Dear Friends,

This fall we had a ribbon-cutting on Pawtucket Street for seven beautiful, completely renovated units of permanent housing for homeless families. All seven families have settled into permanent, affordable homes with supportive services available through House of Hope Housing.

With a total of 21 families housed in our properties, House of Hope Housing’s commitment to permanent supportive housing as the solution to family homelessness is as strong as ever and we are hoping to announce our next housing project soon! But, as our Board President Laurie Gould has voiced, “With the growing number of homeless families stuck in motels throughout the state, we are asking ourselves how, in 2015, we should prioritize our efforts to support those families in their journey to stability and self-sufficiency. In that spirit, House of Hope is embarking on a new strategic planning process that will help us to chart a path forward for the next several years.”

So stay tuned.

During this season of giving, we are inspired by the faces, talents, gifts and time our community commits to helping our families. Every gesture and gift makes a difference in the lives of the children we serve. We pledge to be compassionate stewards of your trust, and to meet each and every family on their unique path to finding a stable and safe home. On behalf of our families in our shelters and housing, as well as our employees and board of directors, we wish you Hope and Health for the Holidays and throughout the New Year.

— Deb Chausse, Executive Director

Lots of Team Spirit Here!

Thank you to UMASS Lowell Hockey Team who did a Fall cleanup on Veterans Day!

A BIG thanks to St Elizabeth’s Church in Wilmington who annually serve our Thanksgiving meal!

Middlesex Community College students making service fun at the shelter!
‘Tis the season for giving! Please sponsor a Holiday Gift Card Tree or a Most-Needed-Goods Giving Tree. To sponsor a giving tree please contact Edna Gustafson at edna.gustafson@hopelowell.org.

HARVEST 2014 WAS “THE BEES KNEES”!

We had a full house at this year’s Harvest of Hope Benefit with our Bees Knees, Cat’s Meow and Hotsy Totsy Event Sponsors! So many dear friends joined us at the beautiful home of Senator Eileen Donoghue and Mr. John ‘Connor. Thanks to our generous community, over $56,000 was raised for HOH Shelters and HOH Housing!

Upgrades!

A HUGE THANK YOU to BAE Systems in Nashua, NH for their recent donation to HOH. Through their FOCUS Program (Fixing Old Computers for Use of Students), we received 15 refurbished computers with significant memory and hard drive capacity upgrades, along with monitors, keyboards, and other hardware necessities. The FOCUS Program was created in 1998 by a small group of employee volunteers seeking to serve the community - mentoring students with an interest in technology and providing functional computers to organizations in need. With technology demands increasing at a steady pace, non-profits are often at a disadvantage due to budget constraints and limited resources. Upgrading or replacing aging equipment is costly, but necessary, as more of our services and funders require internet-based engagement and digital record keeping. Having up to date systems gives us the ability to communicate and perform better and faster than ever - which greatly benefits the people we serve.

Milly is Home for the Holidays

“I don’t know how I can ever thank House of Hope enough!” - Milly

Milly first walked through the doors of House of Hope as a volunteer. She enjoyed helping the families here because she too was living in a nearby shelter at the time. At 21 years old, she was living at a teen shelter with her 1 year old daughter Briannah. Due to her age, Milly was about to transfer to an adult shelter, when Marianne Staid, HOH Shelter Operations Director, encouraged her to apply for one of the first units of HOH Housing back in 2007. Milly had a job with a very small income but it was enough to qualify her for our apartment and she got it!

“HOH gave me a home when I had no home.” She kept working, got her Associates Degree in Biotechnology, completed Budget Buddies and increased her income slowly but surely. Soon, Lindsey DiRocco, Housing Program Manager, encouraged Milly to go house-hunting. Lindsey helped Milly to believe she could make the numbers work. At the last minute her financing fell through, but Lindsey was there to help her find a mortgage and she closed 3 weeks later. Now Millie and Briannah, now 9 years old, have moved into their own home in Lowell. When asked how she overcame all of her hurdles, Milly was clear; “I focused on my daughter; I didn’t want to show her that I was failing in any way. That’s why I kept going.” Milly works full-time and she still finds the time to work per-diem to support some of today’s homeless mothers. She helps them see that they can succeed.