until he passed away last year, with his dog Chic, who he was able to care for with the help of the Pet Fund (now the Skippy Fund).



Skippy

"[We] were hesitant because our grief was still so acute," reflects Pat, "but [we] concluded that Sharon would not only approve but that she would want us to welcome Skippy." And the rest, as they say, is history.

If you ask Pat today, she'll tell you that it was really Skippy who saved them. "It's not an understatement to say he brought life back into our house," she says.

As with humans, Skippy wasn't defined by his disability and he didn't let it hold him back from anything, especially not from playing at the beach, which he loved. He ran with a bit of a sideways scuttle, but it just made his enthusiastic greetings— every single time Pat or David came home, without fail— all the more endearing.

Skippy, Pat, and David spent eleven delightful years together as a family until 2010 when, after battling lymphoma, Skippy passed away peacefully

The Skippy Fund... is meant to assist the people Hope House supports in achieving their dreams of having a pet of their own.

in his sleep. The loss of their dear companion struck Pat and David quite strongly, just as the loss of Sharon had years earlier. But, also much like when they lost Sharon, fate stepped in and brought with it Lizzy, a rescued Rottweiler who was destined for death row unless someone intervened. That someone turned out to be Pat and David. They didn't stop at rescuing another dog, though. Instead, they took it even further and decided to launch the Skippy Fund.

Pat and David corralled a group of friends and family who knew Skippy, and about Hope House Foundation's mission, to help with the seed funding. The Skippy Fund, in addition to preserving the memory and perpetuating the legacy of Skippy, is meant to assist the people Hope House supports in achieving their dreams of having a pet of their own.

Most of us have had a pet at some point in our life and, if we were lucky, that pet filled us with joy and left us with precious memories. But taking care of a pet can be expensive, especially when accidents happen or when your pet gets sick and needs veterinary care. For some of the people we support, that sort of a potential medical and financial hiccup is enough to rule out pet ownership as an option. And what a shame that is, for anyone who longs for that special relationship that only an animal companion can provide, to be denied the wonders and pleasures of having a friend, whether it's furry, feathered, scaly, or otherwise. *Cont'd on page 2*



In this issue Hope House Foundation explores the concept of **EQUALITY**.





When Equality Matters

by Lynne Seagle

"Disability is not a brave struggle or 'courage in the face of adversity.' Disability is an art. It's an ingenious way to live." – Neil Marcus

The idea of equality is at times elusive and fleeting. Most believe our country was founded on this, as well as other principals, and that our forefathers wanted to create a more just and equal nation. I think these revolutionaries truly believed we would get there, even if it was not to be within their lifetimes. When I look back over my lifetime, the progress on this front is staggering. Over the past fifty years, so many groups have demanded recognition of this right—the right to be treated equally.

People with disabilities have asked and continue to do so today, but though there has been progress, there is still much that must be accomplished. Many leaders in this profession are speaking to the heart of this issue by calling for employment of those with disabilities. Gainful employment eliminates poverty, creates opportunities for friendships and colleagues, and opens the door to a world full of possibilities.

Yet, the highest unemployment rate exists in this group and has for the past five decades.

We have built a system of segregation. Institutions, group



Lynne Seagle

Over the past fifty years, so many groups have demanded recognition of this right—the right to be treated equally.

homes, sheltered workshops, and day centers are all program models that place the person with a disability with others with similar labels under the pretense that this is life. Unfortunately, it is life for thousands of people with intellectual disabilities.

At Hope House Foundation, we took the step twenty years ago to close all of our group homes in favor of supporting people as individuals who live within their communities and in their own homes. This change changed everything. Moving from supporting people in agency homes to supporting people in their own homes helped sharpen and clarify our view of equality in regard to people with disabilities as well as ourselves.

In a state that remains consistently at the bottom in measures of funding for people with disabilities, this has been no easy feat. But we, the Hope House community, have always kept our "eyes on the prize" and know in our hearts this is the right way to support people. The feeling of worth is clear among those who accept our support, but it could be enhanced tenfold with a job—a real job. The state of Virginia has set forth an initiative called "Employment First." The concept begins with getting people with

disabilities jobs, as that is the path towards citizenship and independence. I hope if you are in the position to help with this endeavor you will, because everything works better when we work together.

