



FIRESIDE CHAT

At Hope Harbor, we value openness and transparency, especially when it comes to our donors' questions. In this edition of Helping Hand, we invite you to join us for a fireside chat with our Board Members as they address some of the most commonly asked questions.

Question: How long until children are back on the Hope Harbor campus?

Answer: "We are working to update the cottages, preparing them to house three foster families with an anticipated occupation date of mid-summer 2025. Our aim is to provide a supportive Christian community of foster families on our campus with the first phase of the plan, filling all present cottages, before the end of the year. We hope to be hosting 12 to 18 foster children and their families by that time with plans to add more cottages, facilities, and services in the future." - Board Member Shawn Minor

Question: Where is my money going since no children are being served?

Answer: "Our number one need, and spend, at this moment is to overhaul two of our cottages that were built in the 1990's. These cottages have seen constant use, with their doors open to troubled teens, for 30 years. Their years of service are showing! These cottages need a complete overhaul, not just a light freshening. We are working to obtain bids for this process and will begin the "remodeling" phase in March. As we plot our future course, we are also carefully planning our organization structure. Hope Harbor needs key people in strategic positions to not only prepare us for hosting foster families, but also for providing support once the families arrive. These people will need to be in place before we can bring children back to campus." - Board Member David Maynard

Question: Is Hope Harbor considering leaving the Churches of Christ?

Answer: "Hope Harbor is leaning into the Churches of Christ. Rather than take steps to reduce our connection to our tradition, we have codified our statements of faith, we have taken time to strengthen our relationship with our overseeing Elders, and we have considered how our next steps would or could limit our ability to integrate our faith into the service we provide. Our actions have always been directed toward maximizing the interface of faith and service." - Board Member Brian Lehman

Question: Why is it taking so long to devise a plan and for reorganization of Hope Harbor to meet the needs of Oklahoma and surrounding state's children?

Answer: "It was decided that the current use of assets, human capital and the monetary donations supporting both was not being maximized to the fullest extent so a redirection was needed. Education and site visits began, in order to investigate other options which included the many regulatory facets of caring for children. In the following months, the exit of key personnel occurred which slowed the progress. With the recent hiring of Kay Dalton, God has opened doors to resources and options to help lead us towards a potential viable organizational structure. The plan is being built and will be presented to the Blue Starr elders for their thoughts and perspectives on March 1, 2025. Additionally, this time has allowed the team to evaluate current infrastructure for future repairs and maintenance required for the chosen path." - *Board Member Kelley Quinn*

Question: Who will lead the transition and growth efforts of Hope Harbor and what is their expertise?

Answer: "Kay Dalton has stepped away as a voting board member to become our interim executive director. Kay has both project and program development experience as well as administrative and strategic planning skills. She is charged with researching state requirements, foster care facility models, and physical plant upgrade necessities. As a board, we are meeting once a month with Kay for updates and decisions. Once a path has been chosen by the board and the foundation laid, we will look to a qualified visionary executive director who can serve Hope Harbor through the next phase of growth." - *Board Member Bobby Morrow*

Question: How can I, as a donor, have faith in the board to choose the correct path?

Answer: "Pray for the board and remaining Hope Harbor employees to make the right decision for the children needing assistance. Call and speak to Kay about the future direction. Read the newsletters to stay close to the upcoming changes and pending decisions. Through education, the board understands that we don't have to reinvent the wheel. Various models exist in the state to help our children and Hope Harbor can certainly blend certain models to maximize the number of children being helped while holding true to the Hope Harbor bylaws. The structure and organization may look different, but the mission won't change." - *Board Member Kelley Quinn*

Question: What are your one year and three year plans?

Answer: "Our one-year plan is to revamp two of our cottages and prepare to accept children back on campus by mid-summer 2025, providing necessary services to those families. Our three-year plan is to expand our residential offerings (housing) and foster family amenities in order to build a vibrant and safe community, providing wrap-around services and growth opportunities to foster families and children." - *Board Member Bobby Morrow*

Question: What is the future for Hope Harbor?

