



A Mother's Love...

During the month of May, a day is set aside to celebrate mothers. We honor their boundless love, their desire to shape our experiences, their readiness to introduce us to the beauty of our world and their ability to teach us the lessons that will create our moral fiber. Mothers innately know their children's talents and in their hearts, they know their frailties as well. Mothers help their children understand themselves in a way that embraces both their strengths and their limitations.

Our culture places an overwhelming emphasis on maximizing the strengths of our children. We endorse the thinking that it takes 10,000 hours in order to become an expert in an area of pursuit and we want to give our children every conceivable advantage and provide the richest environment possible in order to ensure their success. We place a higher value on the "latest and greatest" and as a result many of our material possessions have become disposable. This attitude has become pervasive and we walk away from things that are damaged or broken. Even when relationships falter, it is often easier and cleaner find someone new rather than work to repair the cracks.

For mothers, it is impossible to walk away from the imperfections in her children and God challenges her to find the beauty in the brokenness of every child.

"The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18).

With God's help, these mothers must find the strength to see that their children's limitations can be both defining and endearing. When you are living with a special child, you cannot smooth over or ignore their limitations; a mother must face head on a child's needs before she can help the child grow to his or her highest potential. Acceptance is the start of healing in any family.

Those families that are supported at HOPE, need respite so they can gain a solid footing and then show others that these children are not "broken" but offer extraordinary gifts to the world.

At HOPE, our exceptional staff partners with families, to provide joy and necessary relief. We strive to be a refuge for families who are crying out for help but thought no one could hear them. HOPE is working tirelessly to change the paradigm of what support looks like for families.



The Kavolius Family, (L-R) John, Mark, Paula, Michael, and Timmy.

We are striving to bring awareness to the need for respite care and provide testimony that it can be provided for in a loving home like environment.

We are rolling up our sleeves, building our programs and bringing in help that can bring relief to even more families who have loved ones with special needs.

In the beautiful month of May, we celebrate mothers and all that they represent. We embrace courage, perseverance, and brokenness in all those we meet. We approach the coming months with faith and hope that we will continue to get stronger for all who are counting on us. Thanks to each of you for the part you have played in helping us to be a place that mothers and fathers can count on in their time of need.

For the kids,

*Paula Kavolius
Founder-President*

Exciting New Developments!

Stonehill Partnership Expands

HOPe's partnership with Stonehill College is one of the many things that makes it such an extraordinary and in fact, unique place. Neuroscience students have been visiting HOPe on Saturdays to spend time with children and young adults who have a wide spectrum of disorders from autism to Downs syndrome. This provides a unique opportunity for to enrich their understanding of what they study in the classroom and the children at HOPe look forward to making new friends and interacting with college students. The link below provides a glimpse at the program from the student's perspective.



Neuroscience Students Learn about Chromosomes and Compassion. View press release at <http://www.stonehill.edu/news/news/details/neuroscience-students-learn-about-chromosomes-and-compassion/>

Our partnership with Stonehill has provided another terrific opportunity for hands-on learning and growth. **Stonehill's Service Corps** offers students an opportunity to apply their skills in a "real world" setting. Each student is able to select an organization to work with from August through June and we are delighted to be the recipient of one of these volunteers. The volunteer's role will be focused on enhancing our programming by looking at what interests and needs our families have that are not currently being met. This student will have the rare opportunity to take a program from a concept and work with our specialist to develop a new and innovative program. Then they will be able to translate the requirements of the program and develop employment and volunteer opportunities that will bring the program to life.

We are blessed to have this partnership with Stonehill and will continue to look for ways that we can help each other learn and improve.

Program Expansion

At HOPe, we are constantly reviewing our programs to ensure that they reflect the needs of the families and help each child meet their full potential. In addition, we want to deliver those programs in a way that allows us to reach as many families as possible. The challenge is to expand services in a way that never strays from our guiding principles of providing high quality of care in a stimulating and nurturing environment. The program growth that we are announcing allows us to reach these overarching goal of helping more families without compromising on the quality of our service delivery.

