

# The Voice of Hope

A quarterly publication of Home of Hope, Inc. December 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."*



**Kathy West's** great loves are Elvis Presley, Lawrence Welk, Tom Selleck, and **Ronnie Potter**. As so many individuals with Down Syndrome experience when they

begin to get older, Kathy has Alzheimer's Disease. She can no longer walk on her own, though with assistance she does sometimes still walk from her bedroom to the living room. She can no longer express herself in words, but she can make her likes and dislikes known. She can no longer feed herself, but she can enjoy foods that taste good and reject foods that don't. There are plenty of things Kathy can no longer do that once

were a central part of who she was. Kathy West was a Special Olympic runner and bowler. She sang in Home of Hope's choir, The High Hopes. She was in the bell choir. She did arts and crafts, loved social events, and never met a stranger. Kathy loved to dance, was the life of the party, and did not need a dance partner to enjoy every song and to rock the dance floor (pictured in the banner above).

I can't introduce Kathy to you in the way that I've introduced others in these newsletters. I can't share her words as she expressed her thoughts directly to you about her life at Home of Hope. But Kathy's story is

very much the story of Home of Hope. It's the quiet story of individuals you may see in the store or out in the community. You may not look at them and think of someone whose life has affected others, but Kathy's has. You may not look at

them and think of someone who has a loving relationship with a caring individual in their lives, but Kathy has always lit up when her boyfriend Ronnie Potter walks into the room. Today, Kathy has to be fed. Her food has to be gluten free, and it has to be blended. Liquids she drinks have to be thickened. She needs help with toileting, help getting up and help lying down. While she can't speak, everyone at Home of Hope knows she is still Kathy West, buster of creative dance moves and enthusiastic social butterfly. And that she still deserves to be seen for who she is.

Three years ago, Kathy was placed on hospice care. Her loved ones were told she had less than six months to live, but due in large part to the care she received at Home of Hope, Kathy rebounded and was removed from hospice care within a few months. She receives that same level of care all day every day. And with some loving support, Kathy West is still very much the life of our party.



Michelle and Kathy

  
Ralph Richardson, CEO  
Home of Hope, Inc.

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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](mailto:jodi.manning@homeofhope.com) or contact Jodi by phone at (918) 256-7825, ext. 135.

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

**FINANCIAL CORNER: "Giving Tuesday" extended until December 31st!**

By now you may have already responded to our end of year appeal, either by mail or online as a part of Giving Tuesday. If you haven't had that opportunity, or just haven't gotten around to it yet, please **consider how you might make a difference in the lives of men and women like Kathy.**

Meanwhile, many of you have asked about the impact of **Oklahoma's budget crisis** on Home of Hope. An awful lot is still up in the air. With no new revenue passed in this session, the concern of new cuts to funding has been very real. At one point, 38 men and women in our programs got letters from a state agency warning that their services were about to be discontinued altogether. That didn't wind up happening, but the ball was basically just rolled a couple of months down the road. We communicate with our legislators and Governor Fallin as directly as possible, and will keep you posted. The already significant gap between state funding and the actual cost of care, along with how unpredictable the budget has become, is why your donations do so much to **secure needed care for men and women with nowhere else to turn.**

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



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and a Meaningful Way of Life

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August's **Mary Moore Annual Charity Golf Tournament** at the Shangri-La Golf Club was a fantastic success, raising well over \$20,000 toward continuing Home of Hope's significant involvement in Special Olympics during the coming year. Special Olympics and all other activities programs are examples of the many opportunities and services that are not included in funding received from the state. Special thanks to **Terry Wallace** from **Ben E. Keith Foods** who spent the day playing alongside of and encouraging Home of Hope's golfers **Steve Sposato, Cody Sword, and Derek Sword.**



Meanwhile, mark your calendars for Home of Hope's annual **Chocolate Affair** in Vinita, which will be held on **February 8th**, and for our **50th Anniversary Celebration** to be held on **June 9th** at the Shangri La Resort Hotel. And for those who've signed up to receive Home of Hope's communications by email and who've made your end of year donation, stay tuned to see if you've won **free tickets to both events!** Our drawing will be held on January 2nd and we'll announce our lucky winner!