

hope news

volume 24/#4 • fall 2014

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*Celebrating 50 Years
of Service.*

Housing Issues for People with Disabilities

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Being part of the community and living as independently as possible are among the most important values and goals shared by people with disabilities, their families, and advocates. A home of one's own – either rented or owned – is the cornerstone of independence for people with disabilities. However, across the U.S. people with disabilities, including people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), face a severe housing crisis.

Affordability

The affordability gap for people with disabilities has exponentially worsened in recent years. According to *Priced Out in 2012*, over 4.8 million non-institutionalized Americans with disabilities who rely on federal monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) have incomes less than \$8,700 per year – low enough to be priced out of every rental housing market in the nation. In 2012, the average rent for a one-bedroom apartment was \$758 per month – or 104% of the national average monthly SSI income for beneficiaries living independently.



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disabilities, such as lowered kitchen counters and sinks, roll-under stoves, widened doorways, wheel-in showers and raised electrical outlets. For people who use wheelchairs or other

mobility devices, finding housing with even basic accessibility features (e.g. an entrance with no steps) ranges from daunting to impossible. In addition, accessible units can be very costly to rent or purchase.

Aging Caregivers

Across the U.S., over 850,000 people with I/DD live with an aging caregiver (over age 60). As this generation of caregivers continues to age, many of their adult children with I/DD may be at risk of institutionalization or homelessness due to the shortage of housing and support services.

Housing Discrimination

People with disabilities all too often face discrimination when seeking housing. In fact, complaints by people with disabilities often make up the majority of discrimination complaints received by HUD's Fair Housing Enforcement Office. Multiple federal laws prohibit discrimi-

nation against people with disabilities in public and privately funded housing.

Availability

Finally, the supply of affordable, accessible housing remains far less than the need.

Hope House Foundation has a solution for people in Hampton Roads. Read Lynne Seagle's column to learn more.



*In this issue Hope House
Foundation explores the
concept of HOME*





The Housing Solution

When Hope House Foundation began closing group homes over 20 years ago, we thought people would move into their own homes and apartments and we could focus on our mission of providing services and supports and not real estate. We assisted people in the 1980s by securing housing vouchers that were available for those citizens living below the poverty level and negotiating their lease agreements.



Lynne Seagle

housing vouchers diminished substantially as did the choices of neighborhoods where the people we supported felt safe.

This lack of safe and affordable housing prompted our board of directors to act. The first step was to establish a separate organization, with its own governing board of directors, articles of incorporation and by-laws. This organization was named the Hope House Foundation Residential Corporation. Its sole purpose was to acquire and manage properties that offered affordable rents for those we supported and the general population.

We started with several small buildings in Ghent that offered no subsidized housing. But they were safe, diversified and offered a neighborhood where walking to neighborhood businesses was convenient. We purchased three apartment buildings in the early '90s.

The Residential Corporation accepted housing vouchers. Our intent was that if someone chose not to receive services from Hope House, they could choose to live in an apartment building that the Residential Corporation owned. This is significant since it unties housing from the organization providing the services, something that is virtually impossible to do in a congregate setting such as a group home.

The board of directors launched their first capital campaign to secure funding to purchase additional apartment complexes in the region. The properties were selected based on the ability to not only offer private citizens an alternative for safe and affordable housing but also to offer those we support greater integration opportunities. With this effort, we were able to purchase four additional complexes, one in Chesapeake, one in Portsmouth and two in Norfolk.

Our next capital campaign provided us with funding to purchase three additional complexes, two of which have been purchased and renovated. One is in Virginia Beach and one is in Norfolk. We hope to add an additional complex in Virginia Beach in the near future. Today, we have 200 apartments for people with modest means to rent. Less than half of those are occupied by the individuals we support.

Income generated from the properties is reinvested into the properties or used to enhance

Our solution has not only provided people with disabilities affordable choices about where to live, but it has also enhanced several neighborhoods...

the landscape or safety of the neighborhood. A professional property management company is contracted to oversee leasing, maintenance and other tasks.

Our solution has not only provided people with disabilities affordable choices about where to live but it has also enhanced several neighborhoods and has provided housing options for our fellow citizens.

It never occurred to us that we should wait for someone to do something about this issue. We always knew we were the solution.

A Letter of Intent / Brian Boys, Attorney with Oast & Taylor

Nobody knows more about the unique needs of a person with a disability than the individual and those who support the individual (including, many times, the parents). While there are many tools available to maximize opportunities and improve quality of life for the individual, an often underutilized tool is a letter of intent. A letter of intent serves two important roles. First, it helps the person with disabilities to advocate for themselves. Second, it attempts to minimize disruption in the event that a caregiver is no longer able to provide support and a new person must step in.

The process of developing a letter of intent presents an excellent opportunity to explore the person's needs. The individual should be included in this process, with the result being a person-centered document. A well-written letter of intent also serves as a roadmap for others in the future.

