

BUILDING HOPE

CHILDREN’S HOME WELCOMES FIRST RESIDENTS



In partnership with the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities — and in collaboration with architect Jeff Barber, Roseman Construction, and Cherokee Rose Residential — we recently opened and welcomed residents to Stark County’s first-ever Children’s Home, dedicated to kids with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD’s). It’s a monumental moment for our community, especially the children and families who will served by this incredible home.

Complete with high-impact wall boards and break resistant windows, a Snoezlen® sensory room (pictured above), a study/activity area, and a soon-to-be fenced in backyard — the house was thoughtfully designed in every way to accommodate the special needs of its residents. Children have already moved in and are acclimating well, says house manager Sierra McCord.

“This house and our team will provide the children with IDD’s the stability and safety they may have never had before,” she says. “We’re working hard every day to help the children have the life they deserve.”

Give hope today through our Annual Giving Campaign

BE A PART OF 60+ YEARS OF HOPE

As we celebrate our sixth decade of building Hope in our community, we invite you to help us commemorate 60+ years by giving \$60, \$600 or \$6,000 to help us continue to serve! Your tax-deductible contribution will enhance the quality of life for our residents and ensure the comfort and safety of every home we manage.

All Annual Giving Campaign donors (or their honorees) will be recognized on our donor wall at Hope Center and in our annual report and quarterly newsletter.

To discuss a major gift donation, please contact Joan Davidson at 330-686-5342 or jdavidson@hopehomes.org.



To donate, scan the QR code or visit www.hopehomes.org/give-hope-today



*A 501c3, Not for Profit Organization
special needs.*

Celebrating over six decades as a housing organization for people with disabilities and other

2300 Call Road
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A Changing of the Guard: Sitting CEO Paul Herrera to Retire, Joan Davidson Hired as Incoming CEO

As one chapter closes at Hope Homes Foundation, Inc., another begins. After 8 years of dedicated service to HHF, CEO Paul Herrera is retiring effective June 30, 2025. Joan Davidson will enter the position on July 1, 2025.

A Letter from Paul Herrera

My Heart is Full. Thank you.

After nearly 8 years as CEO at the organization, I will be leaving Hope Homes at the end of June. Leading Hope Homes has been a joy, challenge, and honor. I am tremendously proud of the success we have had and the progress we have made.

Over the last eight years together we:

- Expanded and strengthened our mission to provide affordable, safe, and accessible housing to persons with developmental disabilities and special needs.
- Increased and assured the sustainability, integrity, and recovery of the organization throughout the state and local communities we serve.
- Accomplished historic success in obtaining and utilizing over \$5 million dollars' worth of grants to grow the numbers of homes owned and renovate those in existence since I began this journey in 2017.
- Led and mobilized our staff, resources, and board to truly make each home "A Quality Home for a Quality Life" initiative.
- Built the first "Smart Home" and Home for Behavioral Challenged Youth in Northeast Ohio.

While I'm not going far and will always be tightly connected to Hope Homes, it's time now for me to say farewell and thank you.

I'm looking forward to more traveling and adventures with my wife — this picture of us was taken while we were visiting Paris, Normandy, and Amsterdam this spring!

"Hope Homes extends its heartfelt gratitude to outgoing CEO Paul Herrera, whose leadership and dedication have shaped the organization over the years. We thank Paul for his many contributions and wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement."

– Sarah Plasters, HHF Board President



A Letter from Joan Davidson



I am a proud Akron native, where I reside with my husband, dog, and two teenagers — and one college student when he is home for breaks.

I spent my graduate studies evaluating housing needs in Akron and dedicated two years to Midtown Apartments, which provided single-room occupancy units for the homeless population. After college, I worked in the criminal justice field, offering adult education and workforce development services aimed at helping returning citizens transition successfully home. I spent several years collaborating with the faith-based community to assist the elderly in staying safe at home by coordinating volunteer support. I worked for five years in the public housing sector, managing resident services and family supports to ensure residents succeed in their units. Most recently, I was employed at a family support agency, supervising wrap-around services for families in

need. I feel that my entire career has centered on supporting individuals and families while building homes and community.

Hope Homes allows me to be a part of providing a safe, secure, and stable foundation for individuals and families. Housing is essential for meeting basic needs, fostering social and emotional well-being, and even influencing economic opportunities and community development. I look forward to continuing HHF's strong legacy of supporting my community by providing a platform for improved quality of life and community integration for those in need. But I know I cannot do this alone. I will need the support of all our community partners, networks, supporters, and donors. Please reach out to see how you can help us continue this important work!

"Joan is deeply aligned with the Hope Homes mission, and we are thrilled to welcome her to the organization. Her track record of compassionate leadership and community engagement makes her uniquely qualified to lead HHF into its next chapter, and her vision, integrity, and unwavering commitment to community service are exactly what we need as we look toward the future."

– Sarah Plasters, HHF Board President