

Loisann's HOPE House NEWSLETTER

In This Issue -

- A Note from Lisa
- Reandrea's Story
- In and Around Loisann's Hope House
- Donor Spotlight
- Current Projects
- Save the Date -Trees of Hope

A Note From Lisa -

It is with enormous gratitude for the generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our staff that Loisann's Hope House can say that our vision - No Family Homeless - has been met. For the first time in the history of Loisann's Hope House, at the time of this writing there are no families currently homeless on the streets in our community, and there are no families on the wait list for shelter. This is an incredible milestone, and we could not have achieved this without your support - thank you!

I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Anna Billingsley. Anna has been a longtime Loisann's Hope House board member, and has served tirelessly to further our vision of "No Family Homeless." Her dedication has impacted the lives of countless families, and we will miss her as she retires from the board this summer. Additionally, I want to thank Sandra Pearson, who is also retiring from the board. Sandy has been a wonderful advocate for Loisann's Hope House, and we appreciate her years of service. At the same time, we are delighted to announce that Mike Adams, Mike Trivett, and Dr. Crystal Harmon have joined the board. Welcome, and we are grateful for your ability to serve.

Over the course of the past year, Loisann's Hope House served 398 clients, including 230 children. Throughout 2019, we answered **7,678** homeless crisis calls quickly and compassionately. Since March 17, we have handled 62 rental assistance calls related to Covid-19, and fielded calls from 35 people seeking shelter because of housing instability due to the pandemic. As COVID-19 impacts communities around the country, we continue to foster a culture of caring, while ensuring the safety of the children and families we serve in the greater Fredericksburg region. Thank you for your continued support during these challenging times.

-Lisa Crittenden

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY](#)



Lisa Crittenden, Executive Director

OUR IMPACT:

Our doors have remained open throughout the pandemic. As soon as the Covid-19 crisis hit our area, LHH applied for grants to pay for hotel stays for homeless families so that NO family would face homelessness during this uncertain time. **Since March 16, we have handled calls from 14 families seeking motel assistance because of Covid-19 concerns.**

Reandrea's Story - Mitigating the Effects of Covid-19 on Homelessness



Reandrea was pregnant, homeless and sleeping in her car when she first sat with Miss Tara at Loisann's Hope House.

Today, she has her own apartment, a job, a renewed sense of self-worth and dreams of a much brighter future for her and her kids.

"Hope House is amazing. They've done so much for me," said Reandrea, 32, who found Hope House in 2019.

"Once I got to Hope House, it was like, 'This is going to be who helps me get to that next point or at least gets me out of this hole.'"

They did so much more than that for her, she said.

Reandrea was at wits' end and knew she needed help. With three children and one on the way, she had family support for the kids. They had beds to sleep in. But when she dropped them off at night, she'd drive around the block, park and sleep in her car. She experienced brushing her teeth using bottled water and washing underwear in public sinks.

She reached out to Hope House. She scheduled -- and missed -- a few appointments with Tara Best, LHH's Chief Operating Officer.

"Miss Tara, she did not give up. She'd call and call. She did not give up on me."

At the end of Reandrea's intake meeting, she had keys to her new room. Good things started happening. She landed a job cleaning homes and then at a daycare, where she still works.

Reandrea said she struggles with how to define her relationship with the folks at LHH. Technically, she said, she is a client, but was never treated like one.

"They treated us like an equal. Their support was out of this world. They were there to make sure my mind was ok. When I got a job, it was like I had my own cheerleading team. Those women are going to let you know that you are strong, that you matter, that you are capable."

She saved and after a few months was ready to move into her own apartment with financial help from the Hope House.

Then the pandemic came. Money became even tighter and she lost her TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) benefits. Hope House was there to help bridge the financial gap and keep her in her apartment and her family fed.

She had the opportunity to collect the \$600-per-week CARES subsidy and the idea of riding out the quarantine at home with her kids, she acknowledged, sounded appealing.

But who's to say her job would have been there when she came back, she thought. She didn't want to slip backwards.

She kept working.

"I think it was the mature choice."

Today, she said, she knows peace and has more self confidence. Her children are happier.

She overheard her daughter on the phone telling a friend she was proud of everything she accomplished.

"None of that would have been possible without Hope House," Reandrea said.

"They saved me. They really did. I was homeless. I was hungry. I was scared. I saw life from the bottom. There, they came and saved me."

CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY

In and Around Loisann's Hope House - Welcome Audra Bielke!



Audra Bielke,
Events and Development Officer

Loisann's Hope House (LHH) has named Audra Bielke to the position of Events and Development Officer. Previously a volunteer for LHH and a consultant for the organization's special events, Bielke is beginning this full-time position after serving for two years as Operations Manager and Executive Director of the University of Mary Washington Philharmonic Orchestra.

Hope House has been helping the homeless in the Fredericksburg region for more than three decades. As the area's largest shelter for children and families, LHH has a highly successful record of taking people off the street and putting them back on their feet.

In addition to overseeing all fundraising events, Bielke will focus on expanding LHH's network of donors, creating campaigns, and coordinating donor stewardship. Along with a passion for the work of Hope House, she has a strong background in development and event planning.

Bielke earned an undergraduate degree from Bucknell University, and she has an M.A. from the School of Advanced International Studies at John's Hopkins University. She lives in Fauquier County.



Donor Spotlight

A huge thank you to Lifepoint Church and The Mount for making a difference in the lives of families and children at Loisann's Hope House!

Over the summer, members of Lifepoint Church generously furnished and decorated an entire apartment for a Loisann's Hope House family transitioning into their own home. Thanks to their efforts, a mother and her two children have a beautiful new apartment to call home.

