



November 2014 Newsletter *Helping families find peace and hope!*

Thankful for the Blessing

Dear Friend,

This Thanksgiving season, I reflect on all that we have accomplished together. This year marks our 5 year anniversary. It could not have happened without all of you. We have worked tirelessly to establish a new paradigm of support for families caring for a child with developmental disabilities. I am delighted to announce that we are the largest privately funded overnight respite provider in Massachusetts. Currently, we offer respite four Saturdays a month, which puts the “oxygen mask” back on families and affords time to relax, regroup and recharge and take care of themselves, their other children, and other family members.

In many ways, the experience of building our house of HOPE is similar to raising a child with special needs. We have experienced numerous setbacks, but through hard work, perseverance and love, we have overcome the obstacles and experienced the immense joy of making this house a home for our special children and their families. Today, our children are making new friends, experiencing life-changing opportunities, gaining more independence, and displaying their hidden and unique talents. Parents are walking away with a skip in their step, peace of mind, love in their heart, and thanks to you, gratitude. We continue to need your help to achieve sustainability for our programs and to ensure that the support we provide to every special heart, will continue for years to come. Let's carry on with the work that we started and courageously do what we have done all along; believe in and provide a better world for struggling families.

Personally, I am most thankful for the evenings that turn into mornings, friends that turn into family, dreams that turn into reality.

I will sing out loud if my husband doesn't set the centerpiece on fire, my son with special needs pants don't fall down in public, and I don't lose any more hair from an epic hair pull. We all have our share of problems but we can take time to thank God for our blessings and choose gratitude for just a moment or perhaps a Thanksgiving day.

Wishing everyone a blessed holiday season!
With heartfelt gratitude, —Paula Kavolius

“The goal isn't to live forever, the goal is to create something that will.” —Chuck Palahniuk

I invite you to read my blog about caregiving at www.houseofpossibilities/blog.org or send me a tweet about your thoughts and stories at [@_possibilities_](https://twitter.com/_possibilities_).

Inspiring Family Spotlight: Running Full Speed Ahead With Love and Laughter



Molly Butler has a twin 9 year old brother. He plays sports, loves to watch movies and play with school friends. Molly shares his same interests, but has been told she is too active to participate in most programs and activities. Molly has Autism and can't do the things her twin brother can.....until her family found HOPE.

Molly has a dynamic personality with a persona that is full of life and humor, but she is the entire focus of her family. Her mother says, “Molly goes full speed ahead and you have to keep up with her,” said Lisa Butler. With sole attention on Molly, her mother felt that her siblings were not getting enough attention and the family was suffering. There was a time when her parents felt that Molly needed special care and attention that would be found outside of the home. At their wits end and in fear that she can't stay home, Molly's mother found refuge at HOPE.

“HOPE enables Molly to get out her energy and be happy while I manage life at home, work and our other children. Molly walks into HOPE like she owns it,” said Lisa. Molly loves Adventure Club, where properly equipped staff takes them on organized outings in the Boston area. Since Molly struggles with sleep, the Overnight Respite program allows her to do the things she enjoys, while being properly cared for overnight. Lisa said, “Molly loves to cook and bake. The staff soothes her at night when she can't sleep.” Meanwhile, her family is sleeping comfortable at home, knowing Molly is well cared for and coming home the next day.

Exciting New Developments!



We Welcome Carolyn Kain as Our Chief Operating Officer

We are thrilled to introduce Carolyn to the HOPE family! She began full time on June 1, 2014, and has been essential to the operations of HOPE already. Carolyn brings over 20 years of experience as an attorney and over the last 10 years, she has

dedicated her time to the practice of special education law and assisting families with obtaining services for their children. She graduated from Boston College achieving a Bachelor's of Arts and Political Science and Suffolk Law School, JD. She lives in Dorchester with her husband and daughter. She cares for her beautiful daughter, who has developmental disabilities.



Team Yasso Gives to HOPE

Yasso frozen greek yogurt, has been a wonderful supporter of the House of Possibilities. This year, they chose HOPE as one of three charities to support in the Falmouth Road Race in August. As friends of HOPE, our friends at Yasso have not only donated their treasure, but also their valuable time in our programs. Thank you

Team Yasso for your support! Without you, our mission of HOPE wouldn't be possible.

HOPE Gives Back During the Holiday Season

Last year, the families of HOPE helped us support 50 families with unspeakable challenges. These families who care for a child with special needs, had financial catastrophe and abuse in the family. Because of your support, we have committed to helping 100 families this holiday season. If you would like to adopt a family, please email Paula Kavolius at p.kavolius@houseofpossibilities.org.



