

House of Hope, Inc.
812 Merrimack Street
Lowell, MA. 01854

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House of Hope Newsletter

812 Merrimack Street, Lowell MA 01854 (978) 458-2870 www.houseofhopelowell.org Spring/Summer 2017



circa 1890



How will we know it's us without our past?
-John Steinbeck, *Grapes of Wrath*



circa 2017



Grand Opening

Please join the House of Hope Community as we celebrate the grand opening of our most recent residence at 520 Fletcher Street in Lowell.

We are grateful to so many who helped us to acquire and re-use this majestic and historic building, and to those countless elderly women and their caretakers who have called her home over the past 140 years.

We pledge to provide a quality of service and loving support that will continue the sacred tradition of the Merrimack River Valley House aka *The Old Ladies Home of Lowell*.

Tuesday, July 18th at 3pm

Please park on Fletcher Street and stay for light snacks prepared by House of Hope's culinary interns.

Please RSVP to Maureen at (978) 654-6778

Garrett Gets Going!

Krystal, Michael and Garrett packed up everything in the U-Haul and hit the road! When Garrett and his parents arrived at HOH last September, his parents were unemployed and "petrified." The property they were renting in Lynn was sold and they had nowhere to go. They adjusted quickly to life living in shelter and following rules that weren't their own.

HOH helped Michael find a job at UPS in Chelmsford and Krystal started and completed one of our internships at The Hope Chest. Krystal received help with her resume, job applications and interviewing and she landed a job at PetSmart. Michael maintained the UPS job and 2-year-old Garrett successfully won the hearts of all of the HOH staff.

"Dora made us feel like champions," said Krystal. Dora Buote, their HOH Case Manager, was clear that they did exactly what they needed to do: they didn't give up on themselves, on each other, or their goal to move to South Carolina.

On Friday, June 5th their U-Haul headed down to South Carolina where Krystal plans to continue her work at PetSmart as a Pet Care Technician. Michael has already contacted the UPS office in his new South Carolina town to continue his work as a Truck Loader at that UPS Customer Center. According to Krystal, "I met some of the most wonderful people I will ever know here at HOH." That experience is a little something we are glad they can take with them.



LEARN 2 WORK PROGRAM HAS LAUNCHED!



House of Hope has launched its new Learn2Work Culinary Internship Program! As HOH has more than doubled in size, it makes sense that doing the work of operating the shelters should benefit the homeless families who receive our services. Our plan is that, by adding the Culinary Skills component to our workforce development program, HOH will take full advantage of the magnificent kitchen at our new shelter location on Fletcher Street. The program is teaching homeless parents the basics of institutional kitchens, commissary food preparations, and preparing them to serve as cooks in local universities, hospitals or nursing homes, or as prep cooks in high end restaurants. The Learn2Work Program offers a supportive learning environment with paid, on the job training for to up to 6 HOH interns at a time. Since there are now 58 families sheltered nightly, as many as 200 people will require breakfast, lunch and dinner on a daily basis.



Since 2012, HOH has been providing retail sales and customer service internships at our non-profit re-sale store "The Hope Chest." In order to manage this new opportunity, HOH has hired John Rork, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America who has 15 years of experience as a culinary instructor. Most recently, John has 7+ years of experience in working with at-risk and challenging populations providing intensive, immersive instruction in the culinary arts. John is also a certified ServSafe instructor who will be providing ServSafe instruction to our interns. Also, our employee Rachel Young has been promoted to Head Cook & Instructor for the Learn2Work program.

Acquiring job skills is not the only aspect of our program, as many of our interns need to quite literally learn how to work. The Learn2Work Program provides soft skills training and job-placement support to each and every intern. The soft skills training includes Job Readiness Training, Communications Skills, Life Management Skills, Decision-Making Skills, Customer Service Skills and Career Planning Skills.

Interns prepare meals at the Fletcher Street kitchen and transport meals to the other two shelter locations. Interns gain job skills and are empowered to implement personal career plans and work through employment issues that are the basis for any employment success. Learn2Work is House of Hope's workforce development program delivered with the goal of empowering homeless parents with essential employment skills, a positive employment experience, and an increased sense of self-worth to serve as the foundation for long-term employment stability.



\$100K for 100 Cummings Foundation

House of Hope is delighted to announce that we have been selected to receive a \$100,000 Grant from Cummings Properties in 2017 under the "#100Kfor100" Program! HOH was chosen from a total of 549 applicants during a competitive review process. This grant will allow us to complete Phase 2 of the Fletcher Shelter renovation and construction project in order to serve 30 additional homeless families in Lowell, MA. A BIG thank you to Cummings Foundation!

A Spring Thank You



To the Loveless Family, Gath Insurance Agency, St. Patrick's Church of Pelham, and the Middlesex Mamas for the fabulous and generous Easter Gifts!

I SCREAM SOCIALS ?

If you are interested in hosting an ice cream social at one of our shelters please contact Edna Gustafson, Director of House Management at (978) 458-2870 or email edna.gustafson@houseofhopelowell.org
The kids love it!



You are invited to the 29th Annual Teal Invitational Golf Tournament!
Monday, July 24, 2017 8:30AM
Cost \$125

Four Oaks Country Club
Dracut, MA

To Sponsor a Hole, Donate a Prize or Purchase Tickets,
email: mteal@bostoncapital.com
Before June 30, 2017



YOU ARE MAKING HOPE HAPPEN!



THANK YOU to everyone who donated to House of Hope this past Holiday Season! Together, we provided the magic of Christmas with presents and love for 227 children from 120 families. The Adopt-a-Child Program received immense community support from so many families, companies, churches, organizations and individuals who shared their blessings and their kindness! ***Together, we make all the difference!*** - Edna Gustafson, Director of House Management.

HOH NEEDS LIST

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| Mayo/ketchup/mustard | Flatware- teaspoons/forks | Dessert mixes | New Twin and Full Quilts (sorry no comforters) |
| Salad Dressings | Rectangle laundry baskets | Diapers sizes 4,5,6 | New Twin and Full Sheets |
| Aerosol disinfectant | New Bath towels/hand towels | Bed Pillows | Free and clear liquid or POD laundry detergent |
| Boxes of tissues | Toilet paper | Paper towels | AA batteries & D batteries |
| Coffee/sugar/Splenda/nondairy creamer | Snacks- crackers/granola bars/trail mix /cookies, etc | Dollhouse furniture and figurines | |