The Skippy Fund *Cont'd from page 1*

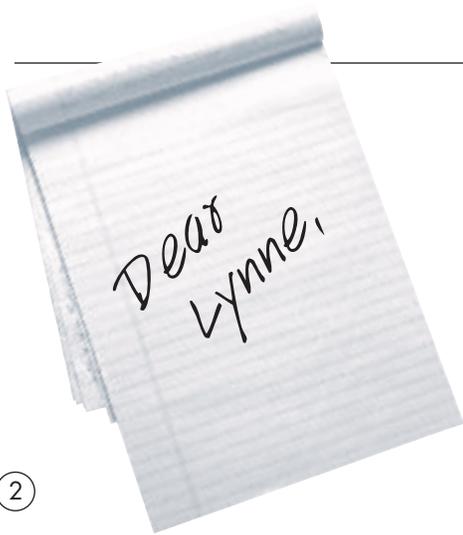
Thanks to the Skippy Fund— and Skippy, Pat, and David— this doesn't have to be the case anymore. Now, people we support simply need to ask when they need assistance with pet-related expenses.

If you have ever had a pet with whom you shared a special bond and would like to help make that same relationship possible for someone Hope House supports, please contact us to find out how to make a donation to the Skippy Fund. Because as Anatole France once wrote, "Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened."

Help us to awaken some souls. Make your donation to the Skippy Fund today.



Pat and David with their adopted family: Digby Pauline and Skippy.



Hello, Lynne,

I am not sure if you really know who I am, but I worked for Hope House for six great years. I worked at Emerald Point for three years and then Redgate for three years. I ended my career at Hope House a month ago because of my cancer journey. I just wanted to write you a little note to tell you that I enjoyed my six years of employment at Hope House. I loved all the people that I supported and made some lifetime friends. I still will be showing up at Redgate to visit the lovely people and my old coworkers, who were the best people to work with. Terri Ann is amazing at her job. So, thank you for supporting such a great place to work. I will miss working at Hope House and will always hold a special place in my heart for Hope House. It was so much more to me than a paycheck.

Sincerely Yours, Vicki Larry

Hope House Gets a Fresh Face on the Web

Hope House Foundation has spent the past year working closely with Otto Design + Marketing to create a new website that is not only easier to navigate, but also eye-catching and engaging. We have included more comprehensive information regarding our services and the Medicaid waiver system. We also added several new videos highlighting some of the people currently accepting services from Hope House as well as information about Team Leaders and the neighborhoods where our teams are located.

We also designed the website to be compatible across all devices— desktop and laptop computers, smartphones, tablets, etc.— so no matter where you are or what you're using, you can comfortably explore the Hope House website.



Our goal is for this new site to provide better insight into the services that Hope House provides so as to be as helpful as possible for people seeking services as well as to establish ourselves as the go-to source for disability services. We also hope that this new focus on services will provide a better education about the agency as a whole to potential donors who are interested in learning more about our organization.

Go check it out at Hope-House.org!

Tell us what you think: send your questions and comments about the new Hope-House.org to Shari Grimes at sgrimes@hope-house.org.

Stockley Gardens Arts Festivals Win Again

The Stockley Gardens Arts Festival was recently named one of the top two best art events in Eastern Virginia in *Virginia Living Magazine's* Best of Virginia 2013 competition!

We're proud to be recognized for the second year in a row and equally proud to know that our community enjoys attending the Stockley Gardens Arts Festivals as much as we enjoy hosting them. We cannot express enough thanks to everyone who has supported Hope House and the Stockley Gardens Arts Festivals for the past 29 years, for it is truly you all who have helped the festivals to become what they are today. Special thanks go to our presenting sponsor, TowneBank, who has helped to elevate the festival to a new height. We promise to keep working hard to ensure that the Stockley Gardens Arts Festivals remain among the premier arts festivals in Virginia.

Mark your calendars now for the next festival: the 2013 Stockley Gardens Fall Arts Festival. The fall festival will take place on Saturday, October 19, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, October 20, from noon to 5 p.m. We're still seeking volunteers so if you want to be part of one of Virginia's best art events, contact Anne Knox (aknox@hope-house.org or 757-625-6161 x509) to learn more about how you can get involved. More information about the Stockley Gardens Fall Arts Festival is available at StockleyGardens.com.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Jeff Maisey



Birthplace: Norfolk, VA

Family: Two daughters, one sister, one brother, one living parent

Interests/hobbies: Travel, hiking, music, beer

Occupation: Publisher/Editor, *Veer Magazine*

What do you like best about your work? Living my passion.

What does EQUALITY mean to you? The freedom to be who you are.

Why is EQUALITY important for people with disabilities? It allows everyone to participate in our culture.

Hope House Foundation Board of Directors

Grey Persons, *President*
Joshua Harris, *Vice President*
Anne Standing, *Secretary*
Jonathan Gray, *Treasurer*
Pete Leddy
Pam Katrancha
Janet Davis
Matthew Fine

Valerie Harvey, M.D.
Jacqueline Schillereff
Richard C. Mapp III
Thomas Moss III
Jeff Parker
DiAna White
Lynne Seagle, *Executive Director*

The Eyes of Hope

**TowneBank presents
the 28th Annual Stockley Gardens Spring Arts Festival**

Below: The Norview High Green Teens returned to sell their handmade, recycled jewelry.



