

## HOPE HOUSE FOUNDATION'S DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL (DSP) OF THE YEAR FOR 2024

# JEN SERINA

**J**en has shown exemplary dedication and leadership in her role. She ensures that staff are diligent about maintaining relationships and continue to engage meaningfully with those we support. Under her guidance, our staff foster strong, supportive bonds that make a lasting impact on the community.

Jen is not just a leader; she is a visionary. She encourages and leads the people we support in hosting neighborhood events on every holiday. From passing out invitations to collaborating with neighbors on the plans, Jen ensures that everyone feels included and involved. These events bring together neighbors, friends, family, and the people we support, creating a vibrant and cohesive community. The parties are a testament to Jen's ability to unite people and foster a sense of belonging.



A strong, honest, hardworking, and reliable leader, Jen follows through on her commitments. When Jen says she is going to do

something, she makes sure it happens.

Jen also assists individuals in achieving greater independence. She has been instrumental in helping one person plan and schedule trips to ride the train alone from Norfolk to DC to visit her sister. This individual had never traveled without staff or her parent/guardian before. Jen advocated for this person's right to travel independently and supported her every step of the way—from planning and packing to purchasing tickets and discussing safe interactions while traveling. Thanks to Jen's advocacy and support, this individual can now experience the joy and freedom of independent travel.

Her dedication, compassion, and leadership embody the values of Hope House Foundation and make a profound difference in the lives of those we support.

# SHANNON SAYS: "WE ARE LEADERS."

## A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHANNON POCIASK



The people we support are leaders, like Jesse, who is a shining example of this leadership. Jesse tirelessly advocates for others, ensuring that everyone has the same rights and opportunities that he has fought to secure. His dedication is inspiring, reminding us of all the power of advocacy and the impact one person can make. Hope House

Foundation began a group of self-advocates, Our Voices, more than a decade ago. Today, Our Voices is an award-winning group for their work being a catalyst for change advocating with Jesse.

The people we employ are leaders, like our Ambassadors of Hope, who exemplify leadership in delivering person-centered support. They represent just a few of the many Direct Support Professionals dedicated to fulfilling our mission for those we support. Their commitment drives our success and embodies the spirit of our work. Hope House Foundation is committed to the professionalization of the Direct Support Professional as a standard occupational classification.

Community leaders, like Phil Hernandez, one of the many champions who value the essential work we do and acknowledge our leadership in empowering people with developmental disabilities to lead full lives. The people we support and employ are focused on meeting with elected officials and state leaders to share our service model and hear the stories of self-advocates.

Our donors are essential to our leadership success. Hope House Foundation leads to be a true part of community. We are deeply thankful for their generosity, as they value and invest in the lives of those we support. Their commitment empowers our mission and brings hope to countless individuals. Through donor support, resources are provided for people to lead fulfilling lives, realize their full potential, and become valued members of our communities.

We are leaders of Hope. At Hope House Foundation, we advocate, build meaningful relationships, and provide the essential support that empowers adults with disabilities to live a life of their own design. The people we support share their stories to show that with the right supports, anyone can successfully live in their own home.

Hope House Foundation has advocated for and supported individuals with disabilities every step along their journey since 1964. This newsletter celebrates not only what has been achieved but looks forward to shaping a future where everyone has an opportunity to thrive.

## 2024 AMBASSADORS OF HOPE



L-R: Tiffany Thurmond, Annette DeSimone, Arnette Gallop, Latorya Williams, Jen Serina and Carrie Hardie

### AMBASSADOR OF LEADERSHIP > TIFFANY THURMOND

Tiffany has shown remarkable vision and integrity, guiding us across multiple teams and initiatives. From the Bison Team to the retreat committee, her emerging leadership is making a profound impact.

### AMBASSADOR OF INNOVATION > ANNETTE DESIMONE

Annette partnered with our behavior support department to ensure the success of an individual wherever he goes. Her innovative methods have opened new avenues for achieving life goals.

### AMBASSADOR OF COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS > ARNETTE GALLOP

Arnette has played a crucial role in helping individuals find their own connections within the Ghent community and works tirelessly to sustain important friendships.

### AMBASSADOR OF PERSON-CENTERED SUPPORTS > LATORYA WILLIAMS

For over a decade, Latorya has been a steadfast advocate, ensuring that people have the freedom to make their own choices, whether planning fabulous vacations or navigating complex relationships.

