

House of Hope
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House of Hope Newsletter



812 Merrimack St, Lowell MA 01854

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www.houseofhopelowell.org

December 2018

Dear Friends,

December 2018 ... 20 years since I came to the wonderful community known as House of Hope. Throughout the years I have come to know homeless families who have more courage and commitment than I could have ever imagined. I have witnessed staff whose compassion and love have enabled miracles and board members whose generosity and bigheartedness have leveraged more kindness and support than anyone of us thought possible.

Now we are about to embrace another Christmas Season and we are blessed to be able to comfort and assist more than 100 families with our love because our community of supporters make it possible. I am confident that I speak for House of Hope's families, staff and board when I acknowledge how much better you make our lives by your generosity to homeless families. We get to witness the joy that you enable and for most of our families joy is a rare happening.

We are also in awe as we watch our beautiful new building at 98 Smith Street take shape. The former Horn Home now looks like a stately structure that will be a permanent home for 17 homeless families. We are overwhelmed to know the impact that affordable, attractive and permanent homes will have on those families who will call it home. Mothers will not live in fear of eviction due to expensive rent and children will not be wondering when they will have to move, or change schools, or make new friends.

Your compassion and charity enables House of Hope to achieve great things and I ask that you continue to support us by offering your time, talent and treasure. Most especially, please continue to prayerfully support us because for both the staff and families of House of Hope, most days are not like Christmas Day!

We wish you a holiday season of health and hope and happiness and look forward to your continued support of our essential mission.

Sincerely, *Deb Chausse*, Executive Director



Photo by Greig Cranna

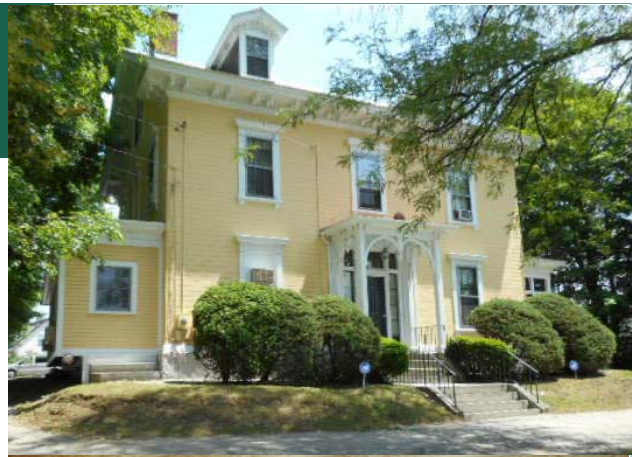
NEW HOPE 3 IS ALMOST HERE

House of Hope Housing (HOHH) has construction at 98 Smith Street well under way! We are renovating the beautiful house (picture, top right), formerly known as The Horn Home for the Aged, and constructing an addition on the back of the property that will result in a total of 17 new permanent, affordable apartments for previously-homeless families.

HOHH has been blessed with an amazing project team; Davis Square Architects Inc., Quality Contracting Inc., the State of Massachusetts,



Department of Housing and Community Development, the Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation, the City of Lowell, our local lender, Enterprise Bank, and HOH's staff and board members, all working together to provide much-needed housing to families in our community.



On The Move!

By Chad Foley

Every family placed at House of Hope is assigned to a Housing Advocate with a goal of attaining sustainable housing for the family. Currently this fiscal year, House of Hope has successfully placed 22 families

into sustainable housing. Of these placements, fifteen families were placed into housing units where rent is based on approximately 30% of their income, four families were placed into tax credit affordable units, two families were placed into market rate units, and one family was placed out of state. The placements for these families varied between the following towns/cities: Lowell, MA (10), Leominster, MA (6), Chelmsford, MA (2), Ipswich, MA (1), Gloucester, MA (1), Waltham, MA (1), and Arlington, TN (1).

