

BUILDING HOPE

New Beginnings

It’s been a busy year so far for Hope Homes Foundation Inc. — and we wouldn’t have it any other way! Our newest construction — Patriot Place, in Massillon — is now complete and we welcomed four new residents on July 1st. Additionally, our recently renovated home in Wooster welcomed three new residents back in March...and we’ve just purchased another home in Wayne county! Work will begin soon on a new ADA bathroom, remodeled kitchen, new HVAC system, and refinished floors, with plans to add a four seasons room in the near future as well. Check out the pictures in the insert to see our Massillon and Wooster homes.

With these additional properties comes the need for more staff to help support their maintenance. To that end, we’re excited to welcome Alex Holder (pictured right) — our new support maintenance worker — to the team!

Alex is enthusiastic and willing to learn, which we greatly appreciate. His electrical background will be incredibly useful, especially around inspections. Please join me in welcoming Alex!



I’m also happy to announce that beginning this fall — and every quarter thereafter, thanks to a generous grant from People’s Bank Foundation — we’ll be offering our residents a financial empowerment / money management class. Open to any resident of a Hope Homes Foundation Inc. house and completely free of charge, the class will teach residents the importance of managing their money and building credit, and provide them with strategies to do it. Each class will be limited to 10 participants to ensure one-on-one attention and support can be provided.

The class will focus on improving four areas of financial literacy:

- Financial education**, to build knowledge
- Financial capability**, to make informed choices and take action on those choices
- Financial wellness**, to meet financial obligations and feel financially secure
- Financial empowerment**, to feel in control of one’s personal finances

Anyone interested in learning more can contact William Salem at (330) 686-5342.

Paul Herrera, CEO

Give hope today through our Annual Giving Campaign

BE A PART OF 60 YEARS OF HOPE

As we celebrate this milestone achievement and continue to build Hope in our community, we invite you to join our 60th Anniversary Circle by giving \$60, \$600 or \$6,000 for our 60th! 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 60th Anniversary Circle members (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 Paul Herrera at 330-686-5342 or pherrera@hopehomes.org.



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



2300 Call Road
Stow, OH 44224-1502

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

CHILDREN’S HOME UPDATE

You may recall from our last newsletter that we’re partnering with Stark DD to build a children’s home in Canton — the first of its kind in our region. It will be a permanent home for three children with behavioral challenges and/or developmental disabilities, with an additional room available for temporary respite care.

Progress is well underway on the project — the home lot has been purchased and we’re currently hard at work planning ways to make the home as functional, accommodating, and enriching as possible for the kids who will live there. To that end, we’ve submitted a grant proposal to equip the house with a snoezelen® multi-sensory environment, or snoezelen® room, in addition to smart appliances that will help foster independence and teach the kids invaluable life skills.

WHAT’S A SNOEZELLEN® ROOM?



Examples of a snoezelen® room (above) and bubble tube (right) from the organization’s website.

This multi-sensory “escape” is created using a variety of elements like music, bubble tubes, lighting effects and fiber optics, sound machines, mirror balls, projectors, and more.

Paired with cushioned walls and floors, the room will provide a safe space for someone with an SPD to release energy, decompress, and self-soothe.

The world can be an overwhelming place for children with behavioral challenges and/or intellectual and developmental disabilities who have a sensory processing disorder, or SPD. When someone suffers from an SPD, their brain can’t process the information coming from the body’s senses in an accurate way. This often leads to confusion, agitation, anxiety, and an over- or under-sensitivity to the environment.

The term snoezelen® — a combination of the Dutch words “snuffelen” (which means seek, or explore) and “doezelen” (to relax) — was coined back in the late 1970’s by therapists Jan Hulsegge and Ad Verheul, after they found success creating calming sensory environments for patients with SPD.

Snoezelen® rooms serve many purposes and different people will benefit in different ways from them, depending on their unique SPD. Not only do the rooms have a powerful calming effect, they can also stimulate interest and aid in learning, development, concentration, and communication.



NEW BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: TOM FIALA

I’m retired now, but my career was spent working in business, accounting and finance, most recently as the Chief Financial Officer for two distribution and one manufacturing business — all experience that I’m excited to bring to the Hope Homes Foundation Inc. finance committee.



I joined forces with HHF because the mission resonates with me on a personal level. My wife and I have close friends in Columbus whose 30 year-old daughter has special needs. Although she currently lives at home, they’re concerned about finding a suitable independent housing environment where she can thrive...the very need HHF is addressing in our local area every day.

The need for safe, affordable housing for people with special needs is great, and I’m thankful for the opportunity to work alongside my fellow board members, HHF staff, and our supporters to help HHF continue to find creative solutions and expand our services to all who need them.

On a personal note, I’m proud to share that my wife and I are celebrating 40 years of marriage this year! We have two amazing daughters and have recently been blessed with our first, beautiful grandchild. I love to exercise playing pickleball and running; I just completed a half marathon in April, in fact! I also volunteer at the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank each week.

Life is a gift and I try to make the most of it each and every day!

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