Above: A little bit of clouds didn't keep the crowds away!
Left: Dorothy and Kim posed proudly in front of their art booth.

Far Right: Richard Toft received the award for Best in Show, sponsored by the Helen G. Gifford Foundation.

Below: These young Stockley-goers made some art of their own with Abtrakadoodle.



Above: The Wet Boys introduced us to swampy tonk.

Right: Clayton Singleton celebrated winning the Norfolk Artist Award and 20 years at the Stockley Gardens Arts Festival.



Great Gatsby

Below: It's not a true Gatsby party until the crowd gets rowdy! Special thanks to the woman behind this glamorous event, Jacey Byrne (left) of JC Byrne Exclusive Productions, pictured here with fellow flappers Christy Carson Hubbard (center) and Starr Michelle Adler (right).



Leadership Summit

Service Directors, Team Support staff, Team Leaders, and Team Coordinators gathered in the Outer Banks for their annual leadership summit.



35th Annual Dinner: Creating a Culture of Hope

Below: Executive Director Lynne Seagle recognized Administrative Director Becky Dugger for 30 years with Hope House Foundation.



Left: These lovely ladies were recognized for five years of service with Hope House.

Below: Karl Werne started off our evening with a performance of "Love and Fear."



John and Jon Gray, Board Treasurer, found time to chat.

Kitty Palermo, Board President Grey Persons, and Board Member Janet Davis dolled up for the Annual Dinner.

Left: Newly instated Board Vice President Josh Harris and outgoing Board Member Dorothy Clark shared a hug.

The 2013-2014 Hope House Foundation Board of Directors pose for a picture with Dorothy Clark.



In the next issue: HopeNews will explore the concept of Home.

We will explore the concept of Home and what it means to the people we serve, the community, and you. Please send us your thoughts and stories about Home to sgrimes@hope-house.org.

ANNUAL DINNER HONOREES

At the 35th Annual Dinner, Creating a Culture of Hope, we celebrated four truly remarkable men and one absolutely amazing woman. Read on to learn more about these outstanding supporters of Hope House Foundation.

Jeff Maisey, publisher and editor of *Veer Magazine* was honored with the Jeff Miller Award for strength in business and community service evidenced through leadership, integrity, imagination, and optimism. *Veer Magazine* is a local publication that provides fresh perspectives on the diverse arts and culture community. Mr. Maisey always keeps his community at the forefront in everything he does and has worked extensively with Hope House, not only helping to break down barriers, but also partnering with the organization on several events. Among such events are the *Veer Magazine* Local Music Awards, of which Hope House was the beneficiary, and "Girls Rock," an upcoming music festival that will be part of the 2013 Stockley Gardens Fall Arts Festival.

William Hearst, President of the Helen G. Gifford Foundation, accepted the Community Award on behalf of the foundation and its board of directors.

The Helen G. Gifford Foundation

supports community programs and organizations in Hampton Roads, specifically in the areas of cultural and performing arts and education. The foundation board of directors has sponsored the Best in Show Award at both the spring and fall Stockley Gardens Arts Festivals for more than five years. This commitment has tripled the Best in Show prize which, in turn, led to other sponsors increasing their level of sponsorship and has contributed to making the Stockley Gardens Arts Festival the second best art show in eastern Virginia.

The Helen G. Gifford Foundation Board of Directors



David Filipowski and Richard Katz, owners of Belmont House of Smoke, Colley Cantina, and Cogan's Pizza, also received the Community Award. Mr. Filipowski and Mr. Katz endeavor to keep local tradition alive, which led them to

What Equality means to me:
 "We love that [our son] has the freedom to choose an activity that might appeal to only him . . . And, on the other hand, we love that he has the right to say no to an activity he'd rather not participate in, just as we do."

—Mary Jane Sufficool, parent of someone Hope House supports

What Equality means to me:

"The US Declaration of Independence comes to mind when we discuss equality."

—Suzanne Ripley, parent of someone Hope House supports

invest in their community by opening The New Belmont (now Belmont House of Smoke) on Colonial Avenue, followed soon after by the acquisition of Cogan's Pizza, and eventually Colley Cantina as well. Their relationship with Hope House Foundation has spanned over a decade and includes embracing the individuals supported by the agency, providing gift certificates for any and every event held by Hope House, and offering their restaurants for potential events. When asked, and sometimes even before, they simply state: "Whatever you need, just let us know and we will make it happen."

Anne Standing, owner of Panache Interiors and Hope House Foundation Board Member, was recognized as 2013 Board



Above: David Filipowski and Richard Katz with Hope House Board Member Janet Davis

Left: Hope House Board Vice President with Board Secretary Anne Standing.



