

# Rays of Hope

*Celebrating 55 Years as a Housing Ministry for People with Disabilities*

Spring 2018

## Hope Homes Foundation Springs into Action

Spring has finally arrived in NE Ohio. Like spring, Hope Homes Foundation is blossoming with ideas and new programs to serve its homes and the community.

First, a summary of where we are as a sustainable nonprofit organization. Hope continues to be in operation today. We have 17 properties in Summit, Stark, Wayne and Warren Counties of Ohio. This includes Hope Center in Stow, which leases space to two separate day center providers and houses our administrative offices.

Our homes currently have a residential capacity of 59, and we are proud to report 57 of the units are filled for a 97% occupancy rate.



Hope Center tenants REM Ohio and People First Day Program and Transportation serve approximately 40-50 individuals with disabilities.

We would like to welcome Marianne Senvisky as our new Business Development Manager. Her duties will center around fundraising, donor relationships, event planning, and developing new opportunities to serve people with special needs.

Hope Homes is now a Medicaid-approved provider for the Ohio Departments of Aging, Job and Family Services, and Developmental Disabilities. Specifically, Hope Homes has applied for Minor Home Repair and Modification service provision. It is our goal to assist and support caregivers of individuals with developmental/other disabilities and older adults to “age in place” in their home with assistance from our Hope Renovations program to ensure a safe and accessible house.

In Fall 2017, Hope Homes received a \$48,000 Capital Residential Renovation Grant from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to update our Canton properties. Repairs are 75% complete and include the replacement of exterior doors, windows, roofing and HVAC systems. There are eight individuals from ICFMRs who recently became residents in these community homes.

Please consider joining the board of directors and staff in our **55th Anniversary Circle** in support of Hope Homes Foundation’s ongoing mission to provide safe, accessible and affordable housing for people with developmental disabilities and other special needs. For more details, see page 3.

Be sure to follow us on social media as we celebrate our anniversary this year and build Hope for the future!

## Board of Directors

**Jacquie Skrzypiec, Chair**  
*President, Jacq Connect*

**Hollie Ashworth**  
*Director of Development  
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**Mark Steffen, RN**  
*The Christ Hospital*

## Staff

**Paul Herrera**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

**Marianne Senvisky**  
*Business Development Manager*

**William Salem**  
*Maintenance Supervisor*

[www.hopehomes.org](http://www.hopehomes.org)



## 2017 Hope Chest Members

Our heartfelt thanks to the following donors for their continued, generous support of our efforts.

### President \$2,000-4,999

Marvin Keim, MK Wood Products, Inc.  
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### Director \$1,000-1,999

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### Silver \$200-399

Hollie Ashworth  
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Hector and Sandra Gonzalez  
Paul and Hilda Herrera  
St. Peter & St. Paul United Church of Christ, Cincinnati  
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### Bronze \$100-199

Susan Cameron  
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Emmanuel United Church of Christ, Bluffton  
Theresa Kaczay  
St. Michael's United Church of Christ, Baltimore, OH  
Andrea Testa  
United Presbyterian Church, Cuyahoga Falls  
Western Reserve Association UCC, Cuyahoga Falls

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can impact our mission to provide safe, accessible and affordable homes to people with disabilities in the following ways:

### ENGAGE

- Follow **Hope Homes Foundation** on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn and share the links with your contacts.
- Visit and bookmark [www.hopehomes.org](http://www.hopehomes.org) for the latest news and upcoming events.
- Attend/Sponsor our summer Food Truck Festival (see page 3) and upcoming special events.

### SERVE

- Volunteer for a Hope Homes Foundation project at [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org).
- Become a "House Host" to help beautify the grounds and exterior of a Hope home.
- Contact Marianne Senvisky at 330-686-5342 or [msenvisky@hopehomes.org](mailto:msenvisky@hopehomes.org) to discuss more ways you can help.

### SUPPORT

- Join our **55th Anniversary Circle** this year (see page 3).
- Return the enclosed giving envelope with your gift of support.
- Click the Donate tab on our website to make a tax-exempt contribution via PayPal.
- Shop Amazon through [smiles.amazon.com](http://smiles.amazon.com), and .5% of your purchases will be donated to Hope Homes Foundation when you choose us as your charitable organization.
- Champion a home improvement project for one of our 17 Hope Homes properties (list on page 4).