Answer: "Hope Harbor is committed to serving the needs of children and families. We are evaluating our resources and the areas they could be used to serve. We anticipate deploying those resources as quickly as we can identify their appropriate use. Our commitment to you as a board is that when we deploy our resources, we will do it to the benefit of children and families." - *Board Member Brian Lehman*

Do you have more questions for our board?

Please call 918-343-0003 or email info@hopeharborinc.com

What's Happening at



January

- Research on state foster care facility models is 95% complete.
- Estimates for physical plant upgrades are near completion.
- The Board met January 28, with an Executive Director from another facility, to discuss a certain model.

February

- Remaining foster care facility model will be visited and assessed.
- Board meeting to preparation for a joint meeting with the trustees in which the board will present a plan for the trustees' approval.

March

- March 1 - Joint meeting of the Hope Harbor board of directors and board of trustees. Please pray for this meeting! Specifically, that the Lord will open doors through approval of all parties involved. Depending on the outcome of this meeting, we hope to have a clear path forward and immediate movement in that direction.
- Reconstruction to begin on cottages.
- New organizational chart (for employees) will be presented to board for approval.

**We kindly ask you to remember
Hope Harbor in your prayers.**



George Bell:

How Fostering changed the lives of four generations

By Kay Dalton and members of the George Bell Family

George Bell, born in 1930, knew what it was like to experience abandonment, real hunger, malnutrition, abuse, and the fear of uncertainty and hopelessness. After being abandoned as a child on a dirt floor cabin to endure cold and hunger alongside his brothers, he lived in a County home as well as various foster homes.

Eventually, George was taken in, as a teenager, to his final foster home – that of Orval and Mary Trammel. Not judging him by his circumstances, this gracious Christian couple opened their home and hearts and eventually became his true parents and his true family. The Trammels taught and demonstrated Godly love, kindness, gentleness, wisdom and humor. With patience and tenderness, they forged a connection with 13-year-old George, breaking generational cycles of trauma and transforming the trajectory of George's life and subsequently, the life of four generations. George developed into a man of integrity who once stated "I refuse to let my childhood define my adulthood." Although he bore his childhood physical and emotional scars his whole life, he did not let them define him.

As an adult, George grew in his understanding of and devotion to the Lord. He married a Christian wife, Dorothy, and they remained married for 73 years. During those years, they pushed through hard times and set strong Christian examples for their children of love, hard work, integrity, forgiveness, and kindness. Eventually, George served as an elder for his local congregation. George and Dorothy's children witnessed George's devotion to the Lord and empathy for others who were hurting, especially children. Their children also knew the Trammells as their grandparents.

The Trammell's chose to use their lifetime in service to the Lord. They saw a need and met it, understanding that ultimately it wasn't about the child's impact on them – it was about God's impact, through them, on that child. As a result, one of George Bell's legacies is that he taught his children about our Lord, and they taught their children, and those grandchildren are now teaching the next generation. The children and grandchildren of George and Dorothy have served as elders, deacons, social workers, and public servants whose lives are dedicated to assisting children and adults in adverse conditions. What a legacy that George Bell has left for his family! Additionally, the impact of Trammel's decision to bond with a hurting, lost teenager is still impacting families in various communities. A memorial was even established at Hope Harbor, by his loving family, honoring the life of George Bell and impacting children for years to come.

What about you? One foster mother recently stated that for years she resisted the urge in her heart to foster children. It was not going to fit into her schedule, and she already had much on her plate. Then, after fostering she realized: "It's not about me....it's about using my resources for work in God's kingdom. It's about the child I am fostering." Who knows the impact you could have on future generations and communities by opening your heart and home to foster children? God has always worked through normal people to do great things. Talk about being missionaries in residence!

Why not you?

