

House of Hope, Inc.
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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 2025

"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness." — Desmond Tutu

Hello and Welcome to House of Hope!

My name is Julie and I have been the Executive Director since January of this year. I have held many roles at House of Hope since 2000. My first interaction with House of Hope was when I donated my son's crib around the holidays and a lovely woman named JoJo asked me if I was interested in being a residential counselor. Bright-eyed and nervous at the age of 20, I was not exactly sure what I was doing, but I had wonderful mentors along the way who I still look up to with respect and admiration. House of Hope has been foundational to my life; the mission, the families, and the staff are all part of who I am and the leader I want to be for this organization. While at House of Hope I received two degrees, married my husband, raised children, bought my house, and basically grew up.

It takes a village of remarkable people to do this work and I am grateful to be a part of that village of hope. We can create a brighter future for our families, giving them stability and eventually a place of their own to call home. I hope you will come visit us, talk to our families and staff, and feel the love in our buildings.

See you Soon,
Julie Lemire, Executive Director

THANK YOU, EPIGRAM!

In March of 2025, Epigram Brew Co. in Tyngsborough hired two of our Learn2Work Interns who had successfully completed their 3-month Culinary internships. Our Emeritus Board Member Marc Teal recommended to Epigram's Executive Chef, Adam Lapierre, to consider hiring the Interns for their 2 open positions. Adam Lapierre, who has 15 years of experience in managing kitchens, interviewed them and hired them both. Adam told HOH, "They are willing to do anything they get asked. They always take initiatives to learn how to do new things. They are very kind



people and everybody is happy that they are here." Congrats to our Graduates! Pictured here with Adam and Sabine Metellus (HOH Case Manager) on the right.

You are invited to the
36th Annual Teal Invitational
Golf Tournament!

Monday, July 21, 2025 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 30, 2025

Preferable for payments
via Venmo to @MTeal-1



YOU'RE NEVER TOO YOUNG TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Travis pushing one of his carts of presents into the shelter

House of Hope had an incredible donation made by a 6-year-old boy named Travis. He had his 6th birthday party but asked that people not bring him presents, but instead donate to House of Hope. He gifted all of his new toys to HOH. You can see him at work. There were also online donations made by his friends and family! All of this was Travis's birthday wish. He has just a few new fans.



We were delighted to give Travis his Kindness Award!

KATELYN MELLO MAKES NEWS!

Katelyn Mello will be receiving the **2025 Greater Lowell Distinguished Young Professional Award** from the Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce!

We are thankful to have Katelyn as our Director of Client Services, who oversees a dedicated team of Case Managers, Housing Advocates and a Client Support Specialist. The Client Services team supports families navigating homelessness with dignity and care. Katelyn joined HOH in 2017 after spending over five years as an Adoption Social Worker for a contract agency with the Department of Children and Families. A proud Lowell native, she earned her bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts (Major in Sociology, Minors in Psychology and Gender Studies) from UMass Lowell and a Master's in Social Work from Salem State University in 2011. She still holds her LICSW which reflects her deep commitment to clinical excellence and advocacy. Of all her accomplishments, she is most proud of the smart, energetic, and caring team she has built at House of Hope—professionals who bring their whole hearts to their work every single day.



Stephany Agudelo & Jen Grant

SENDING SOME SPARKLE TO...

Congratulations to Stephany Agudelo, our Housing Specialist. She started her work at HOH in 2019, just completed her Human Services Program at Northern Essex and obtained her Associate's Degree. She has also been accepted at UMASS Lowell to pursue her Bachelor's Degree. Jennifer Grant, our Client Support Specialist, has completed her Master's Degree in Social Work from Merrimack College! Jen started work at HOH in 2017, went and got her degree and came back to work at HOH! We are so proud of them both and are delighted they are bringing their excellent accomplishments to better serve our families in need! Plus a spotlight on Grimilda Romero, Senior Case Manager, at work!



Grimilda Romero & friend

WELCOMING CASI TO THE TEAM!

HOH is proud to introduce Casi Rich as our Director of Shelter Operations. Casi brings over 25 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, with a strong focus on supporting individuals and families experiencing housing and food insecurity. She holds a master's degree in Counseling Psychology from Assumption University in Worcester and has dedicated her career to this work, which she considers her lifelong calling. Casi shares, "Since I started working at House of Hope in October 2024, it has been an honor to be part of this team. I've met such passionate, kind people here, people who treat others with real dignity and respect. I see firsthand the impact of helping families secure housing and witnessing the power of programs like the Learn2Work Internship, where parents are building skills, experience, and confidence. It is profoundly impactful. I feel proud to be part of this mission, and I truly hope to be here for a good long time."



HOH NEEDS LIST

Juice Boxes/bottles of juice	Diapers sizes 3, 4 & 6	Cereal	Muffin Mixes
Individually wrapped snacks	Napkins	Maple Syrup	Aerosol Disinfectant
Free & Clear Liquid Laundry Detergent	Baby Wipes	Men & Ladies Razors	Full size body lotion

Used Children's Clothing: We are currently most in need of lightweight spring/summer clothing. We take in donation drop offs at the 520 Fletcher Street Shelter Mondays—Saturdays between 10am-2pm. Main entrance is around back.

For online shoppers, please go to House of Hope's easy Amazon Wish List at <https://a.co/gKPsTp9> 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! For questions, please email Edna at edna.gustafson@HouseofHopeLowell.org or call 978-677-2018.

LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER? Please email Marianne Staid at Marianne.staid@houseofhopelowell.org for more info and to schedule an orientation.