Member of the Year. In just three short years with Hope House, Mrs. Standing has proven to be quite the powerhouse. Mrs. Standing serves on the marketing committee, co-leads our Rise and Shine fundraising breakfast, and leads our annual Feather the Nest event. She hosted a family forum to gain insight on how to best provide information to families seeking services like ours and secured a full-page public service announcement in the prestigious *Scout Magazine* as well as funding for new roofs at our Lakewood team. Mrs. Standing's relationship with Hope House began with her cousin, but has evolved into a different type of dedication: she advocates for Hope House and for disability rights and she engages her family and friends to help spread the word, attend events, and use their talents for the greater good.



How I Feel About the “R” Word



HAVE YOU HEARD THE BUZZ?

The Buzz is produced by people supported by Hope House Foundation and is

By Page Powell

When I heard the “R” word being used at work, I felt really offended. Although the word was not used toward me, it made me feel depressed and it broke my heart just hearing someone using that word. The “R” word is too powerful in a bad way. The “R” word means to slow or delay the progress of something. When the “R” word is used to hurt someone, it is a very cruel act. The “R” word offends people. Before someone decides to use the “R” word, they should remember that people have feelings and some people’s feelings get hurt more easily than others. So, you want to know how I feel about the “R” word? In my opinion, a person who uses the “R” word is mean, rude, selfish, and disrespectful!

Read more of this issue, and past issues, on Hope-House.org.

The Hope House Thrift Store

These days, it seems like life keeps getting more hectic. The constant battle of time vs. to-do lists and the current economic environment can make even the simplest tasks into challenges. Sometimes, we focus too much on the day-to-day and things like charitable giving fall by the wayside. Luckily, there is a really easy way to support Hope House that won’t wreck your schedule or your budget: the Thrift Shop!

The Hope House Thrift Shop accepts all kinds of donations, everything from clothing and books to furniture and sporting goods— and more! The Thrift Shop can even pick up your larger donations. If you have questions about donations or pick-up, please contact the Hope House Thrift Shop at (757) 625-7493 or TS@hope-house.org.



Shopping at the Hope House Thrift Shop is great way to pick up necessities without breaking the bank. The Thrift Shop offers daily and biweekly sales so you’re always sure to score a deal. As an added bonus, 100% of the Hope House Thrift Shop’s proceeds go toward providing support to adults with intellectual disabilities right here in Hampton Roads. So, every single dollar you spend goes right back to the community.

Still not convinced that the Hope House Thrift Shop is the way to go? Maybe some of your fellow community members can sway you:

“I love Hope House Thrift Store.”

– Facebook friend Kathi P.T.

“They have the GREATEST clothing for women!”

– Facebook friend Tracy B.N.

“Great place. Great cause. Great folks.”

– Facebook friend Fran T.

“Hope House is my favorite place to shop, especially for books.”

– Facebook friend Markita V.

The Hope House Thrift Shop is located at 1800 Monticello Ave. in Norfolk and is open Monday through Saturday from 10 AM to 6 PM. Stop by and check out our selection and see for yourself how easy it is to cross some items off your to-do list while supporting a local organization!



From
BIG BANDS to NIGHT STANDS
and everything in between.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS



20% off any purchase with this ad—Thru 9/30/13
1800 Monticello Avenue • Norfolk
Open Monday thru Saturday 10am–6pm



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801 Boush Street
Suite 302
Norfolk, VA 23510
www.hope-house.org

757-625-6161
757-625-7775 fax



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summer 2013

hope news events

BE OUR FRIEND!

- July 27** **Ghent Summer Bar Tour** 4 to 9 PM. Register at GhentBarTours.org.
- July–Sept** **Hope House Thrift Shop Bi-monthly Specials**
 - Summer Sizzler** 50% off bathing suits, outdoor furniture, grills, and sporting goods. *July 16–31.*
 - Back to School** 25% off computers, software, backpacks, desks, and desk lamps. *August 1–15*
 - Summer Clearance** 50% off tank tops, short sleeve shirts, shorts, bathing suits, open-toe shoes, sandals and sporting goods. *August 16–31*
 - Fall Furniture Frenzy** 25% off all furniture, appliances, and knick-knacks. *September 1–15*
- Oct 19-20** **TowneBank Presents the 2013 Stockley Gardens Fall Arts Festival**
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 19, and noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 20, at Stockley Gardens Park in the Ghent area of Norfolk. After hours party and artist award ceremony from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday at the main stage. Visit StockleyGardens.com for more information.
- Dec 1** **Holidays for Hope**
On December 1, 2013, Changes Hairstyling, City Spa, and Jake's Place team up with Hope House to present a holiday event featuring a hair/fashion show and auction to benefit Hope House Foundation. Kick off your holiday season with hope at the Belmont House of Smoke!