HOPE HARBOR

MEMORIALS

TONYA ALFORD
Susan Burgoon

TONYA ALFORD
Carol Seay

ELWOOD BENTLEY
Julie Davis

TONYA ALFORD
Susan Burgoon

TONYA ALFORD
Carol Seay

ELWOOD BENTLEY
Julie Davis

ELWOOD AND SYLVIA BENTLEY
Nancy Bobsein

LEO AND MABELL BOBSEIN
Nancy Bobsein

LEO AND MABELL BOBSEIN
Nancy Bobsein

MARILYN BRADLEY
Shirley Maddox

TERRY BROWN
Tom Brewster

ETHEL BURLEIGH
Sonja Englund

ETHEL BURLEIGH
David Samstag

JOHN AND ETHEL BURLEIGH
Nancy Bobsein

WADE AND ILENE BUTLER
Anonymous

RUSSELL CAPSHAW
Zelma Pitts

HOMER DAVIS
Nancy Bobsein

FREDIA GILES
Frances Garrett

CAROL GOLIGHTLY
Nancy Bobsein

MIKE HART
Renata Jump

JEFFREY KAUTZ
Mike Nelson

ROBERT MANINGER
Vera Maninger

KENNETH MCILROY
Bill Johnson

KENNETH MCILROY
Gwendolyn Rish

GLADYS PADGETT
Roy Fogleman

LANITA PEMBERTON
Nancy Bobsein

TOM RICHARDSON
John Shrock

JIM SAMUEL
Tom Brewster

KIM SMITH
Kaye Hickson

DALE AND MARYNELL TRIMBLE
Kaye Hickson

MIKE WEBBER
Wanda Benson

MEMORIALS & HONORS

*EVERY BLANK MUST BE FULLY COMPLETED IN ORDER TO USE
YOUR GIFT AS A MEMORIAL OR HONOR GIFT

☐ A MEMORIAL FOR
☐ IN HONOR
OF

Name of person being
memorialized or honored.
(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Send Acknowledgement To: (Please Print)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Given By: (Please Print)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____



Scan the QR code with
your smart phone to
donate your memorial
or honor gift online at
hopeharborinc.org.

READER'S BOOK CORNER



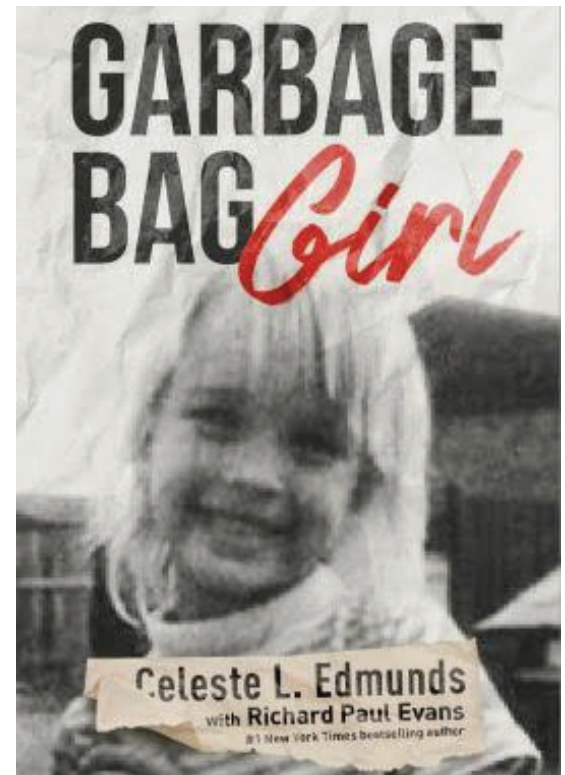
If you love reading, this new section of our newsletter is perfect for you! Understanding others' experiences and perspectives can often be challenging, but few things rival the power of a great book to broaden our knowledge and deepen our empathy for those facing difficult circumstances.

This month's suggestion is "Garbage Bag Girl" by Celeste L Edmunds, rated 4.6 on Amazon. Celeste tells her own story of childhood trauma, abuse, and experience with the foster care system. This book is a short read which leaves you with many questions and thoughts.

Children's brains do not have the reasoning power that adult brains do. Celeste makes many questioning decisions as a child – which only helps us better understand what can happen when children are not given proper care, guidance, and protection. One warning – Celeste does not hold back in telling of molestation events in her childhood although she does not go into graphic detail.

