

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

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House of Hope Newsletter

812 Merrimack Street, Lowell MA 01854

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www.HouseOfHopeLowell.org

Spring/Summer 2023

*"In the midst of every crisis, lies great opportunity."
- Albert Einstein*

Dear Friends,

Who ever thought that I would be quoting Albert Einstein! Like many organizations, House of Hope has been experiencing some transitions as key employees have opted to pursue new opportunities. After a period of sadness knowing we would not be seeing our dear colleagues Jenn Farmer and Lashaun Woodliff on a daily basis, we followed the advice of Albert Einstein and made our crisis into an opportunity to foster leadership by fine tuning our structure, promoting existing staff, and bringing new talent through our doors. We are three months into our modifications and I am grateful to say that we are stronger and better prepared to meet the many challenges that lie ahead. Congratulations to Julie Lemire, our new Associate Director, and to Katelyn Mello, Justina Viens, Marianne Staid and Anthony Chirco, all of whom are directing Departments within House of Hope. I understand that no individual can make an organization excellent, but that many individuals operating as a team can, this is our greatest asset at House of Hope. Thank you for your support be it expressed as time, treasure or talent and know we will continue to do all that we can to ease the struggle for homeless families in our care.

Sincerely, *Deb Chausse*, Executive Director

A Sad Farewell

Jenn Farmer was our Director of Case Management and started at HOH as the Volunteer Coordinator, 19 years ago. During her time at House of Hope, Jenn obtained her Masters Degree in Social Work and became one of our most dedicated and valued employees. She worked closely with our families during her time with us—a passionate advocate for the well-being of all of our parents and children in the shelter. We hated to see her go, but we knew it was the best for her at this time. Jenn will always be a part of the House of Hope family and we know her contribution to homeless families will continue in her career.

*Deb Chausse, Jenn Farmer, and
Board President, Dan O'Connor*

**You are invited to the
34th Annual Teal Invitational
Golf Tournament!**

**Monday, July 24, 2023 8:30AM
Cost \$140 per person**

**Four Oaks Country Club
Dracut, MA.**

**To Sponsor a Hole,
Donate a Prize or
Purchase a Foursome,
email
marctea@comcast.net
Before June 24, 2023**



TINA IS A UML GRADUATE!

Tina was in our Varnum Avenue Shelter in 2018/2019; however, she has continued to be such an inspiration to all of us at House of Hope. I had the pleasure of attending the 2023 UMASS Lowell graduation this month and celebrating Tina's biggest success yet!



Katelyn and Tina

Tina became homeless in 2017, just after losing her biggest supporter (grandmother) and finding out she was pregnant. Just two months before giving birth, Tina entered a shelter. She gave birth to her son and she "knew [she] had to get [her] life together so [she] could be there to raise this cute little peanut." When her son was just 6 months old, she returned back to school and earned her Associate's Degree of Science in Biotechnology in May 2018. During this time, Tina also worked at a large Boston hospital as an Operating Room Assistant. She later applied and was accepted to UMASS Lowell's Bachelor program. Her commute was a struggle and she advocated to be transferred to a shelter closer to UMASS Lowell and was placed with us here at House of Hope. She continued to attend classes at UMASS Lowell and also participated in and completed our Learn 2 Work Kitchen Internship. After about 8 months of being in shelter at HOH, Tina secured permanent housing. House of Hope continued to provide stabilization services to Tina and her son while in their new apartment. She even returned to our program to participate and complete her second Learn 2 Work Retail Internship during the summer of 2021.



Tina and her children

Tina continued her classes at UMASS Lowell and on May 13, 2023 participated in the graduation ceremonies at the Tsongas Arena, earning her **Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering** degree!! She had the support of her two adorable boys, her sister, her mother, and her partner. We at House of Hope are so incredibly proud of Tina and all of her hard work and success. She is a true example of resilience, determination, hard work, and a great mother! Tina has always been so grateful for all the support she has received from House of Hope, even beyond her time at the shelter and post-stabilization. She knows she always has a place to come back to whenever she needs support. We might just be her biggest cheerleaders. She will often say how thankful she is and how much she has learned from her time at House of Hope, but the real truth is she has provided us at House of Hope more than she can ever imagine.

- Katelyn Mello, Director of Client Services

THE HOPE CHEST



In 2012, we opened our resale shop The Hope Chest which is located at 397 Market St. in Lowell. We sell gently used children's clothing.

We are a "Learn 2 Work Program" that teaches interns job skills in a retail setting and supports them in gaining employment.

Come on in and check the store

out! We are open Tuesdays- Thursdays 11am-5pm.

We are currently in need of gently used children's clothing sizes 18 months - sizes 14/16. We are especially in need of boy's clothing. We also accept children's footwear. To schedule a donation drop off please email edna.gustafson@houseofhopelowell.org or call 978.677.2018.

WWRTW WAY TO GO!

At Innovation Academy Charter School in Tyngsborough, the feminist and social justice after-school youth group "WWRTW" (We Who Run The World) collected a large monetary donation and needed items like diapers, food, paper goods, and clothing all to honor Women's History Month. What an accomplishment! Also thanks to Stephanie MacKinnon, Student Services Administrative Coordinator.



HOH NEEDS LIST

Juice Boxes
Individually wrapped snacks
Fabric laundry bags

Diapers sizes 4, 5 & 6
Baby Wipes
Playdoh

Free and Clear Laundry Pods
Baby Wash
High back booster car seats (NEW)

For online shoppers, please go to House of Hope's easy Amazon Wish List at <https://a.co/gKPsTp9> and WALMART LIST at <https://www.walmart.com/registry/RR/afc69098-dedf-4af8-9e47-0c241a60bd62>. Please ship items directly to HOH at 520 Fletcher St, Lowell Ma 01854. If you wish to receive a thank you letter, please include your name and mailing address on the packing slip so we can thank you!



We schedule donation drop offs on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 10am-2pm at 520 Fletcher Street For questions or to book a drop off for donations, please email Edna at edna.gustafson@HouseofHopeLowell.org or call 978-677-2018.