The letter of intent should discuss the person's likes, dislikes, needs, and preferences and should

communicate the person's values, hopes, and dreams. The letter should discuss:

- Daily schedule/routines
- Residential arrangements
- Employment preferences and goals
- Educational requirements and goals
- Dietary preferences and needs
- Medical history and health/wellness concerns
- Family history
- Recreation and leisure preferences
- Contact information for trusted friends and family members
- Spiritual beliefs
- Benefits received by the individual

The letter of intent should be shared with others who interact with the person and feedback should be encouraged. It is an evolving document and will likely change over time. After completion, make sure to distribute copies to support providers and to review and update the letter of intent on a regular basis.

Presents the

TOWNE BANK 2014 Stockley Fall Arts Festival

Sat, Oct 18, 10am–5pm • Artists Award Reception, Sat, 5pm–7pm • Sun, Oct 19, Noon–5pm • www.StockleyGardens.com



Since 1984, Hope House Foundation has hosted the Stockley Gardens Arts Festival, a two-day event featuring more than 120 artists displaying and selling their works. This year's Fall Stockley Garden Arts Festival will be held October 18 & 19, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Stockley Gardens Park provides a unique atmosphere for the festival with its garden setting in the heart of the historic district in Ghent. The festival attracts more than 25,000 people who enjoy the art, live music, an array of food and the community atmosphere every spring and fall. Artists come from across the United States and as far away as Israel to participate in the festival.

Music includes: Moaning Lisas, The Bartones, Esoteric Ramblers, The Tasty Specials Band and The Shifty South.

Art winners will be announced during The Art Party on Saturday, October 18 from 5 to 7 p.m. with Seth Stainback and Roosterfoot. Admission is free. The event includes a cash bar with wine and beer from O'Connor Brewery.

TowneBank is the presenting sponsor and other sponsors include Mancon, Inc., Miller Oil, Capital Group, Ghent Business Association, Sinclair Stations, WHRO, Coastal Virginia Magazine and VEER.



The Eyes of Hope



Hope Cup

This year's Hope Cup raised more than \$4,000 for Hope House. We had a record number of 30 teams (9 more than last year) and 327 players.



What Home means to me

Love begins at home,
and it is not how much we
do... but how much love
we put in that action.

—Mother Teresa



Ghent Bar Tour

The Ghent Bar Tour raised \$10,000 for Hope House.
Cheers to all who participated!



Ghent Bar Tour photos:
Atypical View Photography



What Home means to me

“The ache for home lives in all of us,
the safe place where we can go as we are
and not be questioned.”

—Maya Angelou



In the next issue of HopeNews,
we will explore the issue of Belonging.

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



Feather the Nest Has Transformed Homes

Feather the Nest is an annual event held in February at KDW Home and Shades of Light in Virginia Beach. The event draws hundreds of people who bring gifts and home décor items for the 130 people served by Hope House Foundation. The event is organized by Marvin Daniel, president of KDW Home, and is co-sponsored by Bryan Johnson and Chris Menasco of Shades of Light.

Every person who receives services has benefited from the outpouring of support. "The people we serve live on very modest incomes from jobs and disability payments," said Lynne Seagle. "Every person's home has been enriched in some way though gift cards, lamps, kitchen items or art."



In addition to the gifts and contributions, two local designers did two home makeovers for people who live in Virginia Beach. Duff Kliewer, principal of Cox, Kliewer & Company, and Anne Standing, owner of Panache Interiors, oversaw

the makeovers and enlisted even more support from local vendors, cabinet makers and installers.

"The makeovers are transformational," added Seagle. "One home belongs to a man who uses a wheelchair, and the entire apartment was designed to enhance every part of his daily life."

Pictured here is Danny Stroupe at his home in Norfolk. This year, Danny was able to purchase plants, pots, a weed eater and a welcome mat to enhance his landscaping and the curb appeal of his house. He is so appreciative of the support from the generous donors to Feather The Nest. "I was able to use the gift cards and picked out things that really help to make this house a home," said Danny. "Thank you to all!"

Chelsea West Fest



Meet us in Chelsea, Norfolk's newest beer, food, retail, fun district for the very first Chelsea West Fest. It will be a full-day celebration including music, vintage cars, food trucks and more. Gates open at noon, and the music

plays from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. Bands include: Esoteric Ramblers, The Wet Boys, The Lonely Tear Drops, Mudd Helmet, Gina Dalmas and The Cow Tippin' Playboys and much more with headliner: Southern Culture on the Skids! Don't miss this exciting new event in the Chelsea Business District in West Ghent, Norfolk. Tickets are \$10 in advance at www.hope-house.org or \$15 at the gate. Children 10 and under are free.



My Home

By Donna Smith, a person served by Hope House.

