



hope news

Fall 2022

FOR A LIFETIME OF SERVICE, WE SAY THANK YOU.

Lynne Seagle retires after 44 years with Hope House Foundation

It is doubtful that one could find an individual who has impacted the disability field as demonstrably and for as long a period of time as Lynne Seagle, who joined Hope House Foundation in 1978 and has been the executive director since 1982. It is not an exaggeration to say that Seagle has devoted close to half a century to her passion – the full inclusion and participation in the community of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

In the mid 1980s, Seagle led Hope House Foundation to move the agency from providing support to people in group homes to what they stated was their housing preference. The majority of people arrived at Hope House from state-run institutions. When asked how they would prefer to live, the majority indicated that they preferred their own apartments – an unheard concept at the time. Motivated by these passionately stated preferences, Seagle began what would become decades-long leadership on inclusivity and person-centered services. By 1995, all persons supported by Hope House lived in their own apartments, a first in Virginia.

With the dearth of affordable, safe housing becoming increasingly challenging as the early 2000s wore on, Hope House knew it needed funding to purchase apartment buildings that would provide affordable housing not only to Hope House consumers, but to the community at large – an innovation that created inclusive communities where people with and without disabilities live and interact.



As Lynne emerged as a leader in the inclusivity field well beyond Virginia, demand for her insights and assistance grew. Over the years, she has provided consulting services to organizations throughout the United States as well as in Canada, Asia and the UK. And, since its inception in 2006, she has been a leading partner in The National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities, which was formed to address a void in the leadership of organizations providing services to people with intellectual disabilities.

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It is one thing – and certainly not a small thing – to effect change within one’s organization, and her accomplishments in closing group homes; galvanizing a board and staff to embrace massive challenges; and raising private funds to support people with disabilities when government funds proved insufficient or nonexistent is clear.

In 2021, Lynne was awarded the Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award by The Arc for her leadership resulting in a significant improvement in supports, services, opportunities, and community inclusion for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Seagle’s influence has also been applauded over the years by a multitude of professional organizations in the intellectual and developmental disability field:

1986: Administrator of the Year, Virginia Community Living Association

1990: Leadership Award, American Association on Intellectual Disabilities

1995: Future Leaders, Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation

2019: Advocacy Award, The Arc of Virginia

2019: Honoree, National Historical Recognition Project

For those of us who have benefitted from her leadership along with the thousands of people with disabilities who have benefited from her lifelong passion, we say a hearty Thank You! And, enjoy your well-deserved retirement. ■

SHANNON POCIASK TAKES THE HELM AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Since 2003, Shannon has played a leading role in Hope House’s impact on the lives of people with disabilities in Hampton Roads. Shannon is an endorsed Positive Behavior Support Facilitator through Virginia Commonwealth University, and she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in social work with a minor in psychology from Christopher Newport University. Shannon leads a full life as the mother of two boys, and when she is away from Hope House, she enjoys relaxing with a good book and spending time with family and friends.



Having a sister with a developmental disability, Shannon knows how important independence is. She is dedicated to ensure that Hope House provides the best support services in the region that also respects the balance between independence and informed choices. Shannon is a champion of new ideas and solutions for the people we support and Hope House staff. She consistently challenges the agency to break down barriers and spearheads positive change to better support people with disabilities in the community. Shannon is excited and challenged to extend the agency’s impact in her new role as Executive Director. ■

Celebrate the best of everything local at the 8th Annual Chelsea West Fest



on **October 1 from noon to 6 p.m.** in the **Chelsea Business District**, 1200 Boissevain Avenue in West Ghent, Norfolk. The **FREE** Festival offers a wide variety of hand-made items from crafters, talented musicians, beers, pop-up food vendors and other products.

Entertainment will be provided by some of the region’s most popular performers.

SCHEDULE:

12:30pm-2pm **SuburbanKeyParty**
2:30-4pm **BluzHammer**
4:30-6pm **Cody Christian**

Kids activities include face painting and balloon animals by Bobby the Clown. Sponsored by **Old Point National Bank, TFA Benefits, Smartmouth Brewing Co. and VEER.**

TOWNE BANK
presents

STOCKLEY GARDENS ARTS FESTIVAL FALL 2022



Saturday, October 15th, 10am-5pm
Sunday, October 16th, Noon-5pm
STOCKLEY GARDENS PARK IN HISTORIC GHENT

Join us for a weekend full of ART, MUSIC AND KIDS' ACTIVITIES!

STOCKLEYGARDENS.COM
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.



All proceeds benefit the Hope House Foundation.

HOPE HOUSE FOUNDATION

hosts the Stockley Gardens Fall Arts Festival,

a free two-day community event featuring 120+ artists, musicians and food vendors. The Stockley Gardens Fall Arts Festival, presented by TowneBank, takes place in Stockley Gardens Park at the corner of Stockley Gardens and Olney Road in Norfolk on October 15 and 16. Festival hours are 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday and noon to 5 pm on Sunday.

Everyone is welcome to the free Art Party sponsored by Smartmouth Brewery on Saturday from 5 to 7 pm. This fun event recognizes artists' awards and features the band Rachel & The JellyCats with a cash bar.

Entertainment Schedule SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

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| 11am | Dry Land Folk Duo
Folk-Americana |
| 11:45am | The Esoteric Ramblers
The World's Best Beer Band - Acoustic |
| 2pm | Skye Zentz
Singer-Songwriter |
| 3:30pm | Times New Roman
Indie-Pop Duo |
| 5pm | Rachel & the JellyCats
Soulful Rock |

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

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| 12pm | Marc Pessar and Sandy Martin
Acoustic Blues & Singer-Songwriter |
| 12:45pm | Rob Oliver and the Attractors
Blues & Rock |
| 1:45pm | Fox and the Bear
Indie Folk |
| 3:30pm | Ward's Pocket
Alternative Rock |

There are also activities for children throughout the weekend with clowns, musicians, hula hooping and art activities.

Stockley Gardens Fall Arts Festival presented by TowneBank is also sponsored by Capital Group, Miller Oil, Southern Auto Group, Mancon, Ghent Business Association, The City of Norfolk, The Port of Virginia and Holistic Family Practice. Media Sponsors include VEER Magazine, Coastal Virginia Magazine, WHRO and 92.3 FM The Tide.



801 Boush Street
Suite 302
Norfolk, VA 23510

Hope-House.org

t. 757-625-6161
f. 757-625-7775

Hope House is a certified
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Designation #5070



UPCOMING EVENTS

• **October 1**

Chelsea West Fest

• **October 15&16**

Stockley Gardens Fall Arts Festival

• **November 29**

Giving Tuesday

For more information please contact Laura DeVore
at ldevore@hope-house.org or 757-625-6161 X509.



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