KidCents Program

The House of Possibilities was selected as part the Rite Aid inaugural class of KidCents charities. This honor showcases HOPE as one of 205 outstanding kid-focused, non-profit organizations available for Rite Aid wellness+ customers

to support through its KidCents program. Recently, Rite Aid representatives presented HOPE with a \$10,000 KidCents grant in recognition of the outstanding work they are doing on behalf of kids in the local community, the greater Boston area.



A Very Special Donation to HOPE

"I chose to donate my ten dollars to the House of Possibilities because of my cousin, Brendan. Brendan was born three months premature and has special needs. He is vision impaired, he is unable to speak, and needs constant supervision with walking and eating. The House

is a place where Brendan goes during the day and on the weekends. I brought him to HOPE one time with my aunt and once we walked up the steps and went through the doors he went straight in and sat down on the nearest couch. He has a connection with the place because he loves it there so much."

— Owen B.



How it feels to be a part of our HOPE Family

"I Say a prayer and give thanks to all of you every day. You have made our life so much more manageable knowing HOPE is there for us. He is so comfortable there and it has become part of his weekend routine. I could say you have no idea what it does for our family but, no need to because YOU KNOW! Words just are not enough to express the gratitude we have for the gift of HOPE that you have given our family."

"HOPE is the best as far as diverse activities and their ability to take everything in stride."

"Hope offers a great ratio, expertise and wide range of activities."

"HOPE is wonderful and staff are very attentive to children and parents."

"What (HOPE) does offer my family a time to relax knowing my child is being taken care of and having fun."

"Sometimes having time alone is priceless."

"It is an opportunity for my daughter to socialize."

"Time for our son to have his 'own' fun, since getting invited to friends houses, birthday parties, doing sports does not happen."

"I am handicapped with limited mobility, so it is wonderful that my son doesn't have to suffer because I can't do certain things."

"Taking time to get things done while knowing my child is enjoying herself"

"It is an opportunity to run errands take a break for myself, and an opportunity for my child to meet others with special needs."

"This gives my son some independence to participate in activities outside of his home and with people other than family. It gives us the opportunity to spend time with our other child doing activities that she enjoys, but my son doesn't, such as movies, plays, louder restaurants, etc."

"Hope provides us with much needed respite on the weekends, we feel completely at ease bringing our child to a place where staff are caring and nurturing, and we can truly enjoy the time off. We are so grateful for the services of Hope."

HOPE is Evolving

Education Partners: Stonehill College

“The House of Possibilities is a special community partnership and we are proud of our affiliation with this wonderful provider of critically needed services. We are also pleased that our students intern and volunteer at the House of Possibilities and we know how much they learn and gain from the experience of serving the individuals and their families. Its founders showed determination, vision and creativity in building partnerships, with the Yawkey Foundation, Stonehill and others who have paved the way for this wonderful temporary home away from home for those with special needs. We look forward to making this partnership even stronger in the years ahead.” —Rev. John Denning, C.S.C. President, Stonehill College.

STONEHILL COLLEGE

We have been blessed with an amazing opportunity of

experiential learning for student volunteers at Stonehill College. This partnership provides immeasurable benefit to the students, individuals served, and organization. College students use knowledge from both classroom and volunteer experiences to better understand an issue or problem, while relating to the real life experience at hand. Each student benefits by experiencing an increased curiosity for learning while participating in social responsibility. We have witnessed the development of students advancing into caregiving professions as a result of their positive experience at HOPE. Additionally, we have assisted several students launch their own career paths with resounding success.

We are delighted to be a conduit in the development of Stonehill student’s personal growth. Our children and adults receive immeasurable benefit experiencing life with typical peers in an integrated setting.

Internship Programs

The House of Possibilities collaborates with Stonehill College students from the Neuropsychology and Psychology departments for semester long internships. Internships are integral for preparing students for post-graduate opportunities, enabling each student at Stonehill College to hone a career path. Many students have advanced their education into caregiving professions including Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Special Education.