Hi, I'm Donna Smith, and I live at Pine Manor. I like Hope House because I get to live in an apartment, in a regular neighborhood and still get the support I need to live in the community. I lived in a group home when I first left my Virginia Beach home. I heard of Hope House through my sister who is also supported by Hope House. I was scared at first, but now I am loving it. I have a real nice apartment and I got a job at Eggleston Services. It was a hard thing to move from the group home because I didn't know what to expect at Hope House. I have a black pet fish in a 10-gallon fish tank. I like the staff that gives me support. I have learned some very important lessons from the staff. I like the things I do/get to do here because in the past I was not able to go anywhere. Living in the home I lived in Virginia Beach was almost like being in a hospital but was not. I am going to learn how to be more independent here. I have met some of my neighbors.

HAVE YOU HEARD THE BUZZ?

The Buzz is produced by the people Hope House supports. See previous articles at www.hope-house.org.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

We'll Be Shucking!

Tidewater Builders Association presents Hampton Road's First Annual Shucked in the Park, a new event to continue TBA's legacy of charitable giving. Since its inception, TBA has donated just over \$3.2 million in charitable and scholarship contributions. The association's goal is to contribute a portion of the proceeds from Shucked in the Park to the Hope House Foundation. Half of the proceeds from your ticket purchase of \$45 dollars will go to the Foundation.

Shucked in the Park will be held Friday October 24th from 3:30 to 7:00 pm at the 24th Street Park in Virginia Beach. The event will feature all-you-can-eat oysters, clam Chowder, pulled pork, fried chicken and all the fixings. An open bar will serve beer, wine, and soft drinks. Guests will enjoy music by the Mike Proffitt Band. For details, visit www.shuckedinthepark.com.



Linda Pirkle

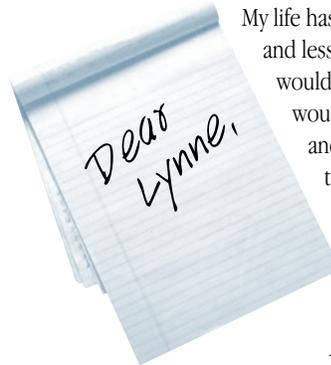


Linda Pirkle became a donor and a volunteer at the Stockley Gardens Arts Festival. Since 2009, she has donated every month specifically for the Community Support Program. This program assists people served by Hope House in their quest for full community inclusion. These include everyday activities that are often taken for granted by people without disabilities. The Community Support Program initiatives are not reimbursed through traditional funding sources so its funding is through donations. These funds include staffing and the cost of desired courses, community memberships and self-advocacy tools. We sincerely thank Linda for her dedication to making this program a reality for so many.

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2nd Annual 'Stache Bash

Jake's Place Men's Barbering Lounge and Spa and Hope House Foundation are kicking off the holiday season with a facial hair battle. It will be held on Sunday, December 7th from 4pm-7pm at the Belmont House of Smoke, 2117 Colonial Ave, Norfolk. Get ready for an evening of MUSTACHE MADNESS! Admission is free with suggested donation of \$5. www.hope-house.org



My life has been forever impacted by the memories and lessons I've learned this summer. I knew I would love working here, but I didn't know it would be this much. I learned about the heart and what Hope House is all about. I will never take these lessons for granted because I truly believe they have influenced my life for good. I cannot wait to come back to visit or possibly stay. The experience could not have been better.

—Shea McKee, Summer Development Intern

What Home means to me

"A girl phoned me the other day and said... 'Come on over, there's nobody home.' I went over. Nobody was home."

—Rodney Dangerfield

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*In this issue Hope House
Foundation explores the
concept of HOME*

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events

BE OUR FRIEND!



- Oct 4** **Chelsea West Fest** Meet us in Chelsea, Norfolk's newest beer, food, retail, fun district for a full-day celebration including music, vintage cars, food trucks and more. Gates open at noon. Ticket \$10 in advance at www.Hope-house.org or \$15 at event.
- Oct 18–19** **TowneBank presents the 2014 Stockley Gardens Fall Arts Festival.** Enjoy the works of over 140 artists in a variety of mediums on Saturday, October 19, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, October 20, from noon to 5 p.m.. The after-hours party and artists' reception will take place on Saturday from 5–7 p.m. Visit StockleyGardens.com for more information.
- Oct 24** **Shucked In The Park.** Presented by Tidewater Builders Association. 3:30–7:00 p.m. at the 24th Street Park in Virginia Beach. The event will feature all-you-can-eat oysters and more. Music by the Mike Proffitt Band.
- Dec 7** **Ghent Holiday 'Stache Bash.** On December 7, 2014, from 4–7 p.m., Jake's Place Men's Barbering Lounge teams up with Hope House to kick off the holiday season with a facial hair battle. From 4–7 p.m. at Belmont House of Smoke. Get ready for an evening of MUSTACH MADNESS! Admission is free with a suggested donation of \$5. Learn more about this and other events on this page at Hope-House.org.

Visit Hope-House-Thrift-Store.com to find out about the thrift store's daily and biweekly deals!