## A Dream, a Prayer and a \$5 Bill



Great dreaming, fervent prayer and dogged determination...these were the beginning impulses which ultimately became what we now know as Hope Homes, Inc. Hope Homes Foundation, Inc. and its companion corporations.

Margaret Leiphart was a faithful member of Grace United Church of Christ in Akron, Ohio. Her son Bobby suffered a high fever at an early age, which left him developmentally disabled. Bobby was her constant companion as she conducted her business affairs, attended worship and congregational social events and was a good neighbor to those around her in her modest home within walking distance of the church.

They stopped by Rev. Paul Kiewit's office one day to say hello. During their visit, Margaret shared, "As I get older, I'm growing more concerned with each passing year about Bobby and his future and when I can no longer be helpful." Rev. Kiewit knew this visit was much more than a social call. It was inextricably turning into a "call for action." He explained the complexities of providing home-like facilities and programming for the developmentally disabled adult and that it would take a great deal of time and the cooperation of many people. Margaret listened patiently to Rev. Kiewit's reasoning and then opened her purse, took out a bill, placed it on his desk, and said, "here's five dollars to get it started!"

Several weeks later, she stopped by to check on his progress and gave him 20 dollars she received for her birthday. Rev. Kiewit suggested he open a bank account to keep the money safe and asked Margaret what name should go on the account. She thought for a moment, smiled brightly and said, "**Let's call it HOPE.**"

Fifty-five years later, Hope Homes Foundation continues the dream that Margaret Leiphart and Rev. Kiewit, along with parent denominations United Church of Christ and Presbyterian Church (USA), turned into reality through prayer, faith and the philanthropic support of many individuals, businesses and churches in our community.



*Excerpted from "A Dream, a Prayer and a \$5 Bill" by Rev. Paul Kiewit*

## 55 Years of Hope

As we celebrate this milestone achievement and continue to build Hope in our communities, we invite you to join our **55th Anniversary Circle** by giving \$55, \$550 or \$5,500 for our 55th!

Your tax-exempt contribution will enhance the quality of life for our residents and ensure the comfort and safety of every home.

Please use the enclosed giving envelope or our PayPal link at [www.hopehomes.org](http://www.hopehomes.org) to make a donation.

All 55th Anniversary Circle members (or their honorees) will be recognized on our donor wall at Hope Center, at special events, and in our newsletter.

To discuss a major gift donation, contact Marianne Senvisky, Business Development Manager.

*Hands build houses,  
but hearts build homes.*



## Food Truck Festival

Save  
the Date!

Friday, August 10

3 - 9 PM

Benefit Event @ Hope Center



<b>Hope Home</b>	<b>2018-2020 Project</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
1 Stow	Replace garage roof and gutters	\$4,000
	Replace vinyl siding	\$12,000
2 Stow	None pending	
4 Maineville	Under evaluation	
5 Tallmadge	Replace living room floor covering	\$3,000
	Replace gutters	\$2,000
8/9 Tallmadge	Pending HUD project approval	
12 Akron	Partial replacement of driveway	\$15,000
	Replace original roof	\$6,000
13A/B Stow	Replace roof and leaking gutters	\$25,000
	Repair basement leaks (No Mold Dri Lock)	1,000
14 Hudson	Replace 30-year old roof and gutters	\$25,000
	Replace floor covering	\$3,000
18/19 Canton	Replace floor covering	\$1,000
20/21 Stow	Replace cement driveways and sidewalks	\$25,000
	Replace furnace and A/C compressor #20	\$6,000
	Replace furnace and A/C compressor #21	\$6,000
31/32 Wooster	Replace furnace and A/C compressor #31	\$6,000
	Replace furnace and A/C compressor #32	\$6,000
<b>Hope Center</b>	Replace Day Center exterior door	\$1,000
	Replace multi-line phone system	\$1,000
	Mulch and landscaping	\$1,000
	Exterior 4' x 8' sign	\$500
	Commercial mower	\$2,500
	Replace storage shed roof	\$1,000
	Resurface parking lot	\$40,000
	Replace 5 furnaces and 4 A/C compressors	\$35,000
	<b>TOTAL PROJECTS COST</b>	<b>\$228,000</b>

To discuss a project in more detail, please contact Paul Herrera at 330-686-5342 or [pherrera@hopehomes.org](mailto:pherrera@hopehomes.org).