### AMBASSADOR OF COMMITMENT > CARRIE HARDIE

Carrie supports people through some of life's most challenging moments, from finding new homes to navigating social services.



**A Commending Resolution 318** was presented from the floor of The House of Delegates on 3/5 by Del. Phil Hernandez. It recognizes Our Voices' state leadership in self-advocacy on behalf of Virginians with Developmental Disabilities relating to issues such as provider capacity for individualized, integrated, person-centered supports so that all Virginians with

DD may have the opportunity to live self-directed lives with the supports they need to do so. Executive Committee member Grace was honored to accept this Resolution on behalf of the committee at the 46th Hope House Foundation Annual Dinner.

**Congratulations to Jesse Monroe** on his appointment by Governor Glenn Youngkin to the Board of Directors of The Virginia Technology Loan Fund Authority. Jesse's commitment to self-advocacy, his tireless work ethic and his exemplary leadership have earned him this opportunity to help make Virginia a more accessible place to live for people with disabilities.

Congratulations to  
**Jesse Monroe**  
Executive Committee Member, Our Voices  
Lead Curriculum Developer & Coach, The Arc of Virginia  
For this Important Appointment!



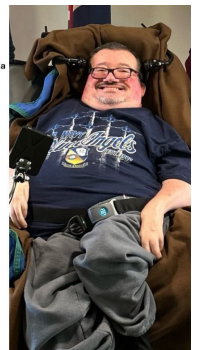
Commonwealth of Virginia  
Office of Governor Glenn Youngkin  
Governor Glenn Youngkin Announces  
Additional Administration and Board  
Appointments

RC HM05B - Governor Glenn Youngkin today announced additional key administration and board appointments.

#### BOARD APPOINTMENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN FUND AUTHORITY

• Jesse Monroe of Norfolk, Lead Curriculum Developer and Coach, Arc of Virginia



# HOPE HOUSE FOUNDATION HOSTS THE STOCKLEY GARDENS FALL ARTS FESTIVAL,

a free two-day community event featuring 130+ 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 19th and 20th. 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 Lucky 757 with a cash bar.

## ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

### 11:00 AM

Liz & Brydge  
Bass & Voice Duo

### 12:30 PM

Matt Holloman  
Indie Acoustic Chill

### 2:00 PM

Wine Dark Sea  
Epic Folk & Original Americana

### 3:30 PM

Jonah Ross  
Lyrically-Driven Rock & Americana

### 5:00 PM

Lucky 757  
Rock n' Roll

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

### 12:00 PM

Felicia Hoyos  
Acoustic, Pop, Rock, Soul

### 1:45 PM

Roy Ira Moats and the Lovecats  
Folk, Singer-Songwriter, Pop, Raggae

### 3:30 PM

Fox and the Bear  
Indie Americana Folk

**There are also activities for children throughout the weekend with face painting, hands-on music and art activities.**

[Stockley Gardens Fall Arts](#)



PRESENTS

# stockley gardens

FALL ARTS FESTIVAL 2024



october 19 10am-5pm

october 20 noon-5pm

JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND FULL OF  
ART, MUSIC AND KIDS' ACTIVITIES!

STOCKLEY GARDENS PARK IN HISTORIC GHENT



Festival presented by TowneBank is also sponsored by

Capital Group, Miller Energy, Southern Auto Group, Mancon, City of Norfolk and Ghent Business Association. Media Sponsors include VEER Magazine, Coastal Virginia Magazine, WHRO and 92.3 FM The Tide. **For more information go to [stockleygardens.com](http://stockleygardens.com)**

**JOIN THE FRIENDS OF STOCKLEY PROGRAM AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE WHILE SUPPORTING THE VISUAL ARTS!**

- Click the link the QR code and choose Friend of Stockley in the drop down menu
- Choose your donation level and complete your contribution.
- Enjoy your exclusive swag and VIP perks depending on level!





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Hope House is a certified  
United Way of Hampton Roads agency.  
Designation #5070



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Oct 19&20**  
**Stockley  
Gardens  
Fall Arts  
Festival**

**Dec 3**  
**Giving  
Tuesday**

**Dec 5**  
**Hope House  
Foundation  
Board  
Madness  
Event**



For more information please contact Laura DeVore  
at [ldevore@hope-house.org](mailto:ldevore@hope-house.org) or 757-625-6161 X509.



Proud Member of the National Association of Direct Support Professionals

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