

# The Voice of Hope

A quarterly publication of Home of Hope, Inc. July, 2019

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



Jane & Laura

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



In every society there are those few people who inspire innovation, create new paths, and spark movements. They are the ones who don't just see the problems around them, but who believe they can change the world—and then they do.

**On the morning of Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, Home of Hope lost one of its original voices of inspiration when Laura Jean Cupp passed away peacefully at home with family members by her side.**

When Laura Cupp and Jane Hartley, two mothers of children with intellectual disabilities, created Home of Hope, their vision for what it needed to become, what it *had* to become, was clear.

It's been five years since I first walked through the doors of Home of Hope as the new CEO. Well before that, during every interview and every chance to meet the people at Home of Hope, I **knew I had found something special.** It was not Home of Hope's goal just to be the best program in Oklahoma, or even the best provider of services in the United States. Those goals sound good, but on their own they are not nearly ambitious enough. Home of Hope's goals existed one human life at a time.

Home of Hope was born from an absolute belief that every person's life has value, and that no disability can possibly diminish that. Because of that belief, **Home of Hope's mission is to empower people with disabilities.** Absolutely everything we do is measured against that mission. It means our one singular

purpose is to make people stronger and more confident in controlling their own lives. To inspire the hope that their life can be better. Better than it is today, and better than the world around them may have told them it could be. Whatever a person's level of function is today, our role is to help equip them for it to be better, to increase their ability to be independent, to inspire hope for a better future, and where at all possible, to get out of the way and let them choose their own path forward.




**Home of Hope's logo is an open doorway.** It too is the standard by which every action is measured. The obstacles for people with disabilities include more than their own limitations. They include others' perceptions about what they can and cannot do. A lack of resources for adaptive equipment. A lack of funding for programs and support. Home of Hope's mission includes removing the obstacles that stand in people's way so they have the opportunity to succeed. Success is up to them, but we exist in order to make it possible.

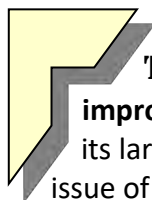


Laura at a recent banquet embracing Jane Hartley's son Bobby

Where does a passion like that come from? How is it sustained for more than 50 years in a way that is still such a driving force in every decision that is made? It was built into the organization from day one by its founders. **Laura. Jane.** And their immediate ally and first Executive Director, **Ruth Smith.** Women who believed there could be something better for their children, and true believers in inspiring hope in others as well. Laura, Jane, and Ruth's relentless passion is the passion still shared at Home of Hope. Their belief in inspiring hope in every person's life persists. They showed us not only what to do, but why it was so important to do it. They helped us to be who we are, and to dream of who we will become.

  
Ralph Richardson, CEO  
Home of Hope, Inc.

Donate online at [www.homeofhope.com](http://www.homeofhope.com)



**THANK YOU!!!** With your help, **Home of Hope** completed its recent challenge to raise \$20,000 to improve the work environment for **41 individuals with disabilities** employed by Home of Hope in one of its largest work settings. The funds you contributed will create a drainage system to correct an ongoing issue of flooding, and will renovate both a thrift store and a job training setting in significant need of repairs and improvements. **Because of your generosity, Home of Hope was also able to receive an additional \$20,000 from a private foundation** who had committed to match that amount dollar-for-dollar with money to directly support the programs themselves! Meanwhile, **Home of Hope's annual banquet** and **Rogers County Training Center Charitable Golf Tournament** both enjoyed tremendous support from loyal supporters with a deep passion for the needs of individuals with disabilities.



Mike Williams emcees at HOH's banquet

*Have you remembered Home of Hope in your will?*



**Empowering People with Disabilities**

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  
[www.homeofhope.com](http://www.homeofhope.com)

**Okay, we have some bragging to do:** In our last newsletter, we announced that **Cyndi Cicotee** had been named as Oklahoma Developmental Disability Services Department Area II Direct Care Staff of the Month. Since then, the awards have kept rolling in. **Traci Grooms** was recognized by the Care Providers of Oklahoma as 2019 Outstanding Leader, and **Crystal Dry** received their Distinguished Care Giver Award. **Travis Dottrich** brought national recognition to Home of Hope when he received The American Network of Community Options and Resources' 2019 Oklahoma Direct Support Professional of the Year Award at their national conference in Portland, Oregon for his work with **Tom Horn**. And Home of Hope/Delaware County Friendship Home was named as the **2019 Not For Profit of the Year**. Home of Hope's recent employees of the month include **Ashley Mariezcurrena** in April, **Buffy Reliford** in May, and **Regina Palmer** in June.



Tom Horn pictured with Travis Dottrich (right)

**The 13th Annual Mary Moore Charitable Golf Tournament** benefitting Special Olympics through Home of Hope will be held on August 9th, 2019. To become a sponsor or to participate as a team, contact Jack Moore at [jmoore1320@gmail.com](mailto:jmoore1320@gmail.com) or (918)557-7670, or Misty Bingham at [misty.bingham@homeofhope.com](mailto:misty.bingham@homeofhope.com) or (918) 944-3700.