



House of Possibilities

Fall 2015 Newsletter

Helping families find peace and hope!

Dear Friend,

Thanksgiving is a day of feasting, football and celebrating family. It is also a time to count our blessings and reflect on all that we have been given.

For special parents, it is also a time to celebrate all that we have muscled through.

It is easy to be grateful for the blessings in our lives. But, it takes real courage to recognize our shortcomings and learn from them. In doing this, we may come to realize that our greatest blessings are not simply what we have been given, but rather what we have learned to live without.

When our son Timmy was born, we did not know what his abilities would be in the long term. We tried for years to get a diagnosis for him, but to this day, he remains undiagnosed. As frustrating as this can be at times, as I reflect on it now, I realize that if the doctors had told us that Timmy had a specific condition, I may have targeted my efforts towards the purpose of curing or coping with solely that. However, without that diagnosis, I had a greater blessing, the door was left wide open for us to serve hundreds of families through HOPE.

What if we looked at our lives differently? What if we thanked God for all that we have not received knowing full well that there is a reason for it? What if we started our day with a prayer that says something like, "Lord help me to remember that nothing is going to happen to me today that You and I together can't handle." Through constant gratitude and trust in God, not only can we handle our



situations, but we can uncover beautiful opportunities from them, as well. This is not easy to do. I have failed many times at this, but I keep trying and praying that one day I will be able to walk fully by faith.

This Thanksgiving, our organization is profoundly grateful to all of our amazing donors, large or small, whose belief in our mission to change the paradigm of support for families has made all the difference. Thank you to Stonehill College and all our outstanding collabor-

ators for enriching our programs more than words can say. Thank you to the staff and volunteers who pass through our doors. You all give life and love to our mission. We would not be able to do any of this without all of you.

Personally, I am thankful for so many things. I am happy to live in this country with all its wonderful opportunities, and for my faith, family, hope, dreams, and friends. I am thankful for another year with crackling knees, wrinkling hands and a suffering golf game. I am profoundly grateful to those of you who pray for our mission of HOPE and for the impact we are having on families, as that is what matters most.

From each and every one of us, we wish all of you a happy and blessed holiday season!

For the kids and families,

Paula Kavolius

"Thank You Doesn't Seem Like Enough" – Parent, Barbara R

For some families at HOPE, respite care could not come at a more perfect time. This past summer, a family wanted to participate in our Overnight Respite Program for the first time. The client's mother was understandably nervous about him staying overnight due to his seizure disorder. However, after much encouragement from the HOPE Team, she agreed to let him participate and experience a night with his peers. The night was a success, as he greatly enjoyed himself and engaged enthusiastically with the other boys. His parents also enjoyed their night to themselves,

complete with a nice dinner, time at the beach, and even a chance to sleep in on Sunday morning. The relaxed and content looks on Mom and Dad's faces when they picked him up on Sunday truly said it all. Both of them were extremely appreciative to be able to trust HOPE to provide a safe and caring environment for their son. For families and caregivers of loved ones with special needs, even the chance to sleep through the night can make a world of difference. HOPE is truly grateful to have the special gift of providing respite care when families need it the most.

Adventure Club Trip to Nantasket Beach

by Caroline Cupelo



ADVENTURE CLUB

There's an old proverb that says, "If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans." We often get so wrapped up in our own plans that we forget to stop for a moment and realize that we cannot control everything. It is far too easy to overlook the most beautiful moments while we are busy trying to take care of others or plan too much of our own lives. There is truly no better time than now to reflect on those moments and be grateful for the fact that God was behind each one of them.

Back in July, the Adventure Club took a day trip to Nantasket Beach to take the kids on the carousel. Program Director Kristen DeSisto planned the whole adventure to ensure that it would be both safe and fun for the kids. As it turns out, not everything went according to plan that day, but it ended up being one of her favorite adventures of the summer. Kristen never planned on the day being a true beach trip due to the risk, but for some reason most of the kids showed up in bathing suits. When they arrived, they saw that they had the whole beach to themselves! Although it was a cooler day, this was unheard of down in Nantasket. So, they set up lunch at some picnic tables overlooking the beach before they were to leave for

the carousel. As the kids finished eating, some staff members took some of them down to the beach to play in the sand. The staff was only supposed to let the kids put their feet in the water, but when Kristen looked down to the beach to check on them, she saw that one kid was up to his knees in the water. Both he and the staff member next to him were soaked! Just as Kristen was about to yell down to tell them to stop and get out, she realized how genuinely happy the kids were in the water. More and more kids went in the water with the staff, and the pure joy on their faces was truly unbelievable. The kids had so much fun and the trip was perfect and stress-free; truly a one-of-a-kind day!