From Amazon: "This book is an honest and vulnerable first-person account of Celeste Edmunds a young woman who was raised by drug addict parents and, at a young age, learned to survive and protect her siblings among rapists and drug dealers. Eventually the state separated the family and

Celeste was adopted, alone, into a dysfunctional, fractured home where she was treated, by a sadistic and manipulating mother, as an unwanted outsider. Contemplating taking her abusers life, she eventually ran away, finding shelter wherever she could, until a compassionate woman stepped in to give her a home and love. Ultimately, Garbage Bag Girl, is an unforgettable story of hope."



MEET THE HOPE HARBOR BOARD



Board President Lawson Vaughn

Lawson is a senior assistant city attorney for the City of Tulsa and works in civil litigation. He worked in the claims department for Farmers Insurance for over ten years and spent nine years in private practice as a trial attorney in civil litigation, primarily in the area of insurance defense. Lawson has been privileged to serve on the Hope Harbor board of directors since 2015. Lawson attends the Park Church of Christ and enjoys watching and playing sports, traveling, and spending time with family.



Board Vice President Kelley Quinn

Kelley is vice president of American Accounting for Dentsply Sirona, where she has worked for 29 years. Kelley is serving her second round on the board of directors for Hope Harbor. She attends the Dierks, AR Church of Christ and enjoys traveling, friends and family time.



Board Secretary Brian Lehman

Brian is an accountant turned entrepreneur. After leading and managing for 20 years in accounting and finance, he recently launched his own business and is now creating a space where people can meet their laundry needs in a community environment. Safety, sustainability, and empathy drive his decisions. Brian attends the Park Church of Christ and has served on the Hope Harbor board for two years. He is an avid runner and cyclist and enjoys the occasional race.



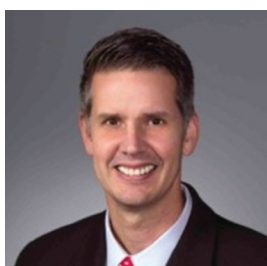
Board Member David Maynard

David is a retired licensed professional counselor. His work experience includes 20 years of mental health direct client care and 20 years of utilization review of behavioral health cases. David has also served on the Hope Harbor board of directors for two terms, with a total of 14 years of service. He attends the Broken Arrow Church of Christ and enjoys teaching Bible class, running, and hiking.



Board Member Shawn Minor

Shawn is an emergency room physician. He has worked saving people in the emergency room for twenty years. Shawn attends worship at the Park Church of Christ, and has served on the Hope Harbor board of directors for two years. He enjoys ATV riding and traveling.



Board Member Bobby Morrow

Bobby is the director of marketing, product development, and quality for Chinook Medical Gear. He has over 20 years of experience building brands and leading teams in marketing and operations. He attends the Park Church of Christ and has been serving on the Hope Harbor board of directors for two years. He enjoys teaching Bible class, sports, cooking and enjoying family.



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Helping Hand newsletter!

Follow Hope Harbor on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn for the latest updates, foster care statistics, and a dose of weekly encouragement. Together, we can keep building a community of hope and support for those who need it most. Join the conversation, share your thoughts, and help us spread the word about foster care support.

Facebook: @HopeHarborCares

Instagram: @HopeHarborCares

LinkedIn: Hope Harbor

Not on social media? No problem! Visit our website to subscribe to our monthly emails and stay up-to-date. Your support makes a difference every day.

Board of Directors

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KELLEY QUINN - Board Vice President

BRIAN LEHMAN - Board Secretary

DAVID MAYNARD

SHAWN MINOR

BOBBY MORROW

Staff

KAY DALTON - Interim Executive Director

SARAH MCCLAUGHTERY - Office Assistant

SHANE MCCLAUGHTERY - Project Assistant

MIKE BEJARANO - Thrift Harbor & Maintenance

MATEO BEJARANO - Thrift Harbor & Maintenance