



Child In My Heart

Being a mother is as indescribable as love and faith. For those of us who have the privilege of being a mother, Mother's Day reminds us how lucky we are to be able to have such a significant influence in a person's life.

Motherhood is both the most difficult and most beautiful thing I have ever experienced. It does not matter where you come from, whether you have a child with special needs or not. They are all special.

Our children become our life and we are never the same the moment they are born.

As I reflect back on the early years of raising a son with significant disabilities, I clearly remember taking on the role of Susan Sarandon in the movie, "Lorenzo's Oil", searching for the cure. I went to every major hospital in Boston and dozens of specialists, hoping and praying, I would find an answer to Timmy's maladies. If you had told me that I needed to walk naked across Fenway Park during a World Series game, I would've considered doing it to help Timmy. Some days, I think I did take that walk.

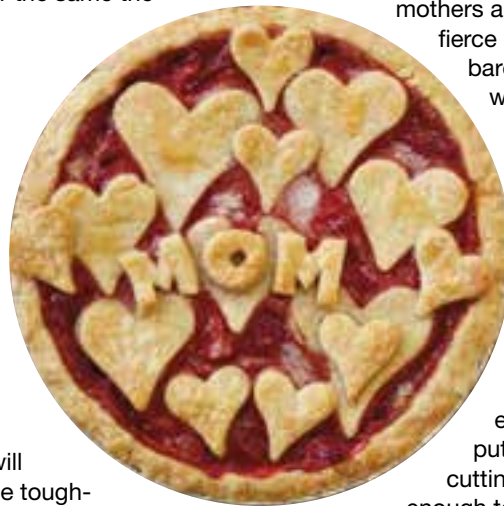
There are times we need to trust that others will help our children when we can't. Those are the toughest times of all. As mothers, we are conditioned to put on our superhero capes and sprint to help our children. Yet, as our children get older, sometimes the best help we can provide is none at all. Our goal for our children, is to raise adults that are functioning in our world to the best of their abilities.

I am faced with this quandary today. For example, my son, Timothy, currently living outside our home, depends on his residential program to make recommendations regarding his well being; such as, increasing his medication. Increasing his medication makes him tired and less interested in life. It breaks my heart, more than anyone will ever know, to see these changes in Timmy, but I have to put my faith in God, and in the kindness of others, knowing they are making the best decisions they can to support my son. Alone, I am completely helpless in my ability to

*"Oh, mirror in the sky, what is love
Can the child in my heart rise above?
Can I sail through the changing
ocean tides? Can I handle the seasons
of my life?"*
Fleetwood Mac

care for him, but I remain hopeful that he will one day become all that I know he can be.

How much are you willing to do for your child? Would you go days without sleep? Would you endure hours of tantrums? Would you close yourself off from all family and friends because they don't understand your child, or you are simply too tired to explain it any more? For some of our families with special children, what their child needs is extraordinary. Many of our mothers are silent screamers caught between the fierce love of a child and the fear of losing their barometer of what is "normal" – if there ever was such a place.



Spring is a beautiful time of year. Flowers are blooming, the sun shines more each day, and summer is on the horizon. It is fitting that Mother's Day falls within such a bright and beautiful season. This Mother's Day, I want to personally thank all of you for your constant sacrifices, overwhelming effort, and for putting the needs of others in front of your own. Please consider putting your toes up, enjoying a cup of tea, cutting a slice of pie, and simply stopping long enough to be grateful for the stunning blessing of being a mother.

Paula Kavolius

Paula Kavolius
Founder, President

*"A mother is a person who seeing there are
only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly
announces she never did care for pie"*
Tameva Jordan

Here Will Rise The House of Possibilities

Nearly eight years ago, Reverend James Lackenmier blessed the budding foundation of what is now the House of Possibilities. We embraced a vision of hope for families struggling to balance the overwhelming resources needed in caring for their special needs child. There was an incredible opportunity to enrich families in need and, similarly, a directly proportional cost to overcome. Not even a decade later, HOPE stands proudly by the cooperative effort of our exceptional team and through your gracious contributions. Fr. Lackenmier's words have been profoundly realized. Here is his blessing in part:

There is the possibility of service on the part of the dedicated caregivers, volunteers, and Stonehill students.

There is the possibility of comfort for your sons and daughters, who bear in their bodies and in their minds the cross of disability.

There is the possibility of respite for parents and families who love and care for those who depend upon them so completely.

There is the possibility of mutual support and encouragement for those who meet others and learn that their experience is not unique and they are not alone to face their challenge.

There is the possibility of inspiration for those who never knew a person or a family whose loved one needs fulltime care will come forward to volunteer to help.

There is the possibility that your young sons and daughters – whatever their limitations or their capacities – will find in this place comfort, joy, and help.

There is the possibility that faith will give rise to hope and that hope will flower to love.



We began as the mound of dirt you see here and blossomed into a home of respite. Your support has enabled us to grow at an unprecedented rate. In 7 years, we went from supporting kids from 10 to 70 towns. Additionally, we began by providing respite to 100 repeat clients and have increased services to over 1,400 repeat clients. Last year alone, we provided in excess of 54,000 hours of service.