These moments are what the House of Possibilities is all about: making people happy. As a caregiver, you always want to be one step ahead, planning and protecting those you are responsible for. However, it is just as important to take a step back and witness the amazing moments that happen right before your eyes. HOPE was formed by God's hand and we are lucky enough to see the beautiful results of that every day.

"Those who leave everything in God's hand eventually see God's hand in everything."

"If we could look into each other's hearts and understand the unique challenges each of us faces, I think we would treat each other much more gently, with more love, patience, tolerance, and care."

— Marvin Ashton

Meal Planning, Nutrition and Cooking with Courtney



Cooking provides social skills opportunities while practicing valuable daily life lessons. The social nature of each session structured around meal preparation and cooking enables individuals to develop friendships and work collaboratively with their peers on common goals including planning a meal, shopping, food preparation

and then sharing a meal in a group setting. Members of the group have the opportunity to improve in areas such as communication, decision-making, conflict resolution, self-advocacy, interpersonal skills, and self-organization. The amazing Courtney Coan integrates nutrition and the importance of eating healthy foods to heal the body. Monthly and weekly themes are created around the year, using local farm fresh seasonal fruit and vegetables. Here is a glimpse:



We're all about Service

*"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."
—Helen Keller*

It is no secret that running multiple programs and events each week, as well as keeping our House of Possibilities looking beautiful is difficult work. We cannot do it alone and therefore, often rely on the kindness of those in our neighboring community to help us. Fortunately, this August, the House of Possibilities was blessed to be the beneficiary of several volunteer services.

On Thursday, August 6th, ten students from Xavierian Brothers High School volunteered at HOPE with two of their teachers. These fine young men spent several hours working to maintain the grounds at HOPE. Xavierian Brothers High School and HOPE have built a strong relationship over the years. HOPE looks forward to seeing the students each year around this time.

On Tuesday, August 25th, Resident Assistants and Moreau Student Ministers from Stonehill College came to HOPE to do community service. These students are upperclassmen and serve as Resident Advisors at dormitories on campus. The goal of this service was to educate the whole student with program offerings which nourish faith development and teach each Stonehill graduate



to think, act, and lead with courage toward creating a more just and compassionate world. The students volunteered for three hours and did a wonderful job organizing and cleaning the home.

On Monday, August 31st, incoming freshman students from Stonehill College did an "Into the Streets" service at HOPE from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The "Into the Streets" mission is to help students gain appreciation for the Holy Cross educational mission of the college, including Catholic Social Teaching and Catholic Identity. The goal of the service is to develop and improve critical thinking and reflection skills, learn about the many types of service, approach service with an attitude of respect and equality, learn that service can mean being present with people and to understand the reciprocal nature of service.

HOPE is truly blessed by the altruism received from both Xavierian Brother High School and Stonehill College. HOPE is honored to have been chosen to be the recipient of these volunteer services. It is with a grateful heart we wish to say thank you for your generosity.



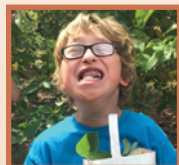
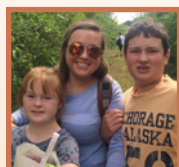
"Some people are always grumbling because roses have thorns; I am thankful that thorns have roses."

—Alphonse Karr

"Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer. And let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good."

—Maya Angelou

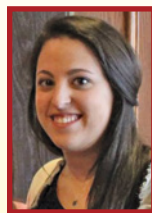
Internship Programs



The House of Possibilities (HOPE) collaborates with Stonehill College for semester long internships. This fall, fourteen Neuroscience students from Professor Yu's class will intern in HOPE's Adventure Club program. Internships are an integral part of enriching and augmenting each student's educational experience. In the classroom, the students learn about neurological development and disorders. The internship at HOPE requires the students to work with special needs children that attend HOPE's Adventure Club program each Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The students may work directly and indirectly with children with

neurological impairments and other related deficits. Internships have prepared students for post-graduate opportunities leading to career paths in caregiving professions such as Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy and Special Education.