Of these families, all but one received funds from the state to assist with their transition through HomeBase funds (19) and/or Strategic Rehousing Initiative funds (17). The one family that did not receive any funds from the state was placed into a Transitional Housing Program in which funds are not necessary (no lease up costs, fully furnished) until the graduation from the program when they have access to funds as necessary. For each of these families, a Housing Advocate continues to work with the family throughout their first year of placement to provide stabilization services. Stabilization services help clients implement their financial goals, lease compliance, education and employment goals, and health and well-being goals for the family. The stabilization services are in place with a goal of ensuring a positive, successful transition, setting these families up for future success. Currently, there are four additional moves in process, one of each to the following cities: Lowell, Methuen, Leominster, and Fall River.



HOH WINTER NEEDS LIST



Bleach
Twin Sheets
White dish towels

Toilet paper
Full Sheets
Boxes of Tissues

Free & Clear Laundry Pods
Mens toiletries
Press-to-close plastic baggies

All purpose spray cleaners
Women's toiletries
Paper plates

Paper towels
AA, AAA & D Batteries
7-12 oz plastic cups

Gift Cards for teens and parents to Walmart/Target/Market Basket/CVS/RiteAid/ Barnes & Noble/Dollar Tree/
Five Below/ Dunkin Donuts/ McDonald's/ Gas Stations



For online shoppers, please go to House of Hope's three easy Amazon Wish Lists at <http://a.co/5M5QmPV>. There is a list for the children, one for the adults, and one for books for the shelters! These gifts can be shipped directly to the shelter!

For more information please email Edna at edna.gustafson@houseofhopelowell.org or call 978-458-2870. Check out our "Needs List" post every month on Facebook too!



Harvest of Hope 2018



May the Hope of the Season find a Home in You

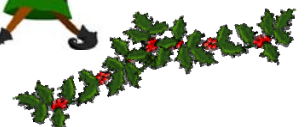
This Newsletter is being sent to you, our community of supporters, with the very Best Blessings for a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season. We continue to hope for the day when our services are not needed and our national discussion becomes about reducing poverty for millions of families. Until that day, 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!

DID YOU KNOW THAT



toy "drop offs." On average, House of Hope has helped 225-250 kids each year. We anticipate that with your help, we will serve over 250 children this holiday season!

House of Hope elves have been planning for Christmas since September, that's when we start gathering information on the children from the parents. We strive to give each child at least three wishes and a new outfit. House of Hope has donors giving in the following ways: Adopt a Child, Giving Trees, Toy Drives, Amazon Wish Lists, and good old fashioned



Thank You Patty Talty!



Deb Chausse and Patricia Sullivan Talty

Patricia Sullivan Talty, better known throughout our community as "Patty", has had a long-standing and loving commitment to House of Hope since she joined our Board of Directors in 1996. Over the period of 22 years, Patty has served in several capacities including Board President, Vice-President, Pro-Bono Attorney, Founder of the affiliated nonprofit House of Hope Housing and quite simply, as a persistent voice for justice as she has encouraged and supported House of Hope and House of Hope Housing to pursue a path that leads to enhanced shelter services and the creation of permanent housing for homeless families.

Patty is retiring from our Board. We hate to say good-bye because the families we serve have benefitted from her calm and effective leadership for decades. We wish Patty all the best and look forward to her continuing as board emeritus status.

Tufts Health Plan Volunteers

House of Hope sends out a big thank you to Tufts Health Plan of Watertown, MA. Tufts sent over 9 volunteers to



House of Hope. The volunteers were excellent and they deep cleaned our Merrimack Shelter playroom! We really appreciate the help of our volunteers. Our families will enjoy all of the fun in the playroom with none of the germs.

Gifts from TJX

The Bedford TJ Maxx Team, on behalf of the TJX Foundation, awarded HOH **\$10,000 again!** The TJX Foundation invests in non-profit organizations that address their mission of helping families most in need build a valuable future -- one where families and children are safe and secure, and have the opportunities they need to thrive. We are honored to accept this grant which will help us to provide the very best services to the homeless families we serve.

Thank you,
TJX!

