

The Voice of Hope

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



"I was here probably five months before I felt safe."

Karen's story is unfortunately similar to that of many individuals with de-

velopmental disabilities. While many experience loving and deeply committed families, a great many others have experienced abuse and neglect at the hands of someone they should have been able to trust to keep them safe. For Karen, it was her first stepmother, and the abuse continued for eleven years. While her grandparents were a blessing in her life, their health eventually prevented them from taking care of

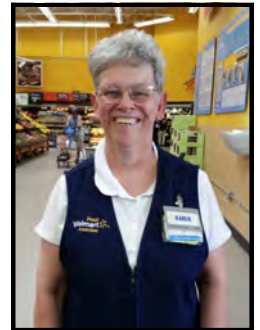


her. Karen arrived at Home of Hope still reeling from her stepmother's abuse, filled with sadness to lose the closeness she felt with her grandparents,

and full of fear about how she would be treated in this new place.

Now decades later, Karen smiles almost constantly, and often laughs out loud. But those changes didn't come easily. She explained her philosophy to me. *"See here's what I used to think. I used to think that when I was young I was in institutions, I was abused, I didn't have anybody to run to or to go when any of this was happening so therefore I didn't think that I would amount to anything. I always thought I was retarded. I always thought I was stupid. I didn't know how to really get it through my head that I'm not. I'm not different than anybody else. I get up every morning. I make my bed, take my shower, wash my clothes, go to work, come home you know. I've always wanted to do something with my life, always. And it takes courage when you've been abused and neglected. It's tough to go on. But you never give up."*

Karen still remembers the abuse she experienced, and how hard it was to trust new people in her life. Those memories played a part in Karen's decision to serve for eight years on **Home of Hope's Human Rights Committee**, a group focused on reviewing the care of residents and making sure they are safe and receiving the services they need. She had to roll off the committee recently because the 32 hours a week she works at Walmart made it too difficult to make the meetings. It was hard to stop, but she continues to smile, to encourage, and to inspire us all to do the same.




Ralph Richardson, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

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: NEVER PUT ALL YOUR EGGS IN ONE BASKET!

In recent weeks the results of the Oklahoma legislature’s budget decisions have unfolded. Home of Hope, as all similar programs, will face a cut in the rate of state reimbursement for services that will cost us more than \$200,000 a year from here forward. It’s a huge hit, but in reality it’s just a symptom of an ongoing problem—Home of Hope, like many others, is counting on too many eggs from state and federal funding baskets. Unfortunately, government funding is at best unpredictable, and what is decreased is seldom replaced. Home of Hope has worked hard to put itself in stable position through strong programs, exceptional staff, and careful stewardship of the funds we receive. Throughout most of its history, Home of Hope has relied on a handful of men and women to provide the funds to supplement the gap between what is funded and what is truly needed to provide the best of care for the men and women in our programs. In the months ahead, we’ll be asking you to consider joining that group if you haven’t already. Together we can make sure men and women like Karen can always find hope and a sense of belonging in their lives.

Have you remembered Home of Hope in your will?



Promoting Choices, Independence,
and a Meaningful Way of Life

Non-Profit Org
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 372
Tulsa, OK

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

On June 6th Home of Hope held its annual Admirals Banquet. We were proud to honor **Bob Hartley** and **Laura Cupp Neely** for their roles in founding Home of Hope, **Jot Hartley** and **Gary Cupp** for their roles in continuing that legacy, and **Robin Morris** for her example of Hope and Courage. Thanks to everyone who made this such a special evening!