The work continues as we strive to sustain and improve our critically needed programs.



Just as our program's growth has surged, so too has the depth and impact of our care. It can be tricky to quantify respite's positive influence at times, so we often rely on the feedback from caregivers and parents.

One parent summarized HOPE's care best: "Nobody would take my child – my family, my neighbors. They just couldn't provide the level of care for my son that he needs. HOPE can and they do. I am thankful to the staff at HOPE for building a place that makes us feel at home." The House of Possibilities is more than just a respite facility; it's more than a place of growth and care. It's a place of comfort for those with special needs as well as their families. It's a home away from home.

"There is the possibility that faith will give rise to hope and that hope will flower to love."

-Rev. James Lackenmier, C.S.C. May 22, 2008



Save The Date!

6th Annual Gala
Endless Possibilities
Thursday, June 23
6-10 pm

A Remarkable Night of Inspiration

Please mark your calendars to join us on Thursday, June 23rd at the Putnam Club at Gillette Stadium for HOPE's sixth annual Endless Possibilities Gala! This special event brings together hundreds of business leaders, advocates, and families who have a passion for making a difference in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. Our annual gala is our signature fundraising event that raises much-needed funds to support our clients, maintain high-quality programs, and reach out to more families in need.

We are deeply grateful to our amazing 2016 Gala event sponsors. We sincerely hope you will consider supporting these outstanding local companies who care deeply about their communities and families with significant challenges.

For more information about the Gala, please visit:
www.houseofpossibilities.org



This year, we are thrilled to feature world-renowned Irish Tenor, medical doctor, recording artist, and Paralympian, Dr. Ronan Tynan! Born with a lower limb disability, Dr. Tynan has persevered throughout life's most difficult challenges with enormous passion and determination. He attributes his success to his faith and the knowledge that the man above guides him through every door he opens.

When he was twenty, his legs had to be amputated below the knee after an auto accident caused serious complications. Just weeks after the operation, he was climbing up the steps of his college dorm, and within a year, he was winning gold medals in the Paralympics as a multitalented athlete. Between 1981 and 1984, Tynan amassed eighteen gold medals and fourteen world records of which he still holds nine. We are extremely excited to share his incredible story and talent with you.



Also, we are pleased to award our Champion of Special Children Award to Vanda Marie Khadem, Esq., Founder and President of the Autism Higher Education Foundation! Ms. Khadem, a practicing attorney for over 20 years, has a private practice in Massachusetts specializing in family law and special education law with a focus on representing Autism Spectrum Disorders. The Autism Higher Education

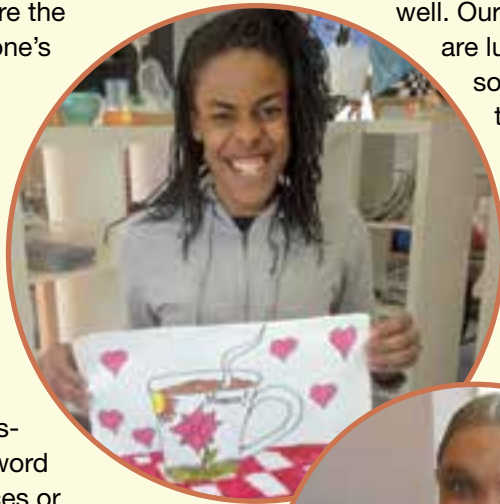
Foundation is a non for profit organization dedicated to creating, improving and providing access to educational opportunities to individuals on the autism spectrum. We are honored to recognize Ms. Khadem's passion and lifelong commitment to individuals with autism.



We Aim To Change Lives!

Our Adult Day program at the House of Possibilities is unlike any other. We are the only in-house day habilitation program located on a college campus, giving our adults endless opportunities for employment, social growth, and lifestyle enrichment. What truly sets us apart is that we are not simply giving adults a place to go during the week. We aim to change lives.

So, how do we begin to measure the impact that we make on someone's life? It is almost impossible to gauge without looking at each adult's individual journey and how they have grown at HOPE. For some, this growth means taking small steps, such as slowly overcoming anxiety and becoming comfortable enough to fully participate in communication group with friends. When a client transforms from speaking only one word to now using complete sentences or goes from being wheelchair-bound to now being able to walk independently around a track, we see our mission come alive. We also see it in the relationships formed here at HOPE. Several of our adults have gained meaningful and lifelong friendships with their peers and by supporting each other, they are able to enjoy life more fully and gain confidence in themselves. For example, Tiara, one of the best artists here at HOPE, shared that she loves to share her artwork with her friends and see them appreciate it. Our



clients come from all walks of life and regardless of their past, we are blessed to be able to offer a safe haven for them to grow independently and discover how they can use their abilities to contribute to our world.

