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# House of Hope Newsletter

812 Merrimack St, Lowell MA 01854

(978) 458-2870

[www.houseofhopelowell.org](http://www.houseofhopelowell.org)

December 2016

Dear Friends,

On Thursday, October 27, 2016, House of Hope celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> Harvest of Hope, welcoming attendees to the former Merrimack River Valley House in Lowell, soon to be temporary home for 30 homeless families. We also took the time to honor three individuals who have made major contributions over these many years: Nels Palm, Sister Jeanne Poor, SGM, and Patricia Sullivan Talty.

In addition to honoring Nels, Patty and Sister Jeanne, this year's Harvest gave us an opportunity to host our annual event at one of our properties rather than celebrating in the home of one of our friends in the community as we usually do. In opening our doors for this event, we were able to invite our guests to explore an amazing, historic building that has been a part of Lowell for 135 years. Harvest attendees were also able to view a model room sponsored by a gift from the Galli Family of Winchester and soon to be occupied by a family of four. We still have a number of room sponsorship opportunities available - what could be a better gift than providing comfort to a homeless family? Please visit our website to learn more about adopting a room in House of Hope at Fletcher. In preparation for this **Jubilee Harvest Year**, House of Hope has launched a brand new website and created a 2016 Report titled, [A Journey Nurtured in Hope](#). This report, as well as photos from this and other Harvests, is available at [www.HouseOfHopeLowell.org](http://www.HouseOfHopeLowell.org). We hope you will take the time to visit and learn more about House of Hope and House of Hope Housing.



**House of Hope celebrates Inspirational Service Award recipients Nels Palm, House of Hope's Founder Sister Jeanne Poor, SGM and Patricia Sullivan-Talty.**

Fondly,  
*Deb Chausse, Executive Director*

# PLEASE SPONSOR A NEW SHELTER ROOM

House of Hope must furnish 30 new shelter rooms for all of our new families at 520 Fletcher Street (pictured at right.) **Please sponsor a room for a family and have a room named in your honor.** The donation to Sponsor a room for a family of two is \$1,500; to Sponsor a room for a family of three is \$1,750. A family of four is \$2,000 and a family of five is \$2,250. Sponsorships include institutional metal beds, bed-bug resistant mattresses, crib, crib mattress, bureau, TV and a chair. A model Bed-Room is pictured at left and is available to visit. Please contact Jennifer Sharkey, with questions, to visit, or to Sponsor a Room at 978-458-2870 or [jennifer.sharkey@houseofhopelowell.org](mailto:jennifer.sharkey@houseofhopelowell.org).



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# PLEASE SPONSOR A WELCOME BASKET

The Welcome Basket is a gift from House of Hope to every family who comes through our door. The basket communicates that someone cares, while also providing essential everyday items. Please sponsor a welcome basket for one of our 30 new shelter families! Here's what's included:

- |                                    |                          |            |                       |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Rectangle laundry basket           | Lotion                   | Lip Balm   | Razors                |
| Bath towel, Hand towel, face cloth | Baby bottle              | Hairbrush  | Shave Cream           |
| Full size shampoo/conditioner      | Baby lotion              | Bed Pillow | Bar soap/ soap holder |
| Feminine Products                  | Baby body wash           | Deodorant  |                       |
| Portable shower caddy              | Toothpaste               | Baby Wipes |                       |
| Adult Toothbrush/toothbrush holder | Diapers sizes 3, 4, 5, 6 |            |                       |
| Child Toothbrush/toothbrush holder | Small new stuffed animal |            |                       |

Donors may either shop for the items and create their own basket or donate what you can towards a Welcome Basket. For more information please email Edna Gustafson at [edna.gustafson@houseofhopelowell.org](mailto:edna.gustafson@houseofhopelowell.org) or call 978-458-2870.

