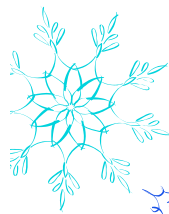
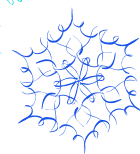


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House of Hope Newsletter



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Fall/Winter 2024

Dear Friends,

As major holidays approach—Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Christmas, and New Year's Day—it is easy to count the blessings and gifts we have received. This year, House of Hope and I have an extra reason to be grateful: after 25 years of leading this amazing agency, I am retiring. My retirement is not related to health, nor is it related to organizational concerns, it is simply because I recognize that House of Hope will benefit from new leadership.

Fortunately, we did not need to engage in a long and costly search process for the right candidate. Working with board members, my senior team, and a consultant, we determined that the ideal candidate to lead the agency is already here and has been for as long as I have worked at House of Hope. It is my pleasure to introduce Julie Lemire, who we have appointed as Executive Director effective January 1, 2025.

Julie is highly qualified for this role, having worked in many capacities during her long tenure. She climbed the ladder, beginning as an entry level support staff, eventually becoming a case manager and then department head, and was recently promoted to Associate Director. Julie has excelled in each of these positions while also pursuing a higher education, obtaining both an undergraduate and graduate degree since beginning her tenure at House of Hope.

I hope you agree with me that House of Hope is indeed blessed and gifted. So, this newsletter is likely the last I shall pen and sign on behalf of House of Hope. Your friendship and generosity has meant a lot to me, often far beyond the monetary value of gifts. Your kindness empowered me and my team, reminding us that in spite of the growing need and increasing distress experienced by the poor and homeless, you and our extended community of friends believe in our work. Above all things, I thank you for your compassion and confidence in our mission. Please join me in congratulating Julie Lemire on this appointment as Executive Director of House of Hope.

With Abiding Appreciation, *Deb Chausse*, Executive Director



"Leaving a Legacy"

How can we possibly look at a 25 year legacy and fold it into a newsletter? We can't. If you have been a friend to House of Hope for any length of time, then you know that **Deb Chausse IS House of Hope!** We can't picture this place without her! But we have to— it's time for Deb to retire. And thanks to Deb, House of Hope and House of Hope Housing are as strong as ever.

When Deb began her work at HOH in 2000, we had one building, sheltering 12 families. What she quickly recognized is that we also had a compassionate staff, generous board of directors and supportive community, and it was her job to leverage those assets enabling HOH to do more. And more we did!

In 2005 we opened our first apartment building called New Hope Apartments.

In 2007 we opened our co-shelter on Salem Street.

Also in 2007 we opened 3 more units of permanent housing on Lakeview Ave.

In 2009 we opened another shelter called Hope to Opportunity on Varnum Ave.

In 2014 we opened another apartment building, New Hope 2 on Pawtucket Street.

In 2017 we opened a large, fully ADA shelter on Fletcher Street.

In 2019 we opened New Hope 3 (also known as Bonenfant Place), 17 units of permanent housing on Smith Street.

Also in 2019 we acquired our Administrative/Training Space on Pawtucket Street.

In 2020 Deb led our families and staff through the maze of uncertainty, fear and madness of COVID.

And soon, thanks to Deb's leadership, we will be building 8 additional units of permanent housing on Varnum Avenue.

TODAY we are providing 58 families, about 200 individuals, shelter and the services to end their homelessness.

ADDITIONALLY we are providing permanent, affordable, respectful homes for 39 previously homeless families. We, you, the many who served House of Hope before us and those who will serve House of Hope after us, have held true to our Mission of providing advocacy and care for homeless families. Pictured to the right is the original House of Hope founder, Sister Jeanne Poor, with Julie Lemire and Deb Chausse, together at the Harvest in October. Three mission leaders—together to bless House of Hope.

Deb wishes her retirement reflected a reduction in need for our poorest neighbors. She wishes her retirement implied that the work is complete and that all children lived in safety. Regrettably, it does not. We must celebrate the thousands of families we have served and housed. As with all challenges House of Hope has faced over these 25 years, God has provided. We now have the right person: a longstanding, loved and respected employee—Julie Lemire—to carry on.

