

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 2024

What people have the capacity to choose, they have the ability to change.
- Madeleine Albright

Dear Friends,

House of Hope and our sister organization, House of Hope Housing is about to close the books on our fiscal year. As we do so we think about all of the support that we have received throughout this past year and we are grateful. We also renew our pledge that throughout the next year we will spend your dollars, be they donations, gifts or government support (tax dollars) with care and stewardship. In spite of many challenges, some of them unprecedented, we continue to grow stronger from both a mission and a financial perspective. I attribute this to many factors; the strength and commitment of our Board, the skill and compassion of our staff, the unblemished reputation of our organization and the steadfast support from our community and benefactors. Today, more than ever, organizations like House of Hope need to thrive in order to effectively respond to the growing numbers and needs of homeless families. As you read this newsletter, you will get a glimpse of some of our successes, be it permanent housing placements, children's enhancement activities, or sound property management. And this is only the tip of the iceberg as every day brings new triumphs both big and small and we treasure them all. Thank you for being a part of our community and for supporting our mission. Enjoy this long awaited summer season and please continue to support our efforts.

Sincerely,

Deb Chausse, Executive Director

THANK YOU, CAROLINE!

For her Final Senior Project to graduate from the UMass Lowell Honors College, Caroline Hulverson created the **Riverhawks4Hope Club** on campus! Through this club, UML students have direct access to sign up for volunteer activities in the House of Hope Playrooms, daily, weekly, or monthly. Caroline has been a frequent visitor at House of Hope since February when the club officially launched, attending playgroups and the tutoring sessions weekly, and helping with many family events. She brought an army of eager and enthusiastic UML undergrads with her. Her efforts increased the capacity, quality, and impact of play and education at House of Hope. The UML Students provided about 50 percent of volunteer attendance this Spring, which averaged 15 volunteers doing 32 site visits with 57 volunteer hours per month!



Caroline Hulverson at the 2023 Graduation

You are invited to the
35th Annual Teal Invitational
Golf Tournament!

Monday, July 22, 2024 8:30AM
Cost \$150 per person

Four Oaks Country Club
Dracut, MA.

To Sponsor a Hole,
Donate a Prize or
Purchase a Foursome,
email
marcteam@comcast.net
Before June 22, 2024

FY24 HOME PLACEMENTS!

Our fiscal year starts on July 1 every year. So by early June, we have just about completed another whole year. Our Case Managers and Housing Advocates have been working hard assisting families with removing barriers to obtaining permanent housing. They have spent many hours connecting with landlords and property managers, assisting with applications, attending apartment viewings, helping complete all necessary paperwork for new lease ups, and advocating for our families. Many of the families in shelter have a primary language other than English; therefore, our workers also spend time translating for all of this to happen. Since July 1, 2023 we have assisted 31 families with moving into their new apartments from shelter!

This number (31 families) includes a single father with six children and a single mom with a young daughter who has fought hard to start a new life for her little family. Many of the families were accepted into low-income, subsidized housing projects. Fifteen of these families have moved into apartments within the Merrimack Valley region and our Housing Advocates also provide stabilization services to these families for at least two years. This includes visits, phone calls, advocacy and support with referrals, etc. The purpose of this service is to assist families, many of whom are renting an apartment on their own for the first time ever, with maintaining stability in the community and insuring housing success.



Client Stephane with Housing Advocate Stephany

House of Hope Housing provides supportive, low-income housing at five different sites in Lowell (totaling 39 apartments- 2-bedroom, 3-bedroom, and 4-bedroom apartments). Since July 1, 2023, 6 families moved out of these apartments. HOH was able to screen and approve 6 families from shelter to lease up in these housing units! These six families are provided with beautiful apartments with affordable rent and continue to receive support services from House of Hope’s Housing Advocates.

- Katelyn Mello, Director of Client Services



Rosa and Daughter w-Housing Advocate Lisa who assisted them on moving day!



YOUTH SERVICES NEWS!

This Spring, our Community Services Assistant, Pam Larocque, delivered on average 37 playgroups, reaching a total of 32 kids and many of them multiple times across all playgroups each month. There were 54 hours of play delivered monthly, as well. At our Fletcher Street Shelter, structured playgroups were regularly delivered about 4 days per week in the late afternoon and/or in the evening following dinner. Pam has also been playing at our smaller “Hope 2 Opportunity” Shelter on Wednesday evenings with a lot of success; the groups are smaller there, but children and parents are active and participatory. Pam’s playgroups have a capacity for 5 children, and the capacity increases depending on the number of volunteers. Afternoon Toddler Groups at Fletcher have also been highly rewarding and Pam continues to deliver them 2-3 days weekly. In the evenings with older children, playgroups included seasonal activities such as Spring Flower Lap Books and Zoo Animal Crafts. HOH has partnered with **School on Wheels** for the opportunity to provide professional quality tutoring services to the young residents at House of Hope.



HOH was also excited to welcome the **Pollard Memorial Library’s Bookmobile** for several visits. Staff from the Pollard arrived with the Bookmobile and all of its treasures on a beautiful May Afternoon and June Morning to share in a picnic with residents at the Fletcher Street Shelter Site. Eighteen families received library cards, and they checked out books immediately. Parents learned about library and community resources during the summer months. A Fletcher Street Dad also taught a few kids how to play soccer during the Pollard Picnic. House of Hope looks forward to a summer of sun, fun, and learning with our new friends at the Pollard Memorial Library.



HOH NEEDS LIST

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|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Juice Boxes/bottles of juice | Diapers sizes 5 & 6 | Bleach | Fabuloso |
| Jello/pudding/fruit cups | Boxed Tissues | Toilet Paper | Paper Towels |
| Bath towels/hand towels/facecloths | Pasta sauce | Brooms | Bath towels/hand towels |
| Package ladies underwear | Muffin/cake mix | Maple Syrup | Napkins |
| Aerosol disinfectant | Scrubbing Bubbles bathroom cleaner | | |

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> and TARGET LIST at Target.com Registry at <https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/houseofhope-1>. 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 take in donations drop offs Mondays through Saturdays between 10am-2pm at 520 Fletcher Street. For questions, please email Edna at edna.gustafson@HouseofHopeLowell.org or call 978-677-2018.