Stonehill College Service Corps



We are blessed again this year to welcome another member of the Stonehill College Service Corps: Caroline Cupelo. The Stonehill Service Corps is a post-graduate service experience that puts the college's mission to prepare students for service to the common good and the practice of responsible citizenship into action. Caroline is a recent graduate of Stonehill College and began her eleven-month service experience at HOPE in August. This position has a two pronged focus;

direct care and administrative support. The program assistant directly supports individuals with developmental and other disabilities served through our Adult Services Program. In this role, Caroline will split her time supporting individual client goals and working with the President to improve and/or establish new processes to better serve our growing number of clients.

An Amazing Evening

On June 18th, over 450 friends of the House of Possibilities, including family, business leaders, clients, and even a few Patriots gathered at the Putnam Club at Gillette Stadium for HOPE's fifth annual Endless Possibilities Gala. The night was a celebration of the efforts of all those that contribute to HOPE's mission of spreading love, compassion, and support to as many families as possible.

At the Gala, we were also pleased to grant the first-ever "Champion of Special Children" Award to Dr. Rafael Castro, the founder of the Integrated Center for Child Development. As a pediatric neuropsychologist, Dr. Castro has devoted his life to assisting families of children with developmental disabilities. His compassion, heart, and constant efforts to go the extra mile for children are unmatched and we are thankful that we could honor him in such a special way.

In addition to Dr. Castro, we honored exceptional staff and clients for their extraordinary efforts and enthusiasm that they bring to our organization every day. John Giusti received the "Unsung Hero" award and Kristen DeSisto the "Outstanding Service" award. Matthew Wrick won the "HOPE Spirit" award for his amazingness to all who know him and Bailey Burke won the "HOPE Strong" award for her unyielding courage and optimism in the face of her challenges. We appreciate the hard work of every staff member, client, and volunteer that brings light and hope to our mission!

Thank you to all of the contributors and attendees who made the Gala possible. Every one of your generous donations makes a difference and allows us to support even more families through our respite programs. We are extremely grateful to have so many compassionate supporters and friends!

Thank you to our lead sponsors:



"To know that one life has breathed easier because you have lived." — Ralph Waldo Emerson

Thanks to an amazing donation by the Central Auto Team and the Christopher Catanese Foundation, we were able to provide a new car to the Watkins family who had no automobile and a special child: Jenny Watkins, Lucy Watkins and Alvin Case of Dorchester! They used their winnings toward the purchase of a 2015 KIA Sportage SUV, so they can all ride in their brand new car together. Jenny, Alvin, and Lucy are all thrilled as they had been saving up for a car for a year and a half since their 1997 Subaru died. Jenny had been taking the MBTA all that time and, as we all know, through the worst winter on record! They had been planning on buying a used vehicle sometime this Fall when they won the raffle, and they now have a new, perfect, AWD SUV with heated leather seats and a sunroof! Jenny and Alvin picked up their new car along with Lucy, who has autism, and attends the Guild School in Waltham after its end of the year awards ceremony, and they are delighted with their new car. They are pictured here with a representative of Central Auto of Norwood. We wish Jenny, Alvin, and Lucy all the best with their new wheels!



Donated By:



What a Wonderful World

This past summer has been among the most beautiful on record. While everyone was at the beach, many of our HOPE families were struggling this summer with heat, lack of routine, and looking forward to the day that school would start again. We did our best to make sure that each and every child that came through HOPE's doors had unparalleled life experiences through HOPE's Adventure Club and Vacation Week. Over 30 of HOPE's children and staff commissioned their own Duck Boat for the "ride of their lives" with a tour through Boston and along the Charles River. These pictures clearly illustrate fun, excitement, love, and support, which is what we strive to achieve each week at HOPE. This opportunity, like all of our adventures, is for many of these children the only chance they have to be with their peers in the

community accessing and enjoying an activity. This summer, in addition to the Duck Boats, our adventures included swimming at Coco Keys and Breezy Picnic Grounds, cruising the Boston Harbor to George's Island, riding bumper boats at Kimball Farms, taking in the summer breeze along the panoramic Cliff Walk in Newport, jumping for joy at the Launch trampoline park, riding the Carousel at Nantasket, and even snagging a few autographs from #12 Tom Brady at the Patriot's Training Camp. We are all very grateful that we were able to provide so much summer fun to all of these wonderful children, which is only possible because each and every person gives what they can to our mission of HOPE! #ittakesavillagetobuildahouseofHOPE