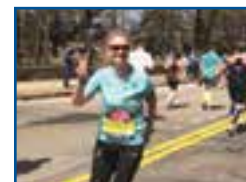
At HOPE, we judge our own success by the happiness and growth of our clients. The beauty of having such a small staff to client ratio is that we get to know the adults well. Our clients become part of our HOPE family. We are lucky enough to have a number of unique personalities in our adult clients, each of which contributes something special to the day to day life here at HOPE. For example, you can always count on Joe, HOPE's "funny guy", to always crack a joke and be the first to volunteer to clean up after lunch. One of our clients can even recall the moment her mother told her she was able to come to HOPE: "I remember seeing the video on the website and wanting to go. HOPE was my dream and when my mom told me I could go, I was so excited I hugged her." It is a privilege for us to be this dream for so many families. Each story matters and every accomplishment, big or small means the world to us. It is a joy to see our adults' smiling faces each morning and be present to witness their extraordinary talents and growth.

*"Do small things with great love"
Mother Theresa*

2016 Boston Marathon: Team HOPE Makes a Difference!

We would like to thank John Hancock and all of our outstanding runners who represented the House of Possibilities at the Boston Marathon on April 18th! Thanks to John Hancock, we received official marathon numbers that were used to raise needed funds for our precedent setting programs

The day was unforgettable for both runners and children who were rooting on Team HOPE. We are extremely proud of our runners' accomplishments, compassion, and overwhelming commitment! Thank you Team HOPE!



Additional photos and list of HOPE Team Runners on Back page.

An Exciting Addition to the HOPE Team!



We would like to welcome Christine Sheedy to our team as the Children's Logistics Director! Christine brings over 7 years experience working with children with developmental disabilities and behavioral challenges. In addition, Christine has previously assisted in the development of programs to integrate children into sports and social groups. She holds a Master's in Education and a BSBA.

Christine joined HOPE in mid-February and has been enjoying getting to know our wonderful families served through our children's programs. She has been a delightful addition to our children's weekend activities and her desire to enrich our special kids' lives brings great enthusiasm to HOPE! Christine lives in Walpole with her husband and two daughters.

Helping HOPE One Purchase at a Time

KidCents

We are extremely grateful to the Rite Aid Foundation's charitable giving program, KidCents, for their generous donation of \$5,000! The KidCents program allows Rite Aid customers to help HOPE's special kids simply by rounding up their change. If you would like to participate, simply sign up to be a member of Rite Aid's wellness+ program, by going to this link: <https://www.riteaid.com/wellness-with-plenti-program-enrollment>. By rounding up every purchase to the next dollar and donating the change to HOPE, even the smallest contributions can make a big difference! Thank you to our friends at the Rite Aid Foundation and all of our KidCents donors for helping us make a change with your change!



AmazonSmile

HOPE is also proud to announce our involvement in AmazonSmile! Members of Amazon.com can support HOPE simply by making the same purchases through AmazonSmile! To participate, sign up for Amazon.com and then sign in at smile.amazon.com. Choose the House of Possibilities as your favorite charitable organization and for every purchase you make, Amazon will donate a portion of the price to us.



United Way

Did you know that it is easy to designate your United Way contribution to HOPE? At the bottom of your paper pledge form, simply write "House of Possibilities" along with North Easton, MA 02356 in the space provided. Or, after entering your contribution amount on an electronic pledge form, click "Designations." Click on the "Agency Designations" link and type: Yawkey House of Possibilities" North Easton, MA 02356, and click "search." You will be prompted to enter our full name and address. Our agency code is 616360.

We appreciate every donation, small or large that supports our mission of HOPE!



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



Chasing Dreams

"To the ones who still believe in dreams: chase them. Chase them until you are out of breath. Then, keep running." - Anonymous

We have a dream of a better world for families caring for children and adults with significant challenges. We envision a community where towns, schools, colleges, providers, and caregivers work together to create a more compassionate world for all.

The support that we offer and receive from our remarkable community partners is truly what turns our dreams into realities. Whereas school systems educate children, HOPE offers a helping hand on weekends, overnights, and school vacation weeks. We provide unprecedented opportunities to develop friendships, attend special events and fully explore the community. In the same way, we receive outstanding support from our community partners to take care of HOPE's needs both big and small, from keeping our house looking beautiful to developing the Saturday Night Live program to affording our clients outstanding opportunities for fun and socialization.

When we broke ground in 2008 and blessed the plot of land HOPE stands on today, we envisioned endless possibilities of service, respite, and comfort for all that enter this house. While we have seen those visions come to light in our clients, staff, families, and community partners, our work is not done. We continue to dream of a world where every family in need of support can find it, where no parent is left alone to face the challenges of caregiving, and where every child is appreciated for their abilities and given the support they need to truly make a difference in the world.

We would like to thank all of our community partners, including our 2016 Spring volunteers from the Give with Liberty program, Xaverian Brothers, Stonehill College Best Buddies, St. Gerard Majella, and United Church of Christ in Abington for all of your loving support and for helping to make our dreams a reality!



350 Washington Street
North Easton, MA 02356

Thank you Team HOPE!

HOPE Team Runners:

Laura Benson	Carolyn Kuehnel
Nick Clifford	Susan Tamasi
Mike Cushing	Keith Weiner
Christina Donatiello	Brianna Whelan
Nicole Figge	Jeff Zimon



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