

The Voice of Hope

A quarterly publication of Home of Hope, Inc.

April, 2016

*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 life."



What obstacles would slow you down in life?

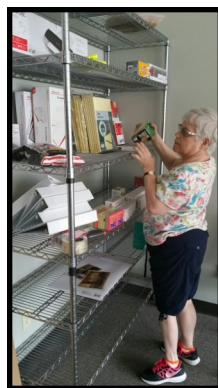
What would make you quit? Challenges with weight?

Teresa McMahon has lost 24 pounds over the last year by exercising and changing her diet. Diabetes? Completely under control.

A developmental disability? Facing the challenges of people who see you and your peers as different than themselves? Teresa doesn't just push against these walls—she runs through them, knocking them flat as she goes.

If you spend three minutes with Teresa you'll realize that she doesn't have much time for sitting still. In five minutes, you'll be inspired. Ten, and you'll probably start to feel a little uneasy about your own work ethic. Teresa likes her job at Centsible Spending, one

of Home of Hope's six different thrift stores, but she's particularly looking forward to her new job at the business center that Home of Hope is opening. I recently walked with Teresa from the thrift store to the Centsible Business Services and Supplies store just a few doors down on Wilson Street so she could see how things were coming along. "I just feel like I can really help there," she says. If her first few moments in the business



center are any indication, she's right. With only one rack of office supplies moved into the store yet, I didn't really think there was much for her to see. But where I saw a mostly empty store, she saw work to be done. I turned to speak with a colleague for just a moment, and when I turned back Teresa was reorganizing the shelves. Teresa told me how much she is going to

miss the workers from the other store when she starts her new job, and she knows they will miss her as well. "Once I'm working over here," she says, "I can easily walk back over there on my breaks and give them hugs."

Teresa works hard for herself, realizing the importance of her health since losing her mother to diabetes years ago. She works hard at her job because she likes to be busy and enjoys getting things done. And she works hard for others, so much so that she recently received a volunteer recognition award from People First,



along with her staff member Katy McGuire. **Teresa inspires others, not because of what she has overcome, but simply because of who she is.** It's

what Home of Hope is all about. It's what Teresa is all about.

Richardson

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 involvement matters more than ever!**

State and federal funding have never covered all of the costs of the care Home of Hope provides to more than 200 men and women with intellectual and developmental disabilities, but with \$250,000 in cuts already and more ahead with the upcoming state budget, that part is becoming smaller by the day. Home of Hope has always bridged the gap between government funding and the actual needs by private fundraising and, quite frankly, by employees giving money out of their own pockets to make sure the men and women in our programs had what they needed. With Oklahoma's next round of budget cuts looming, the gap is widening. **Home of Hope has been very public about our commitment to continuing our services regardless of the obstacles.** We have been laying the groundwork for the past year to improve our **thrift stores** and increase the funding they provide for services. Our newly launched **monthly donor club** is beginning to grow. Hundreds of additional men and women have signed up to our mailing list. **You can help** by becoming a monthly donor, donating items to our thrift stores, or just shopping at our stores and getting a great deal!

Have you remembered Home of Hope in your will?



For Men and Women with
Developmental Disabilities

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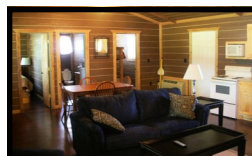
Promoting Choices, Independence,
and a Meaningful Way of Life

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to see you there!

Annual Recognition Banquet and Charity Auction **Saturday, June 4, 2016, 6 p.m. @ Cherokee Yacht Club** Home of Hope is now accepting requests for tickets to this exciting annual event. Individual tickets are available for \$50.00. Sponsorships are available for \$5,000, \$3,000, \$2,000, or \$1,000 tables. Donations are accepted if you can't attend. This event raises funds to continue the mission of Home of Hope. Contact Jessica.Wilbourn@homeofhope.com or call (918) 256-7825, ext. 168. Exciting auction items already lined up for this year include some amazing dinner packages, weekend getaways, tickets to sporting events, and a wide range of individual items. We hope



Check out Home of Hope's exciting new Centsible Apparel, etc. location at 136 S. Wilson St. in Vinita!