

The Voice of Hope



*Empowering
People with
Disabilities since
1968*

A quarterly publication of Home of Hope, Inc.

October, 2020



Although Home of Hope has been communicating with parents, guardians, and supporters in many other ways throughout these

past several months, it feels like forever since we last sent out an actual newsletter. The world has been anything but ordinary throughout this calendar year, but we're finding it's time to get back to at least some of our regular routines. But how to catch up on the events of this year in such limited space? Hold your breath – here is a rapid review of the incredible events at Home of Hope:

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit early this year, Home of Hope took steps to close its vocational programs and step back from all visits with families and other loved ones. Many people with intellectual disabilities are also medically fragile. At the outset, safety had to override all other considerations. Life changed in one way or another for all of the 269 people we serve. Some could understand what was going on. Others

could not. Everyone has been kept safe, and while maintaining a constant state of precaution for that safety, Home of Hope has also focused on the emotional wellbeing of everyone we serve. Staff members rose to heroic levels, maintaining fun activities at home, going for walks and drives, holding competitions, baking, becoming champions of arts and crafts, and writing letters – making the absolute most of an incredibly challenging scenario.

Home of Hope took a financial hit by closing its vocational programs, but we were able to keep everyone safe in the process. Eventually, the avenues were able to open up for some people to return to safely structured work settings, as were opportunities for some family visits. Others have still not returned to their work settings, and some have still had no visits. Home of Hope began raising funds to bridge the gap this isolation has caused in people's lives. There's more on this effort in the top section of the back page.

In the meanwhile, Home of Hope also made an already-planned-for transition into a new administration building in Vinita, completed a full makeover of the thrift store in Jay, reset all seven of Home of Hope's thrift stores during the time they needed to be closed, and recently reopened them with significant precautions. Since reopening, the stores have been hitting record sales as many who are struggling financially during the pandemic have found thrift stores an affordable way to purchase needed items for their families. Filling these needs during a difficult time has been one of the upsides of a challenging era for everyone.

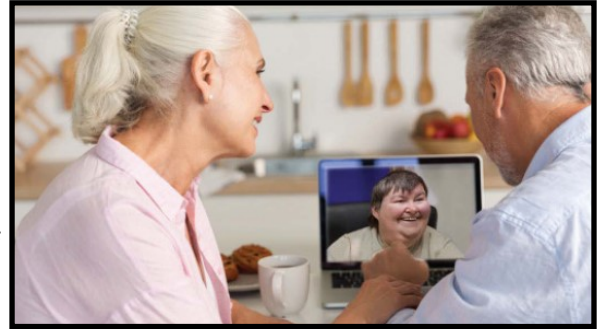
Throughout this time, Home of Hope's supporters have been nothing but incredible. You have helped us to remain strong during what would otherwise have been a very uncertain time. We cannot begin to thank you enough.


Ralph Richardson, CEO
Home of Hope, Inc.



YOU CAN HELP TURN ISOLATION INTO CONNECTION!

Most of you will have received Home of Hope's appeal letter to help with this incredible opportunity. With a generous donor having offered a **dollar-for-dollar match on the first \$10,000 we can raise**, Home of Hope has a truly fantastic window to decrease the current state of isolation for people with disabilities. We are raising funds not only to increase the internet capabilities but also to purchase the devices themselves to ensure that all of the men and women in our programs can see their loved ones face-to-face using streaming technology. This will also allow them to participate in telehealth visits that in many cases are now the only ways for them to interact with needed medical and therapeutic professionals. Your support of this effort would have a powerful impact on the lives of people with intellectual disabilities affected by the profound isolation of these recent months. **Please help in any way that you can.**



Empowering People with Disabilities

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WHAT STORY DO YOU WANT YOUR LIFE TO TELL? During a time when all of us are slowing down a little and considering the realities of health, illness, and our own mortality, more people are stopping to consider what they want to leave behind when the time eventually does come. What important things do you want to continue after you are gone? Who do you want to honor? Who do you want to help? How do you want to be remembered?

There are many ways to leave a legacy. Your life and your example will carry on when you are gone. Your words, spoken or written now, can make a difference for years and even generations to come. What you choose to do with all you've worked for and all you've earned in your lifetime will make a tangible difference in people's lives, but it will also tell the story of what you valued and what you hope others will value as well.

If you are considering leaving Home of Hope in your will, or would like information about this or a number of other ways you could leave a legacy, the Advancement Group provides confidential gift planning advice free of charge for those who mention they are referred by Home of Hope. There is absolutely no obligation for you to represent Home of Hope in your planning. Chris Miller can be reached at 918-491-0079 or at chris@tagpg.org.

