

The Voice of Hope

A quarterly publication of Home of Hope, Inc. March 2017

*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."



Leon Mullis still remembers the life changing meeting his parents and his older sister **Martha** had with **Ruth**

Smith. Martha was

35 years old. It was 1968—the first year of Home of Hope's existence. Ruth Smith was Home of Hope's first Executive Director, and along with Laura Cupp and Jane Hartley, the founding heart of a place that continues trying to live up to its original vision. Leon remembers Ruth's heartfelt words making Home of Hope's commitment to Martha for the rest of her life. It's a promise that has been kept. **"I've just been amazed at the quality of care that Martha has received,"** Leon says.

Martha says she still remembers the open house Home of Hope hosted at the end of its first year. She remembers arts and craft classes, swimming, and walks with Ruth Smith.

Martha grew up during World War II, a time of basics and essen-

tials. Collecting dolls was not an essential so her collection did not begin until much later, but it's certainly grown over the years. The walls in Martha's bedroom are lined with dolls. A cabinet in the dining room and the closet in her room hold even more. Her favorite doll is the last one her parents gave her before they died, and she named it after them both.

Martha likes going to the activities at Home of Hope. She likes to play BINGO. She likes going to dinner and out to the movies with her long time friend **Donald Smalley**. Donald (pictured top right) came to Home of Hope in 1972. He met Martha early on and they just hit it off. They've been close friends ever since.

It's exactly what Martha's parents wanted for her. A place that would be home, where she would be cared for, and where she would make life long friends. As Leon puts it, **"Martha has always looked at Home of Hope, not as a place to stay, but as home."**

Home is not what some would envision if they heard Martha lived in an ICF (Intermediate Care Facility). They may envision a hospital or a nursing home—an institution, but Martha lives in a house, in a neighborhood, surrounded by her dolls, caring staff members, and her friends. Home of Hope's version of an ICF, because we believe it's what Ruth Smith meant when she made her promise to Martha's family. **A place of Hope, but always first and foremost, Home.**


Ralph Richardson, CEO



Martha Mullis

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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: OUR MONTHLY DONOR CLUB IS GROWING—BUT IT NEEDS YOU!

Home of Hope is working to build up its monthly donor club. It's not just about raising funds. It's about building predictable funding throughout the year. The kind of funding that allows programs to confidently plan services. The kind of funding that allows programs to make salary decisions for the front line staff working day in and day out in homes and workplaces providing care for more than 200 men and women with disabilities. **Join our monthly donor club at whatever amount you can afford and you will receive a Home of Hope insulated stainless steel tumbler indicating your membership in our Hands of Hope monthly donor club.** Some of our monthly donors pay by check, but others prefer an automatic withdrawal from their checking account or credit card. Call (918) 256-7825, ext 152 or email ralph.richardson@homeofhope.com to join others who are already monthly partners in a truly extraordinary work.



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Exciting ways you can help:

The Mary Moore Family Endowment was established by the Moore Family, not only to honor a beloved mother and grandmother, but to establish a permanent endowment for the Special Olympic activities Home of Hope conducts throughout the year. To contribute, just send your donation to Home of Hope, P.O. Box 903, Vinita, OK 74301 with a note that your gift is for the Mary Moore Family Endowment (MMFE).

To contribute to Home of Hope's general endowment (the Key to Hope Foundation), you can send your donation to the same address with a note indicating the donation is for Key to Hope. Either way, your donation will make a lasting difference in the lives of men and women with developmental disabilities.

Meanwhile, Home of Hope is still looking for volunteers to refinish furniture for sale in our stores. If you can use a little paint and creativity to turn wooden furniture into "vintage" items for our thrift stores, please contact Tim Dumas at (918) 244-5308 or email tim.dumas@homeofhope.com. We would love your help.

