

The Voice of Hope

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

*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."



The first time I met **DiAnna Hoover** was a profound contrast of two realities. DiAnna was in fact very ill. She had been for a very long time. I had spoken to her over

the phone not long after I began at Home of Hope five years ago. She was living in Kansas City at that time, but now she had moved back to Vinita again as her health deteriorated further. Today she sat up and hosted myself and two staff members from Home of Hope who had known DiAnna for many years. She welcomed us warmly and held lively conversation as if she was as strong as could be. We were trying to be sensitive to the amount of energy she had—trying to keep the visit short for her sake. She wasn't having it. She wasn't hiding her illness, but it certainly wasn't going to be the focus. Subsequent visits were the same. In October, her attendance at Home of Hope's 50th Anniversary Celebration was filled with laughter and connections with old friends.




DiAnna with Laura Cupp at Home of Hope's 50th Anniversary Celebration

DiAnna was warm in her interactions, but it was warmth built on top of an exceptional underlying strength.



Knowing everything DiAnna had accomplished during her time as **CEO of Home of Hope from 1992 until 2006**, it wasn't a surprise. It takes both strength and compassion to oversee the changes and growth that took place during DiAnna's years at Home of Hope. **During her years at the helm, Home of Hope made the transition from a large group-living setting on the original campus to scores of separate homes in the community – a model that created new levels of independence and quality of life for the men and women Home of Hope serves and that remains an enduring source of pride today.** Large scale grant funding was pursued and obtained, new homes were built, Home of Hope's workforce grew dramatically, and the organization was placed on much stronger financial footing under DiAnna's leadership.

After years of battling with her health, DiAnna passed away peacefully on February 3rd at the age of 78. At her funeral, I was also not surprised by the seeming contradiction of stories shared. During the service, one personal story after another was shared regarding DiAnna's warmth, her generosity, and her hospitality toward others. Almost everyone present seemed to have a memory of being touched by this side of DiAnna's personality. After the funeral, as people continued reflecting, the stories turned more toward her strength and determination. A long-time staff member of Home of Hope described the department heads essentially being sequestered in a room until everyone got on board with an idea DiAnna had. No one was allowed to leave until everyone got on the same page – her page. Strong, determined, and knowingly stubborn. Warm, generous, and obsessively hospitable. Two sides of the same extraordinary woman. A woman who accomplished so much during her life, including but certainly not limited to her years here with us. **A leader and a friend who will be greatly missed. Thank you DiAnna for all you did. Home of Hope is a better place because you were here.**


Ralph Richardson, CEO
Home of Hope, Inc.

Donate online at www.homeofhope.com



Home of Hope's effectiveness in the world of grant funding has been growing over the past few years, with significant gifts in the last few months from five foundations in Oklahoma and in Texas. Included in these, **a challenge grant was recently issued to help raise \$20,000 to dramatically improve the work environment for 41 individuals with disabilities employed by Home of Hope in one of its largest work settings.** The funds will create a drainage system to correct an ongoing issue of flooding, while also renovating both a thrift store and a job training setting in significant need of repairs and improvements. When Home of Hope is able to raise this \$20,000 from its generous supporters, **the foundation will match that amount dollar-for-dollar** with money to directly support the programs themselves! Please consider how you can join others to make a huge difference for individuals working hard despite the disabilities that stand in their way. *If you want to help, just make a note that your gift is for "vocational center improvements" and your gift will be applied to the match!*

*Your
donation*
X2

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Home of Hope is proud to announce that the Oklahoma Developmental Disability Services Department Area II Direct Care Staff of the Month is our own Cyndi Ciacotee!!! Cyndi was recognized for extraordinary dedication and compassion in her care of a wonderful gentleman with dementia who needed not only total care but comfort and support in his final days of struggling with pneumonia. Her high quality care also extends to an individual with Cerebral Palsy who is non-verbal but always knows Cyndi will manage to understand him as he communicates his needs.



Upcoming events:

The 34th Annual RCTC Golf Classic will be held at the Heritage Hills Golf Course in Claremore on **May 3rd.**

The event is a 4-man scramble format with designated tee times and flights. Sign up early to get your choice of tee time. Cost per 4-man team is only \$350! Sponsorships are still available. To register your team contact:

Amy Littleton- (918) 283-8953, Amy.Littleton@BancFirst.bank

Save the date for Home of Hope's Annual Banquet on the evening of June 8th. To be held at the Shangri-La Resort Hotel on Monkey Island, this year's event will be filled with fun, laughter, inspiration, exceptional food and beverages, live and silent auctions, and numerous playful opportunities to win and take home some great prizes!