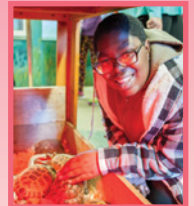
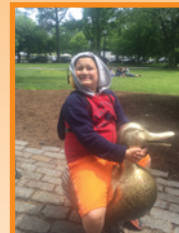
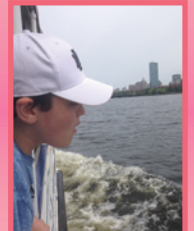
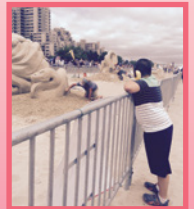
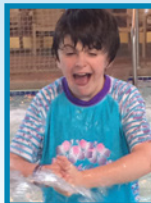
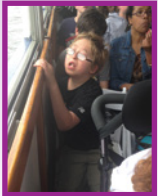
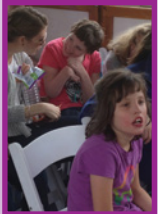
I see trees of green,
red roses too.
I see them bloom,
for me and you.
And I think to myself,
what a wonderful world.

I see skies of blue,
And clouds of white.
The bright blessed day,
The dark sacred night.
And I think to myself,
What a wonderful world.

The colors of the rainbow,
So pretty in the sky.
Are also on the faces,
Of people going by,
I see friends shaking hands,
Saying, "How do you do?"
They're really saying,
"I love you".

I hear babies cry,
I watch them grow,
They'll learn much more,
Than I'll ever know.
And I think to myself,
What a wonderful world.

Yes, I think to myself,
What a wonderful world.



Thank you for helping us bring peace and hope to hundreds of families! We could not do this without you!

"If the only prayer you say in your life is 'thank you,' that would suffice." — Meister Eckhart

The House of Possibilities would like to express sincere gratitude to the Yawkey and Flatley Foundations for their generous contributions to our organization and mission. Dedicated to continuing the legacy of Tom and Jean Yawkey, the Yawkey Foundations strive to make a positive difference in the lives of underserved children and families throughout the New England area. The Yawkey Foundations have supported the House of Possibilities from the beginning, and thanks to their consistent and generous contributions, we are able to help hundreds of families live a better life with high quality support. This allows us to spread our mission of love, compassion and hope to all individuals and families in need of care. The Flatley Foundation, established by the late Thomas Flatley, compassionately supports organizations that serve communities in Massachusetts in the realms of education and health. The generosity of the Flatley Foundation not only sends a resounding message to struggling families that their health matters, but also allows us to accommodate the growth of our programs with the purchase of our new 15 passenger van. Both the Flatley and Yawkey Foundations are committed to helping us create exceptional opportunities for children and adults to enrich their lives and achieve their highest potential. We are exceedingly grateful for their kind support in helping us change the paradigm of what support looks like for families!

**YAWKEY
FOUNDATIONS**

Flatley Foundation



Why Support HOPE?

HOPE is continuously striving to fulfill its mission to provide the highest quality services to families living with developmental challenges. We are delighted to announce that in May 2015, the House of Possibilities received a full two year license from the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC). The license was awarded to the Children's Overnight Respite Program and allows us to provide a full seven nights of respite care. This certification makes a world of difference for families in need, whether it is due to an emergency situation or simply a much-needed and well-deserved vacation. We are extremely proud and blessed to be able

to offer the maximum amount of respite care available. Our organization is extremely grateful for the support of our many friends and contributors, without whom we could not provide this high level of care. All respite services are 100% privately funded with no government assistance. Family support services are provided regardless of means. Therefore, we would like to ask for your continued support for our upcoming Annual Fund Campaign. Every fundraising dollar goes directly toward HOPE's high quality programming and as always, your support is critical to our organization. Thank you for your generosity!

House of Possibilities at Stonehill College
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www.houseofpossibilities.org
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Stonehill College
350 Washington Street
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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/make-a-donation

Thank you!