Throughout the pandemic, members of The Mount provided daily lunches and other food for families living at Loisann's Hope House. In addition, they donated goods to families moving out into their own housing. Thank you to everyone that contributed time and donations to our families!

CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY



FACT: Five families entered shelter at LHH to date during the Covid-19 pandemic!

Take Learning Outside the Box - Loisann's Hope House Outdoor Classroom Fundraiser

Our backyard is getting an urgent makeover and we need your help!

You can make an immediate impact on the lives of families and children living at Loisann's Hope House by helping us transform our backyard into a safe classroom space.

With virtual learning in place for at least the first 90 days of the school year, our school aged children need a safe, dedicated space to learn remotely.

What we need:

- Shelter: A semi-permanent tent on the campus backyard
- Desks: Tables placed 6 feet apart to allow for social distancing
- Tutoring: Our outside space allows for safe, on-site tutoring
- Safety and Sanitation: Extra hand sanitizer and disinfectant to clean learning areas

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT! In light of the urgent need to leave **no student behind** during the pandemic, the Bible Family Fund through The Denver Foundation has pledged to match every dollar of the first \$3,000 raised for the outdoor classroom!

Please - Help Us Take Learning Outside the Box!

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY](#)



Mike Adams

Welcome New Board Members

Mike Adams (JON Properties), **Mike Trivett** (Trivett-Ashley Furniture Homestores) and **Dr. Crystal Harmon**.

Mr. Adams was born in Boston Massachusetts. He studied Business Management at the University of Maryland, College Park. He moved to Fredericksburg, VA in 1993 when he purchased an interest in WEB Equipment. In January of 2006 he sold his interest in WEB Equipment and founded JON Properties, LLC, a real estate development firm. In the last 14 years Mr. Adams has developed several noteworthy projects in the Fredericksburg region including, The Dixon St. Medical Building, Park View, The George Street Brownstones, The restoration of the National Bank Building and the Lofts at Frederick Street. Mr. Adams is a Class A General Contractor and licensed Realtor. In addition to his work with JON Properties, Mr. Adams serves, or has served, on numerous local boards and with local charities. These include the Fredericksburg Rotary Club, the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation, the Fredericksburg Area

Welcome new board members continued . . .

Museum, the Central Virginia Housing Coalition, Loisann's Hope House and the Germanna Community College Educational Foundation. Mr. Adams is also a member of the Fredericksburg Builders Association, the National Builders Association, the Fredericksburg Realtors Association, and the National Realtors Association.

We look forward to introducing you to our other board members in upcoming publications.

Focus on Prevention

Did you know that LHH is serving the community at-large through the **Homelessness Helpline and Homeless Prevention Program**? Administered by Loisann's Hope House on behalf of the **Fredericksburg Regional Continuum of Care, FredPrevent!** provides services to families with children and individuals throughout our area. The Homelessness Prevention Helpline aims to divert households at imminent risk of entering emergency shelter from being homeless by referring them to community resources.



FACT

Loisann's Hope House and the Homelessness Prevention Helpline handled 7,678 homeless crisis calls in 2019, and successfully diverted (helped avoid homelessness) an estimated 75% of callers.



[CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY](#)

An interview with Cait Woodward - Coordinated Assessment and Prevention Services Manager

What is your job, and how does it enhance the LHH mission?

The Homelessness Helpline is the landing spot for anyone experiencing unstable housing. Our helpline screens thousands of calls with compassion and empathy to ensure that anyone in crisis is being directed to the most appropriate interventions to assist their situation.



Cait Woodward,
Coordinated Assessment and Prevention Services Manager

What do you love most about your job?

I love working in the community I've lived in for most of my life. It has been an eye-opening experience to see how large-scale issues impact my local community. Working under the leadership at LHH has been an incredible experience – the team is compassionate and creative in filling service gaps and steadfast in their mission – they're pretty funny too!

What's an interesting thing that others may not know about you?

I volunteer with a teen suicide prevention program in the area and am passionate about mental wellness!

What is your motto?

A life-changing statement that set me on course to enter the helping profession was -- "The vision is HOPE and hope is REAL."



CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY

Save the Date for Trees of Hope 2020!



Plan ahead to experience the magic...

Trees of Hope 2020

to benefit Loisann's Hope House

ASHLEY HOMESTORE OUTLET SHOWROOM

9721 Jefferson Davis Highway (at Cosner's Corner), Fredericksburg, VA 22407

Spectacular tree exhibition open to the public

Friday, November 20th - Saturday, December 5th from 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. daily

* New this year - 2 week extended viewing and bidding period! *

Inaugural "Walk the Tree Trail" and Gourmet Box Luncheon

\$50/person (Tables will be socially distanced on the showroom floor to adhere to safety guidelines. There will be one table for each group of 2, 4, 6 or 8.)

Friday, December 4th 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

VIP Reception on the showroom floor featuring cocktails, hors d'ouvres and socially distanced merriment. \$75/person or \$125/couple

Friday, December 4th 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. * Limited quantity of tickets available.*

Online silent auction of trees begins on Friday, November 20th and ends at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 5th. View the trees in person and bid from home!

Live online auction of select trees Saturday, December 5th 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Check [LoisannsHopeHouse.org](https://www.loisannshopehouse.org) for updated information and ticket sales.

CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair: Adam Fried

Vice Chair: Jeff Small

Members:

Mike Adams	Cassie Payne
Heather Cohen	Janny Sims
Crystal Harmon	Beth Sinkler
Walt Kiwall	Tom Thomzak
Howard Owen	Mike Trivett

Chief Executive Officer:

Lisa Crittenden



(540) 371-0831

902 Lafayette Boulevard,
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

www.loisannshopehouse.org