

# BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER STEPHANIE FORSYTH



I was looking for a way to give back to my community and serve on a board that supported individuals with developmental disabilities. Paul and I happened to cross paths, and I was honored to hear more about Hope Homes Foundation's mission. It became clear to me very quickly that this was an organization I wanted to help support! I was voted onto the board in September 2022. I wish I could explain the level of TLC, work, and careful consideration that goes into making our houses the best possible home for those who live there. Hope Homes is not just a property management company. We're continuously looking for ways to partner with local care providers as well as state and local departments of developmental disabilities. We want to ensure our current and future residents and their families have access to resources and solutions when needed. The Smart Home is a tremendous step forward in fulfilling that mission!

*Celebrating six decades as a housing ministry for people with disabilities and other special needs. A 501c3, Not for Profit Organization*

2300 Call Road  
Stow, OH 44224-1502



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# BUILDING HOPE

## SMART MOVES

As we restart our quarterly newsletter, we're thrilled to announce the recent opening of our region's very first "Smart Home" designed specifically to support individuals with developmental disabilities and special needs.

This state-of-the-art house has it all – smart appliances and electronics, AI-powered accessibility automations, personal remote support, and more...you can see the full list on the next page! Anything and everything we could think of to enhance our residents' lives and help them live more independently was integrated into the design.



It's a giant leap forward for us, and a glimpse into what the future holds as we reimagine how "smart" elements provide people with developmental disabilities opportunities we couldn't have imagined even ten years ago.

We're incredibly grateful to our generous donors and our partners – the house was a labor of love and collaboration between ourselves, Charis Homes, the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities, and Midwest Health Services. We couldn't have done this without them. We've dedicated this newsletter to sharing the ins and outs of the project with you, I hope you'll join us on this exciting journey!

**Paul Herrera, CEO** (pictured left with Hope Homes maintenance supervisor William Salem and above with Smart Home partners)

## SMART HOME FEATURES

- **Smart appliances**
  - **Induction stovetop** with no-burn pots and pans enhances safety.
  - **Refrigerator** that assists with meal planning, recipes, ordering groceries, and tracking expiration dates.
  - **Washer/dryer** featuring sensors that detect the amount of clothing inside and assist individuals through the laundry process.
  - **Dishwasher and garbage disposal**
- **Touch faucets**
- **Light alert system** for the hearing impaired; lamp will show different colors to alert residents of different tasks.
- **Whole home automation** with voice and touch commands to control lights, music, temperature, etc.
- **Remote support system** monitored by Total Homecare Solutions (THS). Residents receive support via touchscreens and Angel-sense watches, allowing caregivers to stay connected with residents and respond promptly to their needs. Tracks schedules, calls for emergencies, and has show-and-tell features.
- **Sensory room** created to give residents time to relax and recharge, featuring verbal and tactile controls.
- **Automated medication dispenser** monitored by staff remotely to ensure compliance.
- **Personal remote support system** for health alerts, communication, and appointment reminders.
- **Low level lighting**
- **Zero entry doorways and shower**
- **Smart toothbrush**
- **Smart speakers** that operate with voice commands to play news, music, podcasts, and other streaming audio content; helps in creating routines.
- **Smart plugs/light bulbs** in wall light switches, plus automated lights.
- **Thermostat/Smoke detectors/Sprinkler & Monitored Fire Alarm System** ensures residents' safety.
- **Smart window shades** in the sensory room.
- **Smart sensors w/ alarms** that detect activity or conditions around the house, including movement and falls, temperature, etc.
- **Safety and security devices** including a smart lock on the front door, Ring doorbells, and more.



“This Smart Home initiative marks a milestone in the journey towards inclusive living for individuals with developmental disabilities in Stark County.” – *Paul Herrera*



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