"Deb and I started almost 25 years ago a week apart," Julie recounts. "I was a 20-year-old trying to find my way and learn and Deb was coming in as a very seasoned Executive Director. I literally grew up watching her in action. We grew from one shelter to many shelters due to the need, and at the same time, we grew to have multiple units of permanent housing. Deb believed in the mission, that everyone deserves a home. Deb is a steward of fairness and she built the team with that model. I am extremely lucky to have been able to be a part of her legacy, to grow with her and House of Hope. I will be a good leader because a great leader believed in me."



Thank you, Deb Chausse, for your dedication and your vision. You will always be connected to House of Hope!



HOH WINTER NEEDS LIST



Floss
Napkins
Boxed tissues
Bottles of juice

Men's/ladies shave cream
Aerosol Disinfectant spray
Plastic stroller covers
Baby bottles

Individually wrapped Snacks
Baby monitors
Bleach
Ramen noodles

Diapers sizes 3, 4, 5 & 6
Baby wash
Full size bottles hair conditioner

Gift Cards for teens and parents to Walmart/Target/Market Basket/Amazon
Dollar Tree/ Five Below/ Dunkin Donuts/ Gas Stations

For online shoppers, please go to House of Hope's Christmas Amazon Wish List: <https://a.co/5NKi67D>, the Walmart Wish List: <https://www.walmart.com/registry/RR/afc69098-dedf-4af8-9e47-0c241a60bd62>, and the Target Wish List: <https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/houseofhope-1>. Please ship gifts directly to the shelter! So we can properly thank all of our generous donors, PLEASE include your name and address as a note on the online orders.



Please email Edna at edna.gustafson@houseofhopelowell.org or call 978-677-2018 for more information. All holiday donations should be shipped to or dropped off at 520 Fletcher St, Lowell, MA 01854.





The 2024 Harvest of Hope Benefit



It was "Hats Off to Housing" at the Vesper Country Club, so all of the funds went to House of Hope Housing! We are so thankful to our 50+ sponsors and our fabulous community!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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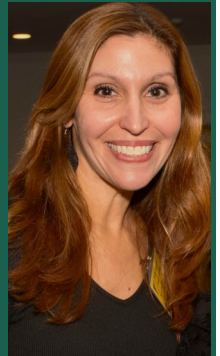
OUR NEW LEADER

By Marianne Staid, Director of Resident Services

Julie Lemire is truly the right person, at the right time, to take on the role of our new Executive Director of House of Hope. She has had many years of experience at House of Hope, fulfilling a variety of roles in her 25 years of employment; starting as a second shift Residential Support Staff, then Volunteer Coordinator, Case Worker, Program Manager, Case Management Co-Director and recently as Associate Director of Shelter Operations. She always worked diligently to acquire the needed skills to perform her duties while also earning her Masters in Social Work from Boston University.

Julie brings her enthusiasm and welcoming presence into her work, easily engaging with people of all ages. She is respected by all staff due to having a good relationship with the various departments and supervisors.

Julie is truly committed in continuing the mission of House of Hope shelter in serving the most vulnerable homeless families from various backgrounds, cultures and experiences. Julie is familiar with the inner workings of shelter life and has a good grasp of the needs and issues that arise on a regular basis. She is able to address the daily decisions needed to be made as well as seeing the larger, overall picture and needs. Julie is open to new possibilities and encourages her staff to share their needs and ideas related to improving our service. Julie has grown as a person and professional in her role as a human service provider. She is eager to take on her new responsibilities and challenges and HOH looks forward to supporting her and our whole team as we enter the New Year.



REST IN PEACE

We lost a very special member of the House of Hope Family in November. Deb Adie-Carignan, our RSS Supervisor, worked at House of Hope for 15 years.

In Julie Lemire's words, "Deb left an impression on my heart that I and so many others will never forget. We are blessed to have known her and feel the impact everyday of her not being with us. We find comfort in her memory and spirit that lives on."

According to Deb Chausse, "Deb loved HOH as much as HOH loved her. Deb would want the world to know that she loved working with her colleagues and helping new employees to develop into the kind of employee that HOH and the families we serve deserve. Deb was loved by staff and residents alike."

Please keep Deb's family in your prayers.



A NEW START!

The family pictured below was in shelter from September 2023 until November 2024. This little guy was born in April 2024, and has now received his keys to his first apartment! We wish this family the best of luck and look forward to continuing to work with them through our Stabilization Services.



Since January 2024, our Housing Resource Team has placed 43 families out of our shelters and into permanent housing and the year isn't even over yet!!



*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!*

