

The Voice of Hope

A monthly publication of Home of Hope, Inc. December, 2014

*Making a difference in
the lives of men and
women with
developmental
disabilities since 1968*



"Because everyone deserves a home, a sense of belonging, and a sense of purpose in their lives."



It's only been a few months now since I arrived at Home of Hope. My excitement about the work of this extraordinary organization has continued to grow as

I have gotten to know the hearts of our staff members, and particularly as I have gotten to know the wonderful men and women in our care.

There's much to love about the rich history of an organization that sprang quite literally from the hearts of three mothers who wanted something better, not only for their own children but for the children of so many other mothers and fathers. As **Jane Hartley** and **Laura Cupp Neely** joined forces with **Ruth Smith** in 1968 to lay the revolutionary groundwork for what continues

today as a home of hope for over 200 men and women with intellectual and developmental disabilities, I'm not sure they could possibly have imagined the road ahead of them. What I do know is where it has led, and how many other mothers and fathers have found a place of blessing for their children as they hit adulthood over the years. I also know how important the word **home** was as they created the original name.

In particular, as we make our way through the Holiday Season, a time of home and of family, I am filled with thoughts of how important it is that Home of Hope has chosen the path of separate homes in the community, each with a sense not only of house, but truly of home for the men and women who live there. I cannot count the number

of our men and women I've gotten to know in separate parts of our programs just in these past weeks who have ended our conversations the same way: "You need to come see me at my house." **My house!** These are words of pride, and words that warm my heart each time I hear them.

Over the months and years ahead, you will hear a great deal about the meaning and impact of Home of Hope. For this Holiday Season, please know that your involvement with Home of Hope is providing a place of warmth, family, and home during the holidays.

Ralph Richardson, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

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Please let us send you our newsletter by e-mail.



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Thanks for helping us save printing and postage!

Donate online at www.homeofhope.com



Suzanne Farley at work at our thrift store in Vinita!

FINANCIAL CORNER: YEAR END GIVING

"You can make a difference." It's a phrase we all hear, but not necessarily one we tend to believe. How often do we get a chance to do something that will really matter in the life of someone who needs us? Right now though, as you consider your year-end giving, you can help provide a **home**, a **job**, a sense of **purpose**, a feeling of **security**, and the experience of **joy** in the life of a person who, through no fault of their own, was born with an intellectual disability. You can give **hope!**

Thank you for your financial gifts to Home of Hope, now and throughout the year. Your gifts are touching the lives of some very special men and women. Your generosity is making a difference!



Have you remembered Home of Hope in your will?

The Home of HOPE

For Men and Women with
Developmental Disabilities

P.O. Box 903
960 W. Hope Road
Vinita, OK 74301
918-256-7825

Promoting Choices, Independence,
and a Meaningful Way of Life



We don't like to brag...

Okay, so maybe we do. But the fact is, a great deal has happened at Home of Hope in the last year that we're proud of:

- The Jim & Marja Willis Riding Arena was completed and is now in full swing, serving 55 clients in the past year.
- Our expansion of three six-bed homes in Vinita to eight bed- homes was also completed.
- We had our best year ever in the Mary Moore golf tournament, raising \$22,000 for

Hope of Hope's involvement in Special Olympics.

- We more than doubled the number of Home of Hope residents participating in our own golf program.
- We also added a new fundraiser, the "Run Jack Run" 5K run.
- Home of Hope became a fingerprinting site for organizations from near and far, raising funds and also streamlining the process for our own new hires.
- We had the largest number of athletes in the state participating in both the Sum-

mer and Winter Special Olympic Games.

- We opened two new thrift stores, providing additional worksites for the men and women in our programs.
- More than all of these, we were there when each one of these wonderful men and women needed us.

