

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 2019

Dear Friends,

A Dream Becomes a Reality ... *again!*

168 years ago the beautiful building at 98 Smith Street was constructed. In 1928 this Italianate mansion became a rest home for elders and lovingly served that critical function until closing their doors a few years ago. Soon after, House of Hope Housing was fortunate to acquire the property and gave birth to another dream for its continuing use. We wanted this building to serve our poorest neighbors by creating affordable and permanent apartments for families in emergency shelters.

And today, early summer 2019, we are on the verge of welcoming 17 families into a beautiful and solidly built residence that will enable them to settle, focus and achieve.

Our Grand Opening date is not yet set but we plan to have a P-A-R-T-Y as we celebrate this critical accomplishment and thank some of the individuals and institutions that have made this dream come true. The celebration will be during the summer and I hope you will be able to join us and see the preservation and transformation of this grand old building. Please like us on Facebook [@HouseOfHopeLowell](https://www.facebook.com/HouseOfHopeLowell) so that you will receive a notice when the date is set.



HOUSE OF PRAYER TO HOUSE OF HOPE

San Damiano House of Prayer has passed the torch to House of Hope. Sister Linda Greenwood and Sister Kay Rebholz have had a ministry of service in the Lowell Community for 20 years. They are retiring in 2019 and are thankful that the property at 333 Pawtucket Street will continue its mission of service with new owners - the House of Hope! HOH is being welcomed to continue our work and will utilize this beloved property to continue our mission of serving homeless families. On April 28th the sisters hosted a celebration and "thoughts and feelings of gratitude were wrapped in this symbolic exchange, marking a new beginning," said Elaine Lareau, the reporter for the San Damiano newsletter.



(Inset) Sister Linda Greenwood and Sister Kay Rebholz (front) are pictured with HOH director Deborah Chausse, Sister Jane Holland and Sister Jeanne Poor, founder of House of Hope.

Until that time and on behalf of the families who will be blessed to call this building their home, I want to thank you for your support; your time, your talent, your treasure and your prayers. This is our largest project to date and indeed it has taken the efforts of us all to achieve this amazing outcome.

Sincerely,
Deb Chausse, Executive Director

**You are invited to the
31st Annual Teal Invitational
Golf Tournament!**
Monday, July 22, 2019 8:30AM
Cost \$130

Four Oaks Country Club
Dracut, MA.
To Sponsor a Hole,
Donate a Prize or
Purchase a Foursome, email
mteal@bostoncapital.com
Before June 30, 2019



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are in need of volunteers this summer:

- Once a week to lead our children in play (must be 16+ without a parent) Mondays & Wednesdays (6-8pm)
- Once a week to serve dinner and do cleanup, Tuesdays and Wednesdays (4:30-6:30pm)

Small groups (3-6 People) once/week or once/month:

- To lead our children in play (6-8pm) Tuesdays—Fridays are available. Some Saturdays are available (2-4pm)
- To serve dinner and do cleanup (4:30-6:30pm) all seven days a week are currently available.

Please call Paula McCarron at 978.458.2870 or email at paula.mccarron@houseofhopelowell.org with any questions or to schedule a required orientation. In 2018, HOH had a total of 794 volunteers serve 2,204 hours!

On The Move

By Chad Foley

Nathan, a 17 year old young man living in one of our House of Hope Housing apartments with his mother and three siblings, recently was going through some difficult times. With the support of his loving family and House of Hope he has persevered through these difficult times. He has since begun to receive additional mental health services and has transitioned to YouthBuild for schooling. Since transitioning to YouthBuild, he has been chosen by YouthBuild to go to Washington D.C., he has become Class President of YouthBuild, he has received a scholarship through YouthBuild, and he is currently going through the process to receive a scholarship through Lowell Housing Authority. Nathan has come such a long way in a very short time period.

GLCF THANK YOU

We are very grateful to the Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF) and an anonymous donor for a capital grant for a new gas stove and fire suppression system at our Fletcher Shelter kitchen. Our cooks now have all of the tools they need to provide 3 meals a day for 58 homeless families and as importantly, our interns have a safe, modern and fully equipped kitchen to learn a trade which can be leveraged into a career. Thank you all so much!

'YOURS IN SERVICE'

After serving us so well over the past two years, Chef John Rork is leaving the House of Hope community. We will miss his can-do attitude, his positive spirit, his fantastic teaching, his kindness and of course—his food! John, we wish you all the best in your New York endeavors!



Jeannitha's Accomplishment!

Jeannitha started her internship this year with the goal of improving her professionalism, and while her interview did not go well (she ticked off about every 'don't-do' on the interview list), her character and motivation to succeed for herself and her family has shone through.

Jeannitha showed up on her first day and learned how to use the register and help customers in lightning-quick time. She set goals and targets and worked towards these throughout the internship. For example, Jeannitha worked on her professionalism with practice interviews from her volunteer mentor and staff members and continued to grow her resume throughout the internship, adding new skills to her growing repertoire every month. It wasn't all smooth sailing though, as she struggled on occasion with tardiness and had to work hard to juggle being a single mom of a toddler and getting to work on time.

Throughout the internship, Jeannitha has provided outstanding customer service to hundreds of customers, helped with marketing, organized donations, met and exceeded sales targets, designed window displays, and trained new interns. Jeannitha reported that working had not only improved her financial situation but has also helped her to improve her emotional and mental health. Jeannitha recently finished the internship, an achievement that she can look back on and be truly proud of. She is actively looking for her next job.



Cummings Foundation - Again!

House of Hope has been awarded a \$300,000 Sustaining Grant from Cummings Foundation to be disbursed over 10 years! House of Hope is delighted to receive the grant which will fund the Learn2Work Culinary Internship Program for homeless parents. HOH provides sorely needed paid job and culinary training internships to adult parents of the families served. By coordinating employment services with housing and homeless assistance, the program ensures that job training resources can support employment and eventually, long term housing sustainability. Each intern receives job readiness training, on-the-job training, retail work skills, one-on-one career counseling and job placement support.



Jennifer Sharkey, Deb Chausse, Bill Cummings

YOU ARE MAKING HOPE HAPPEN!

THANK YOU to all of the House of Hope supporters who put our families at the center of their holiday giving in 2018! Together, we provided the magic of Christmas with presents and love for **153 families with 302 children. 149 boys and 153 girls received loving gifts!** The Adopt-a-Child Program and the holiday "Giving Trees" both received immense community support from so many families, companies, churches, organizations and individuals who shared their time, talent, and treasure with those who need it most right here in our community! At Easter, we delivered baskets to 122 children from 74 families. For Mothers Day we shared special gifts for 52 mothers. **Together, we make all the difference!**

- Edna Gustafson, Operations Manager

HOH NEEDS LIST

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Brooms | Freeze Pops | 20 inch box fans | Coffee | Non-dairy Creamer | Plastic Baggies w/seals |
| Dust Pans | Sugar Packets | Bleach | Window Cleaner | Full-size Sheets | Aerosol Disinfectant |
| Pancake mix (add water) | | Maple Syrup | Sugar-free Drink Mixes (quart-size) | | All Purpose spray cleaner |



For on-line shoppers, please go to House of Hope's easy Amazon Wish List at <http://a.co/duicMZ9>. This list has toys and gifts for babies, children and teens. 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.