

The Voice of Hope

A monthly publication of Home of Hope, Inc. August, 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."



Betty Kerbo began working for Home of Hope 21 years ago, when her son was placed in our residential program.

She thought it was the best way to learn about the place where **Jeff** was living. If you wonder why she's stayed this many years though, just get her talking about her job. Betty loves Home of Hope. And more importantly, she loves the men and women Home of Hope takes care of. Pictured below are **Betsy** and **Roberta**, the two ladies in whose home Betty works. Betty is on the right, and although I think she would have preferred that all the focus (and the camera) were

on the ladies she so loves working with, this story is about Betty, and about the 263 other men and women who work in any of the 49 different homes where Home of Hope provides services.

Last year, over **624,000** hours of direct care were provided to the men and women at Home of Hope. To understand what that means, more than **60,000** times last year an individual was woken up in the morning, guided through their day, fed, supported, taught skills, encouraged, comforted, and gotten off to bed again. More than **185,000** meals were prepared to meet all kinds of dietary needs, and in some cases those meals were physically fed to men

and women who need assistance feeding themselves.

For Betty, it's the little things though, the personal things, that make a difference in the lives of the ladies she works with. It's hair and make-up done, clothes picked out, relationship advice dispensed, frustrations heard, activities planned, accomplishments praised, house kept clean, paperwork done, exhaustion ignored, and rewards counted more in terms of knowing you made a difference than in monetary compensation or the world's applause. "When you go home, you're tired," she says. "But you feel good." Betty doesn't do it for appreciation, but if you see her, or any of her colleagues, tell them anyway. When someone changes the world for another person, saying "thank you" is the least the world can do in return.




Ralph Richardson, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

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Donate online at www.homeofhope.com

FINANCIAL CORNER: Sometimes, when I realize what I have...

Sometimes, as I drive home after work and the air conditioning in my car is working, as I listen to the radio station of my choice, as I notice my own comfort level because my stomach is free of hunger pangs and my throat is not dry from thirst, I'm struck by what I have compared to what so many people in this world have never imagined.

Sometimes when I get home after a day of working at the job I love, step inside of the house I call my own (even though it technically belongs to the bank), and make plans with my family for activities we'd like to consider during the evening or over the weekend, I'm struck by how much I have, and even though I've worked for it, I'm struck by the fact that I have always had the opportunity to do so.

My financial gift to Home of Hope, along with generous gifts from many of you, provides opportunity for someone who can't create it for themselves, a home for someone who needs one they can call their own, a job for someone who would struggle to obtain or keep one otherwise, and a place of belonging for someone the world may otherwise have isolated and excluded. It isn't a sacrifice. It's a privilege. Thank you for being partners in this amazing work!

Have you remembered Home of Hope in your will?



Promoting Choices, Independence,
and a Meaningful Way of Life

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



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