



Giving us
Hope

Meet some of our largest contributors

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16



HOPE HOUSE
FOUNDATION



Hope House would not be the same,

nor would we be as successful at providing our vital services, without the generous support of our many loyal friends and supporters. But this year we want to point the light of appreciation in another direction, toward another group of people whose contributions don't just help define who Hope House is, but who also make this community richer, fuller, more connected and, quite honestly, a lot more interesting.

This year we celebrate those who contribute uncountable riches to every one of us, every day. So we ask you to join us in acknowledging the very individuals whom Hope House supports, and the many ways they touch and improve our lives.

In the following pages, you will learn of some of the frequent yet largely unrecognized acts of kindness and compassion that have come to our attention. Some of the stories will make you laugh, some will make you think, and all are remarkable in their own way.

There are more stories beyond these pages. They happen more often than you know. But once you get to know the individuals behind them, and are reminded once again that we are all driven by the same needs of nurturing and belonging, perhaps these stories are not so remarkable after all.

Joey

Hero with a handsaw

When you combine a man's love of tools and a desire to help people in need, good things can happen. And that's what happened when Hurricane Matthew brought a large tree limb down in Joey's neighborhood. The property management company was unable to respond immediately due to a number of other maintenance emergencies. That's all Joey, a landscaper, needed to hear. Joey brought out his trusty handsaw and cut the fallen tree limb into manageable pieces and neatly stacked them by the curb for pickup. More than just a workout, Joey's willingness to help kept his neighbors from having to wait for a tree service company as well as removing a potential public safety hazard.





Creed

Helping others make good policy

One hallmark of compassion is putting the interests and well-being of others ahead of your own. For Creed, it was his concern for people with cerebral palsy, and others who suffer with spasticity and seizures, that motivated him to begin a petition with a goal of affecting policy in Virginia and beyond. The issue: to remove cannabis from the Schedule 1 controlled substance list. “I believe in the medical benefits of cannabis,” Creed says, “and I think scientists should be able to do research as effectively as possible, especially on the brains of people with cerebral palsy.” He has learned that cannabis can reconnect pathways in the brain — pathways that can be interrupted by seizures. He is currently obtaining signatures, with a goal of more than a thousand, for a petition he intends to send to the Virginia Senate and House of Representatives. “I’ll even send it to the President of the United States,” Creed says.



Elvi

Helping strays find a place to stay

Elvi doesn't just love animals — she donates her free time to protecting and nurturing them. So when she spends four days a week volunteering in the SPCA cat department, it truly is her passion that drives her. Elvi hates to see animals neglected and abused. By volunteering at the SPCA, not only is she helping stray cats stay off the streets, she is enabling families in our community to bring a loving pet into their home. To Elvi, her work provides these animals a second chance for a good life. Her contributions are greatly appreciated, not only by the adopting families but by her co-workers as well. We're sure her pets — a guinea pig named Mojo and a cat named Morocco — would happily agree.



Robert

Justice is served, with a smile

No one likes to serve on jury duty, right? Well, not so fast. Robert always dreamed of doing his civic duty by serving on a jury. He is very interested in politics and the law, and he enjoys keeping up with the news and current events. So Robert couldn't have been more excited when he received his jury duty notice. Given his passion for the legal system and his desire to give back to his community, Robert went to the courthouse where he was interviewed by lawyers and was actually selected as a juror! He truly enjoyed the entire process and was proud to have served as part of our nations justice system.

Lori

Back-to-school season comes early

Lori understands what it's like to want to do something, but not being able to do it. So when an acquaintance of hers — the owner of one of her favorite local restaurants — told Lori about school children in Jamaica who were not allowed to attend school if they didn't have supplies, she took matters into her own hands. Since she knew the restaurant owner collected school supplies and sent frequent shipments to Jamaica to help needy students, Lori went to the Dollar Tree where she purchased several school supplies that she then donated to the restaurant owner. It makes Lori feel good that she likely helped a young person in Jamaica fulfill the dream of attending school. She knows she can't help everyone — even though she would love to — but it meant a lot for her to help not only a child, but her friend at the restaurant, too.





