

The Voice of Hope

A quarterly publication of Home of Hope, Inc. July, 2018

*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."

On June 9th, John Franklin Stephens stepped onto the stage and, if you were there, changed the way you see the world. Frank, as he prefers to be called, is an actor, an author, and a world traveling and much sought after speaker. He also has Down Syndrome. He is a Global Messenger on behalf of Special Olympics, and has been awarded the Quincy Jones Excellence in Advocacy Award by the Global Down Syndrome Foundation. He has spoken before the United States Congress and the United Nations.




"My Hope is to give you some insight into lives like mine," Frank began, "and perhaps some thoughts about the kind of society you want to live in as well." Frank spoke of the life he has lived—one of excitement, meaning, and fulfillment. He also spoke of movements that are currently sweeping nations, including the United States, challenging the value of a life lived with a disability. "I am a man with Down Syndrome," Frank declared with emotion, "and my life is worth living."

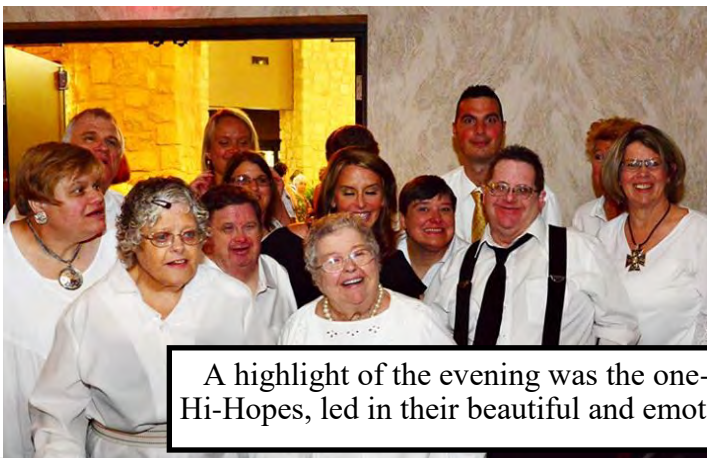
Frank ended with a story he wanted everyone to hear: "15 years ago I was present when a little old lady in her 80s was testifying to the Virginia legislature. She told them that every night she prayed that her son would die before she did because there was nowhere for him to go if she died first. No momma should ever pray that prayer. There is a better answer for mommas like that. Home of Hope is that answer."

For 50 years, Home of Hope has served as the answer to that question for men and women with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Today, more than 250 individuals in Vinita, Claremore, Pryor, Miami, and Jay have homes, jobs, and active involvement with friends and the surrounding community.

As Frank concluded, "this isn't hard folks. You have heard it all your lives. Love thy neighbor as thyself. The people at Home of Hope are your neighbors." Of course, we didn't mind that he added; "Now, if I have opened your hearts a little, it's time to open your wallets a little, too."

Thank you, all of you who open both your hearts and your wallets so Home of Hope can continue to make a difference!


Ralph Richardson, CEO
Home of Hope, Inc.



A highlight of the evening was the one-night-only return to the spotlight of the Hi-Hopes, led in their beautiful and emotional performance by Arrahwanna Leake

Donate online at www.homeofhope.com

FINANCIAL CORNER: **Did you know?**

- Home of Hope provides services to 253 men and women with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- While many nonprofit organizations strive to keep their combined administration and development costs under 25%, Home of Hope's combined costs in these areas is just over 11%, meaning the vast majority of all expenses are the direct care of the men and women we serve.
- With restructuring of eight of our homes in Vinita and Miami, Home of Hope will be able to serve more people with disabilities in the coming year than ever before.
- With increased revenue that will also come from these changes, a rise in grant funding, a long overdue increase in state funding rates, and your generous support, Home of Hope is looking forward to one of its best years in a very long time.
- Even with all of that, not everything that is needed is covered by these funding sources. We are actively working to raise funds for an adaptive vehicle to transport individuals in wheelchairs. A part of these funds was raised through the Fund-A-Need portion of the auction at the banquet, but more is still needed. Please help if you can.

Have you remembered Home of Hope in your will?



Empowering People with Disabilities

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*Much of the success of Home of Hope is due to the vision and commitment of a handful of people like **Jane Hartley, Laura Cupp, Ruth Smith, Barbara Farley, and Kathy Cearley**. They were honored at the banquet along with Oklahoma First Lady **Donna Nigh** for her support of all of our three programs that make up who we are today —Home of Hope, Rogers County Training Center, and Delaware County Friendship Homes.*



Laura Cupp



Donna Nigh