In meeting with community leaders in surrounding towns, we identified Brockton as a community that would benefit from a program right in their own backyard so we are bringing our program right to them. This is an exciting opportunity to reach out to families with a young adult with developmental delays and improve their social and communication skills in the same way that we have been doing under the roof at HOPe. Additionally, **Snack & Chat** is expanding to work in conjunction with **Community Autism Resources** that provides services to autistic children. By spending time together and working on the common goal of preparing a snack for all to enjoy, these young people can develop daily living skills, decision making, self-advocacy and organization.



The **Snack and Chat** program was developed for teens and young adults (ages 18-21) with a goal of improving the social and communication skills of each person. The social nature of each session helps individual's foster friendships as they work toward a common goal of making and enjoying a snack as well as the camaraderie of being with friends.

Adventure Club will now be planned and offered to age appropriate groups, furthering the programs focus on social skills, enhancing the lives of families, friends and communities while increasing each person's self-esteem and improving their interpersonal skills.

Boston Marathon 2014 Highlights

Team HOPE's marathon team was the most inspirational to date. Comprised of Team Runderdogs; Kel Kelly, Ginny Pitcher & Julia McGovern, David Kelson Jr. Paul & Cynthia Villanova, Fred Murray, Kristin Labonte and Lianne Nadeau.

We are so grateful to both official and unofficial participants who ran on behalf of HOPE. Additionally, we had runners who were unable to complete the race in 2013 and ran for kids; David Kelson Jr, Bob Kelson, Dr. Rafael Castro, Lisa Castro, Stephanie Carlin, and Diane Brady.



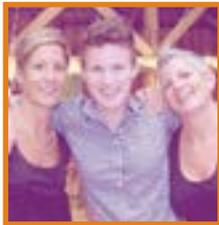
I was honored to run for the House of Possibilities. The work that you do would have been perfect for my brother David, a down-syndrome child who lived at home for his full 29 years. My parents would have loved the break that you provide, and which was not available at all when David was alive. I was touched by the tour that I made, meeting the adults during the weekday session – especially the down-syndrome man who was celebrating his 37th birthday. My brother would have been 46 this month.

For me, there is a palpable connection to the mission of the HOPE House and I am in awe of what you do every day. I am confident that the money raised will allow you to continue your great mission and I will certainly stay in touch. Thanks again for an incredible experience.

— Fred Murray



Kristin Labonte



Runderdogs Kel, Ginny, and Julia



Lianne Nadeau



Paula and Jackie showing support for Team HOPE.



Groden family cheering on Team HOPE.



Diane Brady running on behalf of her beautiful son, Brendan. There is NOTHING more beautiful than this. Congratulations to Diane and Brendan and to all our heroes of HOPE!



Team Kelson, a family that is Boston Strong!



Stephanie Carlin running for her son Elliot.



