

The Voice of Hope

A monthly publication of Home of Hope, Inc. January, 2015

*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."



Steve doesn't like being referred to as a client at Home of Hope. He prefers to be called a resident – or when he's at his job, a worker. He doesn't think the word client is hurtful – just inaccurate. "It makes it sound like we're here for an appointment or something. Like we're in a hospital. We're not in a hospital. We're a resident of Home of Hope." Still, he prefers it over other words from his past. "It's better than retard, or patient. I don't like those words, because it labels us that we can't do anything." Asked about words like "retard," Steve says he was called those kinds of words when he was in school when he was younger. **Steve is 45 now, but he still knows how important words can be—and how much they can hurt.** Home of Hope provides services for men and women whose challenges range from folks like Steve, who can function in a lot of areas in his home and work life, but knows he would struggle to make it in a "regular job," to folks who need daily help to such basic things as feeding themselves and getting dressed. Steve says it's very important

that there be a place like this, not just for himself, but for others who may struggle more or have been through more than he has. He knows others who have experienced not only hurtful words, but who have been abused, neglected, or taken advantage of because of their disability. For some, he says, it's hard to get past the abuse they've experienced. They have flashbacks, or guard their plates when they're eating so that no one will take their food. **He tells them they're at Home of Hope now, that they're safe,** but he knows it's hard to let go of the past. **For Steve's part, he's taking full advantage of the present.** It would be hard to find something at Home of Hope he isn't a part of. When he's not working and making money at his job at the Rogers County Training Center, a vocational program run by Home of Hope for men and women with developmental disabilities, he's involved with the various sports programs Home of Hope puts on as part of its efforts with Special Olympics. "Here, we have a softball team. I played basketball. I bowl a lot. I play horseshoes. I want to play bocce ball, but a lot of other sports get

in the way." Steve also loves art. He has designed Christmas and Valentine's cards for Home of Hope in the past, and even did the mural for the local movie theater. Still, when I asked Steve what the most important thing about Home of Hope was, his answer wasn't about all the things he gets to do. His answer? **"A place to stay, to live in... and friendship."** Thanks for being a friend to a place that makes all this possible for Steve and so many others. Your support of Home of Hope is making more of a difference than you could possibly imagine.

Ralph Richardson, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer



Steve Sposato: Worker!

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/HomeofHopeOK, visit our website at www.homeofhope.com, or just call us at (918) 256-7825, ext. 152 to schedule a visit to our main campus.



If you would be willing to save Home of Hope money simply by agreeing to receive our newsletter electronically, please either e-mail jodi.manning@homeofhope.com or contact Jodi by phone at (918) 256-7825, ext. 135.

Donate online at www.homeofhope.com

FINANCIAL CORNER: YOUR GIFTS SUPPORT...

On March 19th, 20th, and 21st in the training center on our Vinita campus, the men and women of Home of Hope will be starring in a special production of **The Wizard of Oz**. They are practicing hard, and you are invited to attend and cheer them on. Performances will be at 2:00 each day. Your gifts make events like this possible.



One exciting, and delicious, opportunity for you to support the activities and programs at Home of Hope is coming up: On February 11th, Home of Hope's annual **Chocolate Affair** will take place at the Craig County Fairgrounds. Our target is to raise \$20,000 through this event this year for the programs and services at Home of Hope. For information on advance tickets, e-mail Kendra.Montana@homeofhope.com or just come and pay \$20.00 at the door.

Have you remembered Home of Hope in your will?

The
**Home of
HOPE**

For Men and Women with
Developmental Disabilities

P.O. Box 903
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Vinita, OK 74301
918-256-7825

Promoting Choices, Independence,
and a Meaningful Way of Life

We don't like to brag, but...



A number of exciting things have happened at Home of Hope over just this past month.

- Home of Hope was able to hire **Aaron Brown** as the new Director of Community Supports. Aaron is from Vinita and comes with 20+ years of experience in a range of areas working with developmental disabilities.

- On the same side of our programs, **three new ladies** joined Home of Hope this past month, as well as two staff members who had been working with them long term in another setting.
- **One new gentleman** also joined us on the ICF -IID side of the program.
- December saw endless parties for the people in our residential and vocational programs.

- Many of our residents visited family members over the holidays, and special time was spent with those who did not have this opportunity.