“During my internship at HOPE, I not only learned about working with children and young adults with developmental disabilities and all the administrative work behind the scenes, but I also learned a lot myself. It was an amazing experience working with

the kids who always gave me a reason to smile. I am indebted to the House of Possibilities for giving me an opportunity to learn and grow experientially which has proven invaluable in my career path.” — Maura Amirault (class of 2011)

Stonehill College Service Corps

This year we are blessed to announce that we are partnering with Stonehill College by hosting a Service Corps member; Lauren Moore. “Stonehill Service Corps is an expression of the College’s mission, to “educate the whole person so that each Stonehill graduate thinks, acts and leads with courage toward the creation of a more just and compassionate world.” Lauren joins the HOPE team assisting in our Day Habilitation program, operating as a Specialist. Lauren recently graduated from Stonehill College. She began working with HOPE in August and will work at HOPE in an eleven month service project.

“For the next year, I am fortunate to be working at the House of Possibilities through the Stonehill Service Corps: Brockton



program. At HOPE, I am working directly with the adult clients in the Day Habilitation program as a Development Specialist, while also completing administrative duties as needed. Although my time with this organization to date has been short, I have already gotten a glimpse of the transformative power that compassion, love and empowerment can have on every individual who walks through HOPE’s doors. I

truly feel blessed to be a part of this remarkable program and cannot wait to see what the rest of the year has in store.”

—Lauren Moore

Work Study Program with Stonehill College

Our partnership with Stonehill College’s Work Study and student employment programs provide part-time employment for students, while bringing immense benefit of additional support to HOPE programming.

“I first walked into the House of Possibilities during the fall of my senior year because I wanted to work with a population I had never been much exposed to and fill a void in my Nonprofit career. As time passed I developed a deeper relationship with HOPE and all those served to the point where I accepted a full time position upon graduation from Stonehill, moving in a complete opposite direction of my original field of study.”

—Nick Rose

Note: Nick has advanced from work study student to Senior Developmental Specialist in our adult programs.

Building a house of HOPE

"Even the smallest act of caring for another person is like a drop of water -it will make ripples throughout the entire pond." —Jessy and Bryan Matteo

It takes a Village!

HOPE's Overnight Respite Program is Thriving and Growing!

HOPE's overnight respite program provides families with an opportunity for a much needed night off from caring 24/7 for their child with special needs. It is a program where families leave

happy knowing their loved one is being taken care of in a home-like environment.

Respite is the most critically needed support for children and families. Due

to the high demand of families seeking overnight respite, we have expanded our Overnight Respite Program from one (1) overnight a month to four (4) overnights each month—Two nights for girls and two nights for boys. Thanks to our donors, these all of these overnight services are being provided at no cost to families. We have learned that the families we serve and who need respite the most are also very often the people who are unable to pay for it. Many of our families have only one parent, have only one working parent, or incur many additional costs as a result of caring for a child with special needs. That's why we have provided this service to families for free for one year.

"I can count on one hand (don't even need the whole hand) the number of times Michael has done sleepovers. He is not exactly at the top of the list for sleepovers when relatives hear us talk of his crazy sleep habits!!! My husband and I struggled over whether to send him

and we are so glad we did. As much as we enjoyed the time off (strange at first) we also felt it was important to expose Michael to different social experiences. The House of Possibilities is such an amazing place with equally amazing staff. We are looking forward to some Saturday excursions in the future and maybe another sleepover." —A grateful parent

GALA HIGHLIGHTS

The 5th Annual HOPE Gala was a success! The Annual HOPE Gala is not only a night of celebration and support, but also a critical component of our fundraising efforts, which allows us to provide the highest quality of programs and services to our families. We appreciate and put to good use each and every dollar raised! This year, we are grateful for the generosity of our guests, which allowed us to increase our free overnight respite by 300% to families who critically need of a break from caregiving. We were honored to share the night with Team Hoyt, and over 450 wonderful and generous supporters. The Bo and Bill Winicker Band, known as "Boston's House Band", and the amazing Tony DuBlois provided lively music and entertainment for our guests.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

A very special thanks to the Marilyn Rodman Theater for Arts and Dunkin Donuts KidZone programs. As a result of their donations, HOPE kids were able to attend events that they otherwise would not have been able to experience. HOPE was selected



by both organizations to receive tickets to sporting events and theater performances. It has been thrilling to see our attendees thoroughly enjoy all of these different and enriching activities. We are grateful to these organizations for their continuous support, which enhances the quality of our programs with increased opportunities! In 2014, we were able to give HOPE individuals and their families 83 tickets to see Phantom of the Opera, the Lion King, and a New England Revolution soccer game.