Cynthia Villanova



Paul Villanova



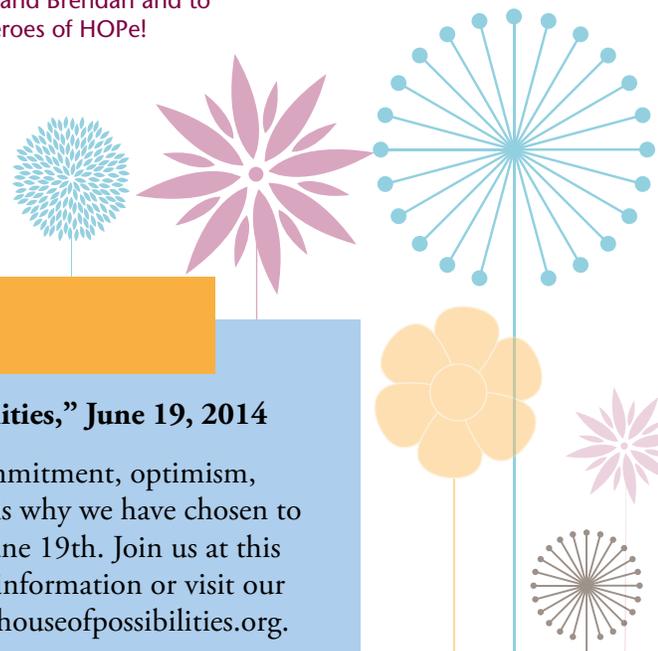
Dr. Rafael and Lisa Vasallo Castro

Events



The House of Possibilities Gala, "Endless Possibilities," June 19, 2014

Rick & Dick Hoyt are the embodiment of love, commitment, optimism, perseverance, possibilities, and so much more. This is why we have chosen to honor them at our "Endless Possibilities" Gala on June 19th. Join us at this epic evening of inspiration. See back page for more information or visit our website for tickets and sponsor opportunities, www.houseofpossibilities.org.



We Salute You!

Staff and Volunteer Spotlights

Kristen DeSisto



Kristen DeSisto

Kristen is the Director of Children's Programs at HOPE. She is involved with each child and can tell you about the many blessings each person brings to the program. She has served in this position over two years and prior, volunteered at HOPE for two and a half years. HOPE's goal of providing support and hope for families is what made her want to commit her time here. Her favorite memory working with the children of HOPE is when a

child who is non-verbal, said one day when getting in the van, "Kristen, I want to go to House of Possibilities!" Kristen said, "it shows that even though they can't always tell us or show us what they want, the kids really love coming to HOPE!" Kristen also serves as a kindergarten through second grade special education teacher in Brookline, MA.

Cindy Lemish

Cindy is the Therapy Chair for the Easton Garden Club and volunteers her time to HOPE. She has helped evolve the HOPE garden for HOPE kids to tend. As a result of their labor, they use the produce in the Cooking for HOPE program. Cindy helps with workshops, that help rehabilitate through flowers and gardening, in conjunction with Southeast Rehabilitation to create floral arrangements for nursing homes and senior centers as well as volunteering at HOPE with its respite program.



Cindy Lemish

The program Cindy has enjoyed the most was making Valentine's corsages. The young adults made corsages to give to someone special in their lives (Moms, Grandmothers, bus drivers, etc). They also made two dozen corsages for the Council on Aging to give out at their Valentine luncheon. The seniors were thrilled to have the corsages pinned on their lapels for Valentine's Day. Cindy says, "Now that I have raised my family and am retired, I enjoy helping others enjoy life. The smiles on the young adults we work with at HOPE make it totally worthwhile."

Mary O'Toole



Mary O'Toole

Mary is the Director of the Children's Overnight Respite Program and has been with the program since its inception, four years ago. She also works at the Massachusetts Hospital School as a Program Manager Specialist V, a pediatric rehab hospital for children with physical disabilities and medical complexities and has been there for 32 years.

She says watching the growth in some of the children is what has inspired her to keep the program going at full speed. Some children have made tremendous progress. She gives the example of one child who came for an overnight and was so homesick, he would leave a few hours into the program. Now this child comes to respite every month and has a wonderful time. Each child has shown so much growth because they have so much fun with their new friends. Mary says, "they also enjoy time away from home to call their own." Mary finds peace and happiness in her own family. She shares her favorite quote, "Families are the compass that guides us. They are the inspiration to reach great heights, and our comfort when we occasionally falter."

Stu Kane

Stu volunteers his time at HOPE teaching the very valuable lessons of Kung-Fu and has for three years. He is the owner of a food brokerage company, but still finds time on a regular basis to teach what he values as very important lessons. Driving by one day, he was intrigued by the House being built. After taking a tour of HOPE, he decided that he found the place where he can give back. He gets the most enjoyment out of the HOPE kids and adult smiles on their faces when they accomplish something



Stu Kane

they've been working for. He says, "when they finally break the board and balance, they feel accomplished."

