

The Voice of Hope

A monthly publication of Home of Hope, Inc. September, 2015

*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 lives."

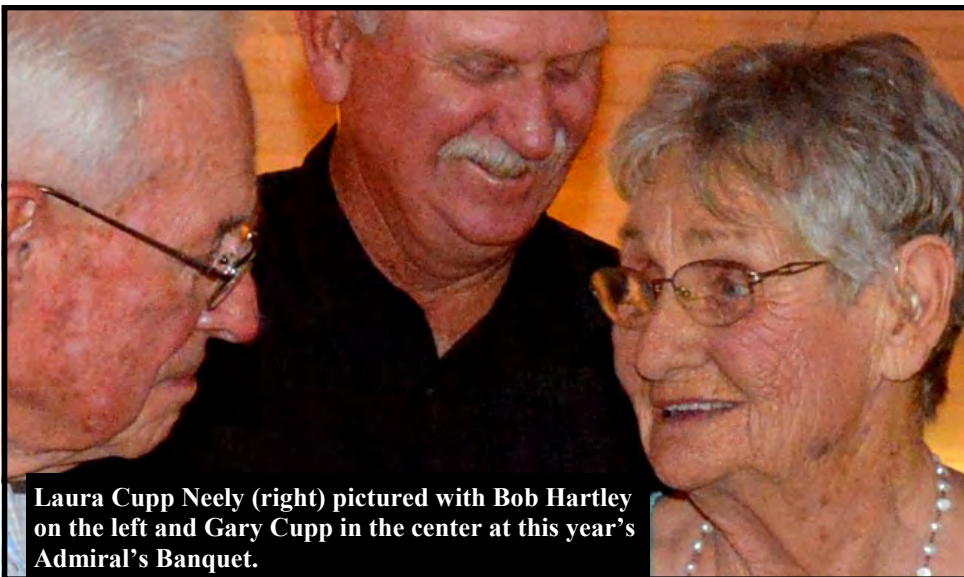


Just over a year ago, after I'd already accepted the position as CEO at Home of Hope but well before my first day on the job, I received a phone call from **Laura Cupp Neely** inviting me to come visit with her. When Laura greeted me at the door and walked me through her house to a place where we could sit and talk, I had no idea that her eyesight had deteriorated and that she could only see a faint outline of my fea-

tures. On the other hand, I don't think I've ever met anyone with clearer vision. In 1968, it was **Jane Hartley** and **Laura** who joined with **Ruth Smith** to create Home of Hope. **What a history Home of Hope has.** If you don't already know it, both Laura and Jane had children with developmental disabilities. Both had been searching for the best opportunities for their children to have a productive and meaningful life when they hit adulthood. To have happiness. Both had found that the world of

the 1960's had little to offer their children, other than condescending recommendations not to expect too much from (or for) them. They found Ruth Smith, whose own daughter had Down Syndrome, and they did what people of exceptional vision do; **they saw a solution where others only saw a problem**, and they pursued it until it became a reality. There are a lot of details to this story. A lot of obstacles faced and overcome. Contacts. Communications. Tears. Triumphs. But the key element to our history is one vision. It's a story of three people who saw a profound human need, not only in their own children but in the children of other mothers and fathers, and who committed their lives to creating a place to meet that need. I've stood at the crossroad where Jane and Laura first met; where, in many ways, our story began. I've thought of how that moment grew to

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Laura Cupp Neely (right) pictured with Bob Hartley on the left and Gary Cupp in the center at this year's Admiral's Banquet.

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Donate online at www.homeofhope.com

FINANCIAL CORNER: I HAVE A RETIREMENT PLAN, I THINK...

Whether you're already retired or just planning for the future, there's a lot to consider. Do you know how to maximize Social Security benefits (when to file, how to file, taxation of benefits, etc.?) Are things set up in the best way possible for your spouse after you die? On **September 29th** from **8:30 to 10:00 AM** and on **October 8th** from **5:30 to 7:00 PM**, The Advancement Group, partners with Home of Hope, will be presenting **free seminars** on "**Retirement Roadblocks, Mistakes, and Social Security.**" These seminars will also cover information on **general estate and retirement planning.** These seminars are always excellent, straightforward, and easy to follow. Both seminars will be at the **OU Tulsa Campus Schusterman Learning Center** in **Room 145.** If you're interested in attending, please send me a quick e-mail at Ralph.Richardson@homeofhope.com so I can keep them posted on how many will be attending. These seminars are always a tremendous benefit to our friends and supporters. I hope you'll attend, enjoy the free refreshments, and gain some new knowledge to help with your planning. I look forward to seeing you there.

Have you remembered Home of Hope in your will?



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and a Meaningful Way of Life

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(continued from front page) today's residential, vocational, and activities programs for over 200 men and women. It's almost 50 years later now. Of the three children, only **Bobby Hartley** (Jane's son) still survives and is in our program today. **But the vision lives on.** Every day, I meet people whose lives have been touched by Home of Hope. And you are part of it. Thank you for your involvement, your encouragement, and your support.


Ralph Richardson, Ph.D.
CEO



This year's **Mary Moore Golf Tournament** was a great success! Thanks to everyone who turned out to help raise over **\$20,000** for men and women from Home of Hope to participate in **Special Olympics.** Your support makes a difference!