"My children and I have benefited greatly from the wonderful programming offered by the House of Possibilities through the generosity of the Rodman's, in particular the magical theater experiences in Boston. My family would never have been able to enjoy shows such as "Beauty and the Beast," "Mamma Mia," "Billy Elliott," and our absolute favorite, "Blue Man Group!" HOPE has opened up a new world for children with disabilities and their families. From the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU!" —A parent of HOPE

HOPE in the Community

Brockton Snack and Chat

The House of Possibilities partnership with the Brockton Public Schools Special Education Department has been flourishing and growing. Together, we are providing an afterschool cooking group called Snack n Chat. This



Snack n Chat program was offered to many special education students that attend Brockton High School. From May 6, 2014 through June 5, 2014, the House of Possibilities created a 10 session cooking program each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. The primary goal of the program was to help the students develop cooking skills, improve independence, gain self-confidence and enhance social skills and relationships with their peers.

Community Autism Resources

Community Autism Resources (CAR) is a family created and oriented community services organization. They work collaboratively with families, professionals, and members of the community to enhance the quality of life for individuals with ASD. Community Autism Resources is a support center committed to providing free and valuable services to individuals on the autism

spectrum. HOPE has collaborated with Community Autism Resources by providing our Snack and Chat program specifically geared for children with Autism.

Adult Employment/Volunteer Opportunities Programs Enhance Quality of Life

HOPE is dedicated to seeking person-centered employment and volunteer opportunities for each individual. Our approach to employment support and volunteer positions involves working with each person, one to one to explore the right position. Once the right position has been obtained, HOPE staff provides ongoing job



coaching and training to ensure the individual is successful in their new position. HOPE began its Employment Support program in September 2009 with just one individual. Today, forty-three individuals are enrolled in the adult program either part-time or full-time and 81% are either employed or have secured a meaningful volunteer position. Adults at HOPE are placed in the following employment or volunteer positions

in the local community including: Easton YMCA, School on Wheels, Mount Sinai Hospital, Roche Bros., Brockton Food Pantry, My Brother's Keeper, Stonehill College, and the Easton Children's Museum.

Best Buddies of Massachusetts

This Fall, we kicked-off another Best Buddies program with Stonehill College! Best Buddies Colleges pairs people with intellectual developmental disabilities (IDD) in one-to-one friendships with college students, providing the opportunity for people with IDD to be involved in campus and community life. Our highly qualified staff at the House of Possibilities identifies a 'buddy pair' based on interests and interviews. Our on-site location at Stonehill College make it extremely convenient for friendships to prosper. Best Buddies participate at weekly events at HOPE along with seasonal events, ensuring that our adults at HOPE have a friend to socialize with. Not only has it brought friendship, where connecting to people can be challenging, but has formed life-long friendships.



House of Possibilities
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501(c)(3) non-profit

Upcoming Annual Fund Campaign

Did you know that 100 percent of fundraising dollars goes towards HOPE's high quality programming? In November, we ask for your continued support. Our annual fund campaign is a critical component to the development of a sustainability plan. If you prefer to make a donation now, please use donation form below. If you have ideas for alternate sources of funding, or would like to join our Development Advisory Committee, please contact Paula 508 205 0555 x13 or p.kavolius@houseofpossibilities.org.

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HOPE Achieves Highest Quality Services Designation!



HOPE continues to be recognized for its success in individualizing services for the people supported. We are ecstatic to have achieved CARF accreditation in our adult day programs for six consecutive years, indicating our commitment to excellence and our

dedication to improving the quality of life for each family we serve. In April 2014, HOPE's Overnight Respite Program received an EEC license from the Department of Early Education and Care, which affords the opportunity to gradually expand overnight services up to 7 nights a week. In May 2014, the House of Possibilities achieved a score of 96% and earned a two-year license from the Department of Developmental Services, the highest obtainable licensure through the Department.

Please consider a donation of any kind to ensure that our precious mission of HOPE is sustainable for families who benefit enormously from our services.

FIRST NAME	LAST		
STREET			
CITY	STATE	ZIP	
PHONE	FAX		
E-MAIL			

Please make **checks** payable to: House of Possibilities, 350 Washington St., N. Easton, MA 02356
To donate by debit or **credit card**, please complete the following:

CARD NO.	EXP. DATE	SECURITY CODE
SIGNATURE		AMOUNT \$

I would like to earmark my donation towards the following category:

- Annual Fund Campaign
- Overnight Respite
- Children's Weekend Programs
- As Needed
- In Honor of:

Donations can also be made online at:
www.houseofpossibilities.org

Thank you!