Testimonials

Our Programs are Growing and Thriving! Listen to What HOPE's Families are Saying About Us!

Courtney Coan



Courtney Coan

Courtney created the Cooking for HOPE program. Throughout her ten years of experience working with children and adults with intellectual disabilities, she discovered the unprecedented impact of holistic nutrition and the healing power of food. Her journey to the kitchen started at a young age, watching her Italian grandmother create dishes that brought food to

life with its many colors and aromas. She realized how a homemade dinner brought my family together in one place around the dinner table. For the program, she spends time creating meal plans and integrating holistic nutrition education within PowerPoint presentations each week. She enjoys researching and preparing material to bring to life the important benefits behind how food can heal the body. While recovering from an injury, she discovered her purpose: to merge together her love for food with her love of the intellectual disability community. After a tour of the HOPE House, she found a place to give her knowledge and love.

She says, "I believe that in order to fully understand a concept all senses must be utilized: smelling, hearing, seeing, tasting, and touching." This philosophy is presented to the nutrition group through monthly and weekly themes throughout the year.

Her most cherished memories are seeing the faces of her group after cooking a meal and to witness the pride emitting from their smiles. The accomplishment that stems from the hard work unfold each week is a true testament to the unfailing capability of the desire to learn. "HOPE is not only a blessing to my life but a beacon of light that continues to shine on my path. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to be part of HOPE's journey and honored to share my growing knowledge of the healing power of food."

HOPE is the only organization that I feel comfortable leaving my son for an extended period of time... and he loves it!

HOPE is the best resource for me and my son with autism. Because he is high functioning, many organizations do not have appropriate activities and respite opportunities for him. HOPE is the perfect fit, and allows me peace of mind when I need respite.

I appreciate the staff for the care they provide my son and the other (children) who participate. It is a well-run organization and I hope to see the opportunities grow.

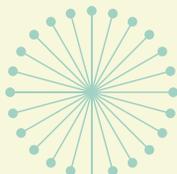
Not only do we get to see Mira get so excited about her trips to HOPE, but allows us to spend very quality time with our other two kids so they get to be the focus of our attention.

Giving my son a safe place to go for a few hours enables me to have a little time to myself, much needed as a single parent.

It gives us an opportunity to attend to our other children's sporting events, including their baseball games, etc. It gives us time to spend with our other children. When Molly is home she consumes most of our attention.

HOPE provides me much needed respite to spend time with my older two children and be able to take my two older ones out and about the community w/out feeling the pressure and embarrassment if Jacob "acts up" when he is with us. HOPE has also provided Jacob the opportunity to experience outings and community events which may be difficult for me if he exhibits behavioral difficulties with me. Jacob looks forward to Saturday adventure days and overnights and has formed friendships with several of the other children. I am VERY GRATEFUL for all HOPE has provided to Jacob and myself. Thank you so much!

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



Please join us!



The Fourth Annual House of Possibilities Gala
Thursday, June 19, 2014 • Gillette Stadium, Putnam Club
Hosted by Jordan Rich of WBZ Radio

Featuring Bo Winiker Jazz Band with Tony DuBlois
Swing Dance Lesson • Cocktails • Dinner • Auction & More!

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available online at:
www.houseofpossibilities.org

For more information, please contact Rosaria Mayer at
508.205.0555 ext.0, or r.mayer@houseofpossibilities.org



Stonehill College
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North Easton, MA 02356

HOPE is changing lives each and every day!

Results of our Caregiver surveys have shown that our Respite services have helped to reduce the stress level of caregivers by 60% on average and helped relieve the strained relationships with other family members by 75%.

“HOPE gives children with special needs happiness.”
— Parent of a HOPE special child.

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