Daniel

Concerned citizen and cream soda to the rescue

Few people appreciate an ice-cold cream soda on a summer day more than Daniel. At the same time, no one is faster to give one up to help someone in need, either. Daniel was enjoying one of his regular visits to the ODU basketball courts near his apartment one day when a man playing ball collapsed on the court with a diabetic emergency. Extremely concerned, Daniel offered to call 911 but that had already been done. But when he heard that the man badly needed sugar in his system, Daniel raced home and returned with a can of his favorite soda. He even promised the man that he had not put his mouth on the bottle! The ailing man graciously accepted the cream soda. His blood sugar level went back up and he was able to get home. Afterward, Daniel pointed out that giving up his favorite soda to save someone was a trade he'd gladly make any time.



Michael

Making fire trucks shine

Giving your time for a worthy cause is a good thing. Giving your time for something that you also truly love – well, that's a real win-win. Which brings us to Michael, a young man who has always been fascinated by fire engines. Recently, Michael stopped by the firehouse on Hampton Boulevard to ask about volunteer opportunities. Oh, did they have a job for him! Now on any given Saturday you can find Michael helping to wash the trucks he has so long admired.



Louis

Nursing home gets a helping hand

Louis believes that no matter what your situation is in life, you can always find someone who could use a friend and some personal attention. So Louis makes it a habit to visit a nursing home, and he takes along old-time magazines. He believes the residents enjoy seeing old pictures and news stories, and that it brings back fond memories for them. He even reads the articles and looks at the pictures with his older friends. He particularly remembers visiting a gentleman whose wife had recently passed. Louis prayed with him and they talked about the couple's life together. Louis proudly displays a picture of himself that appeared in the nursing home's newsletter.

*“Heroes are ordinary people who
make themselves extraordinary.”*

-Gerard Way

From our Executive Director



For over a century, people with disabilities were viewed as having little to contribute. Exclusion was the norm. Caretaking was seen as the most humane approach, and even that had its dark side.

As you read the stories within our annual report I think you will see how far we have come and what gifts and talents are unleashed when people with disabilities lead lives of inclusion and full citizenship.

None of the people who we have focused on view themselves as “heroes” but rather ordinary members of their community with individual passions, commitments and a sense of what being neighborly is really about. Maybe that sounds typical or even boring but this is exactly what the mission of our agency strives to foster, support and encourage. Some would term it as a “life like yours”; I prefer a life “like theirs”.

Having the opportunity to be needed, to belong, and even to fight for something is expressed in action and deeds. It’s the fabric that builds our community while reflecting the tapestry of our diversity. It is us, all of us.

Behind every one of the stories are hard-working and principled staff, who seek and encourage connection and contribution. It’s the long-standing leaders who have maintained our beliefs and values, the board members who give freely and wisely guide our decision-making. And it’s you, the many supporters, donors and believers in a city, community or neighborhood that can only be at its best when everyone is included.

Many years ago in Hope House Foundation’s infancy, we dreamed of getting people out of the shadows, which translated to moving people from large-scale institutions to group homes. We believed then that this would create opportunities and the world would open up to people with disabilities. It was certainly better, but still not great. Isolating people in smaller facilities still did not produce vibrant lives.

Twenty-two years ago, when we went against the grain and stepped out of the system to not only promote but actually insist that all people with disabilities be supported in their own homes, our true learning began. That’s when the art of building community became our passion and that is when you came in, our partners in this extraordinary journey.

We are all told that giving is better than receiving, that helping others makes our own lives more meaningful; this is true for people with disabilities as well. So thank you for a year in which we celebrate the gifts we bring and offer unselfishly, for the kindness we show one another, and most of all for the community we call home to be such a shining example of generosity and hope.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynne Seagle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lynne Seagle
Executive Director

Audited Financial Statements - June 30, 2016

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$109,232	2.3%
Short-Term Investments	\$2,448,540	52.5%
Pledges Receivable	\$3,325	0.1%
Grants Receivable	\$64,047	1.4%
Other Current Assets	\$1,847,159	39.6%
Property, Plant and Equipment	\$178,839	3.8%
Other Assets	\$12,540	0.3%
Total Assets	\$4,663,682	100.0%

Liabilities & Net Assets

Liabilities, Current	\$906,597	19.4%
Liabilities, Long-Term	\$11,250	0.2%
Net Assets	\$3,745,835	80.3%
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$4,663,682	100.0%

Based on the audited Statement of Activities Report, 90.7% of our funding is derived from contract revenue, which are primarily Medicaid Waivers. Our administrative costs are 8.3% and fundraising costs are 4.5% of our total operating costs.

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