

HOPEFUL HEADLINES

A NEWSLETTER OF HOUSE OF HOPE,
A ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SHELTER
FALL 2010 ~ VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2



The Next Step

Our featured family this newsletter is the Johnson Family.

Jessica: 22 years old

Aniyah: 4 yrs. and **Myaisha:** 2 yrs.

Entered the House: Aug. 11, 2010

How did you come to House of Hope?

"I lost my job last year and then was evicted. So I moved in with a family member because they were the only person who could take us in. After a while, things were not working out so my sister recommended I call House of Hope. She had stayed there the year before and said that it was a good place. When I phoned I was put on the waiting list, but got a call the next week because a spot opened."

What services did HoH provide you?

"I've been doing a lot of employment searches and getting a number of interviews. The House of Hope Store has saved me a lot of money, too. I've had the opportunity to do things that I didn't think I could ever do like making a daily schedule to be organized and learn-

ing how to keep my things neat even with two young children."

Tell us your overall experience at HoH?

"I feel I'm changing for the better and I'm making a difference in my life. I don't drink or do drugs any more and I'm focused on my girls. I know what I have to do to succeed for them."

How will your experiences here affect your future?

"I'm more organized and focused. I feel I'm more professional; I'm more confident when I go on my job interviews. I believe I'm an overall better person."

Just for fun, tell us one thing you'd change about House of Hope?

"I think the 8pm bedtime for the kids is difficult. Myaisha isn't tired for nap until 3pm so I have to struggle with her to nap earlier or try to keep her awake all day."

Is there something else you'd like to share?

"I am thankful for the staff and program and the people who volunteer and help us out. I'm happy I came here."



Featured family children Aniyah, left, and Myaisha, right, enjoy doing art projects with their mother, Jessica.

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Letter from the Director

Another fall is right around the corner, but before the days get too long, let's enjoy thinking back on the summer months. We welcomed new families and two new babies, we celebrated birthdays (including a triple birthday for three of our younger residents), and said some tearful good-byes. As always, we are grateful for all the commu-

nity support that allows us to serve so many families every year. This September, we are blessed to receive the support of the Greg Jennings Foundation through Touchdowns for Hope, being kicked off with a gala event. It was a memorable night for all of us and the generosity and well-wishes we received were truly amazing. Thank



you to everyone who was involved in making the evening such a success, and to everyone in the community who supports our mission year round.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter, and keep an eye out for updates and ways to volunteer!

Jennifer Allen, director



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Why Do We Partner With...

U.W. Extension

The **University of Wisconsin-Extension** (UW-Extension) is an outreach program of the University of Wisconsin System which offers learning opportunities through its Cooperative Extension Division's Nutrition Education program. An instructor visits House of Hope the third Wednesday of every month to present a Nutrition class to our residents. Here, they focus on nutrition education, healthy recipes and ingredient substitution, in addition to alternative cooking techniques. Each class includes a Q&A discussion, hands-on cooking and of course, tasting what we've created. All of the recipes presented by UW-Extension uses everyday ingredients and can be easily used by our residents in a typical home setting.

How do your services help our residents?
"We provide information to assist your mothers in making healthy food choices and give them ways to save money in their food budget."



Phase I - Complete!

What a thrilling day it was when we heard the 'sprinkle, sprinkle' of the new shower and the 'whoosh!' of the working toilets! It feels so good to have the construction on the west resident bathroom completed. Tools are no longer in the hallway, caution tape is off the door, the dust has settled and has been washed away. The new room is now a beautiful, sand and pale green with shiny partitions, new fixtures and fresh lighting. The space is no longer a room of utility, but one of relaxation and gives off a feeling of home. Thank you to everyone who made this transformation possible. Now on to Phase II, the east resident bathroom. Any takers??



The UW-Extension Nutrition class provides House of Hope residents with easy, nutritious and tasty recipes. It's inspired some delicious pot-luck meals and a number of family activities!

How do you choose the recipes you present in your class? "We search State approved internet sites and our office library for recipes that are easy to prepare and have measurable nutritional value."

What types of struggles do you typically see in this population? "We see a difficulty in applying the information we give as a result of a lack of understanding. To overcome this obstacle, we present our classes in a variety of learning styles, including repetitive instruction, hands-on activities, games, and picture presentations."

What is the goal of your classes at House of Hope? "We want our families to walk away confident in the kitchen and to learn that making food from fresh ingredients rather than a box is economical, nutritious, delicious and fun. Also, our instructors always try to make a connection with the mothers in our classes. It helps our clients remember the information presented and makes the class more enjoyable."



The 'grand opening' of the newly remodeled west resident bathroom was a much anticipated event! For obvious reasons, this fresh room is the most popular of the two bathrooms.



An Evening of Hope, A Lifetime of Thanks

Football and glitz... who knew they went so well together? For House of Hope and the Greg Jennings Foundation, the pairing was magical. What a fabulous time everyone had at the first Touchdowns for Hope Gala evening held at Oneida Country Club on September 7th. Sequined dresses and silk ties filled the rooms with over 400 guests who milled the floors with drinks and hors d'oeuvres at the cocktail party style event.

Greg and Nicole Jennings, the hosts of the evening, generously welcomed their guests in the front foyer before the crowds moved down the hall and passed the fabulous silent auction display. The items were amazing and included rare treasures such as a guitar signed by The Rolling Stones, a Jimmy Buffett collection

and tickets to America's Got Talent, alongside many local riches like a Green Bay area restaurant tour, a weekend in Door County and two tailgating packages with Packer tickets.

The program began with a touching video of a House of Hope 'graduate', documenting her experiences in early life, at House of Hope, and now out on her own with her two children. Her story was difficult yet uplifting and mirrored the situations many of the House of Hope families experience. Next came the unveiling of current and past residents; those who received makeovers on WLUK last month and others who were transformed in a not-so-public venue. The ladies looked so stylish and glamorous - a fairy tale ending to say the least.

One unexpected highlight of the evening was the oral auction. The pinnacle of which was the bidding war for six Packer/Bears tickets with a private jet to Chicago and a limo to the game.

A heartfelt 'thank you' to every one of our attendees, volunteers and supporters. Together, we raised over \$50,000 for House of Hope to continue providing shelter and programming for homeless young families in this community. Prolong the excitement and join the Greg Jennings Foundation with a pledge of your own, as they donate \$1,000 for every touchdown Greg makes throughout this regular season. Go #85!

Photography was provided by PlayPhotography.net. Visit imagequix.com for additional photos of the evening. Photographer ID: D9NK69K, password: gopackgo



Thank You!

Thank you, Spring Lake Church for your continued support. You are always there for us with your time, advice, humor, talent... and yummy food! We constantly feel your prayers; know that we send them up for you, too!

Requests

Our a full wish list that can found on our website. Below are some of our more urgent needs.

- Postage stamps
- New pillow cases & wash cloths
- New children's clothing (0-5T)
- Newborn and size 4 diapers
- Coffee

A Big Event For...Everyone!

House of Hope was thrilled to have the opportunity to participate in the *Big Event For Little Kids* this past April, for the first time. Our booth was always busy with kids laughing and being creative while making foam picture frames. It was wonderful to meet the families of this community and be able to speak to people about our work and our mission. Thank you, Schreiber Foods for your continued sponsorship of this very worthwhile and popular event. Also, a huge thank you to our many volunteers who helped us before, during and after the event. We couldn't have done it without you!



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I am interested in having House of Hope speak at my church, club or civic group. Our representative can be reached using the information here: _____

In the next issue of *Hopeful Headlines*, I'd like to see an article about: _____