**Thank you to The Advocator Group in Wakefield for donating 12 welcome baskets for our new shelter!**



**Thank you to Boston Capital for the large donation of quilts, sheets and bed pillows for the new Fletcher Shelter program.**



**Thank you to Tom Panniello of National Sharpening Company in North Andover for sharpening all of our kitchen knives in 2016.**



## HOH NEEDS LIST

- |              |                     |  |                  |                  |
|--------------|---------------------|--|------------------|------------------|
| Tissue Boxes | White Rice          | Lysol/Clorox wipes                               | Floor Cleaner    | Dish Detergent   |
| Juice Boxes  | Gallon Plastic Bags | Face Cloths/hand towels                          | Brown Lunch Bags | AA & D Batteries |
| Dish Sponges | Hangers             | White Dish Towels                                | Bar Soap         | Baby Wipes       |
|              |                     | Small Gift Cards to Walmart/Target/Market Basket |                  |                  |





2016 Harvest of Hope—30th Year Jubilee



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS: Daniel O'Connor, President; Kate Tyndall, Vice-President; Brian Stafford, CPA., Treasurer; Dale Makowski, Secretary

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### *May the Hope of the Season find a Home in You*

This Newsletter is being sent to you, our community of supporters, with the very Best Blessings for a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season. We continue to hope for the day when our services are not needed and our national discussion becomes about reducing poverty for millions of families. Until that day, we commit to doing as much for homeless families as we possibly can. We thank you and sincerely ask that you continue to be active in sustaining our mission!

## House of Hope at 30 and What a Jubilee Year it has Been!

House of Hope has experienced an extraordinary year of growth throughout 2016 starting in May with the purchase of the former Merrimack River Valley House at 520 Fletcher Street from the D'Youville Life and Wellness Community. This magnificent building will soon be home to 30 homeless families which will more than double our capacity to serve. As we worked to secure funding for child and family friendly renovations we also wanted to better tell our story so that our friends and supporters will understand how we became who we are today. To that end, we hired a professional marketing firm to lead us through totally rebuilding our website. Today, House of Hope has a website that is clear and easy to navigate, please take the time to explore it at [www.HouseOfHopedowell.org](http://www.HouseOfHopedowell.org). As a companion to the website, we also created a report entitled [A Journey Nurtured in Hope, 2016 Report Jubilee Edition](#). This report also tells our story and celebrates some of the individuals who contributed to our success. It is a story of a compassionate beginning and speaks to our long-term strategy of transforming all of our shelter buildings into apartments for poor families. This report can also be found on our website, please take the time to read it as you will know us better if you do.



We are not done! House of Hope Housing (an affiliate of House of Hope) has just closed on our newest and most ambitious housing project to date. We acquired the former Horn Home on Smith Street in Lowell also from our friends at D'Youville and we will, after preserving the original building, add-on to the back to create 16 units of permanent housing with support services for homeless families. These major accomplishments, combined with sheltering 28 families 24/7 and providing permanent housing for 22 families has collectively made this a 30 year anniversary worth celebrating, indeed, a JUBILEE YEAR! Our success is dependent on many factors, including our community of supporters who lovingly give to us what they can. We pledge to continue to be good stewards of your gifts as we challenge ourselves to do as much as we can for homeless children and their parents. Thank you, God Bless You and Best Wishes for a Holiday Season of Hope and Love.

## John Dery Retires

Last month, we said a fond farewell to John Dery, House of Hope's Maintenance Supervisor, who retired to spend more time with his two new grandchildren! John began working at HOH during a time of transition for our organization as new opportunities for expansion were on the horizon. During John's tenure, the maintenance department expanded with the addition of two full time staff, the rollout of a web-based work order program, and the acquisition of two new properties for both permanent housing and temporary shelter.



But more than his valuable skills as a contractor, John brought humor and compassion to his role at House of Hope. The families and staff appreciated his dedication and kind nature, and the children saw him as both a role model and a trusted adult who always treated them with respect and friendship. All of us at House of Hope will miss John, but we are so very happy for him as he begins a new adventure in his life, enjoying everything he has worked so hard for all of these years.

