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House of Hope Newsletter

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www.houseofhopelowell.org

Fall/Winter 2022

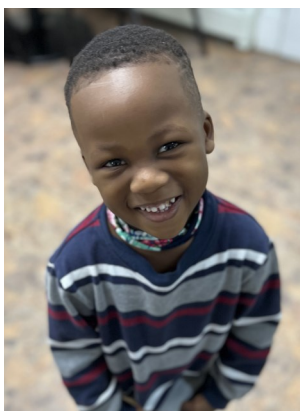
Dear Friends,

What a magnificent Fall season we have had! And, in typical New England fashion, we are plunged into the reality of Winter cold and certain snow. Since we have an amazing staff, strong Board of Directors and generous support from our community, we are ready to withstand the cold, dark months to come. But, before the Winter really sets in, we get to celebrate Christmas with 58 families in shelter and 39 families in apartments that we own and manage. For some of the children, this will be their best Christmas EVA because they are safe and Santa is exceedingly generous to the children in our care. Santa's generosity is directly related to you and to others who never fail to provide for our needs.

Community kindness to House of Hope is not limited to the Holiday Season and we are beneficiaries of great generosity throughout the year.

House of Hope believes that our gift back to the community is the high quality shelter, housing and services that we provide to our poorest neighbors. It is our sacred obligation to be good stewards of all of our resources to the benefit of our families and our organization. The Holiday Season is a good time to remind ourselves and our community that we live this obligation on a daily basis. It is my privilege to, once again, say **thank you** for all of the ways that you support us and to wish you blessings and good health during the Holiday Season and throughout the New Year.

Sincerely,
Deb Chausse, Executive Director



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Let's take a look at how some of our past families are doing after shelter...



Tahje and her daughters

We are so proud of our past resident Tahje. She is doing very well. While in shelter she went to school to be a paramedic. She is currently working at PrideStar Trinity EMS and recently received a promotion to be the Operations Supervisor, and Scheduler. Her children are doing very well. Jordyn is turning 8 and in the second grade, and Nova is turning 4 in April and still attends the same preschool as she did when in shelter. Mom has done such a great job in stabilizing her life for her girls. We could not be any happier for her.

Symaria left shelter in March 2020. She is living in an HOH Housing apartment and is moving on. Her son Kameron is 7 years old and is in the second grade and is doing great. She is a Registered Medical Assistant and recertified in 2019. She has been a Home Health Aid for 2 1/2 years. In addition to her work, she started her own on-line catering business on the side in 2020 and is growing it! Symaria says "House of Hope opened up some opportunities that I feel I would have never accomplished if I never entered HOH." She is moving to Quincy and we send her off with our best wishes!



Symaria and her son



Angela and her son

Angela moved out of shelter in March of 2017. She has been a successful HOH Housing tenant for 5 years. She was in shelter with her son Kewon who is now 7 years old. Kewon is doing well in school. Angela worked hard to get reunited with her 3 other children. Now they are all together and moving to a larger apartment to accommodate them all right here in Lowell. Kewon is helping his mom to pack! We will miss them and are excited that they have a future together!



Christmas Tree on our shelter porch



HOH WINTER NEEDS LIST



Baby Wipes
Toilet Paper
Boxed Tissues
Crib Sheets

Individually wrapped Snacks
Aerosol Disinfectant spray
Packed socks for Men & Women
Sleep sacks for Infants

Paper Towels
New toddler boys shirts
Packed Underwear for Men
Packed Underwear for Women

Diapers sizes 5 & 6
Press to close sandwich bags
New toddler boys pants
Birthday wrapping paper

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 Christmas Amazon Wish List: <https://a.co/6XXC0tS> and the Walmart Wish List: <https://www.walmart.com/registry/RR/4c31412b-2822-42b6-9f14-e9fbc5979eda>. 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!

The Rooftop Harvest of Hope Benefit



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS: Dan O'Connor, President;
Brian Stafford, Treasurer; Rachael Garneau, Secretary

DIRECTORS: Andrew Boyle, Jeff Bush, Ellen Cataldo, Connie Cogswell, Michael Conway, Ryan Dunn,
Diane Earl, Reja Gamble, Andrew Gilmore, Esq., Daniel Mansur, Esq., Barbara Smith

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Deborah Chausse

EMERITUS: Laurie Gould, Nels Palm, Patricia Sullivan Talty, Esq., Marc Teal

A GRACEFUL EXIT

Recently, the House of Hope staff gathered to say a fond farewell to Lashaun Woodliff, who has been our Director of Facilities for the past six years. During his time here, Lashaun helped implement many improvements to help us expand our maintenance department, including the creation of a maintenance shop. Lashaun also oversaw the renovations for the opening of our largest emergency shelter on Fletcher Street for 31 families, and the construction of our most recent housing development project, New Hope 3, which now provides beautiful homes to 17 formerly homeless families. But beyond his skills and experience, Lashaun brought a strong sense of mission and compassion to work with him every single day, and always treated everyone with kindness and respect. We will miss you, Lashaun!



Dan O'Connor (Board President), Lashaun Woodliff, Deb Chausse (Executive Director)

ON BOARD FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Board members Reja Gamble (far left) and Diane Earl (far right) join Deb Chausse and Edna Gustafson as UMASS Lowell students deliver new stuffed animals for the children who will be in House of Hope shelters for the Holidays. Thank you to our student neighbors!



The Hope Chest is now open three days a week! Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 11AM—5PM. Presently, we are in need of gently used children's clothing and shoes. Donations will be gratefully accepted at 520 Fletcher Street, Lowell. Please contact Edna.Gustafson@houseofhopelowell.org to schedule a donation drop off. Don't forget to stop in to our Hope Chest store which is located at 397 Market Street in Downtown Lowell!

One of the real joys of the Holiday Season is the opportunity to say "Thank You" and to wish you all the very best for the New Year!

