

Loisann's **HOPE** House NEWSLETTER

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A Note From Lisa -

I want to thank all of our donors for your continued support during these challenging times. Here at Loisann's Hope House, we are hard at work helping families facing homelessness in our community, and since July 1, we have assisted 74 families, including 116 children. The Homelessness Helpline, administered by Loisann's Hope House on behalf of the Fredericksburg Regional Continuum of Care, has fielded over 750 calls during this two-month period.

We have also been very busy getting our outdoor classroom up and running in time for the start of school! Just as our organization's vision is *No Family Homeless*, our vision for the outdoor classroom is *No Child Behind* in virtual learning. Many of our supporters know first-hand how challenging it is to navigate the new online learning protocols; imagine trying to do so while facing homelessness. Our outdoor classroom, overseen by the Program and Child Services Case Coordinator, provides a sheltered area where the children can gather to attend school online. Not only does this support the students, but it is also designed to support the parents by alleviating some of the stress factors associated with online learning, freeing them up to focus on housing and employment.

Loisann's Hope House has remained committed to ending homelessness in our community for over 33 years, and although we are facing unprecedented challenges in the age of Covid-19, we are adapting. Our doors have stayed open and we remain steadfast in our mission to serve the region. Thank you again to everyone that continues to help make this possible.

-Lisa Crittenden



Lisa Crittenden, Chief Executive Officer



OUR IMPACT:

Since July 1, Loisann's Hope House has assisted **74 families** facing homelessness in our community, including **116 children**.



DONATE TODAY

We especially need the following items:

- Cleaning Supplies
 - Bleach
 - Paper Towels
 - Trash bags
- Contact us today at 540-371-0871 for more information

CLICK HERE TO DONATE ONLINE

Melissa's Story -

Melissa remembers seeing her room at Loisann's Hope House for the first time. The amenities were what many would take for granted but she had arrived there "overwhelmed and beaten." She saw more than a room, beds, new sheets. She saw a fresh start.

She admits that, at the beginning, she wasn't the easiest client. "Everything I said, 'It's not going to work because I need this, it's not going to work because I don't have that,'" said Melissa, 30 and a mother of two. "They said, 'Just give it a try.' And they made everything happen."

They also made expectations clear. This wasn't a handout. It was an investment. She recalled meeting Ms. Lisa, the Chief Executive Officer, who was welcoming and stern at the same time.

"She said, 'This is not free money. You have to put in work for it and do it because you want to do it. If you want a life for your kids and to make a life for yourself and a career, she said, this is the program for you,'" Melissa recalled.

Melissa moved into LHH in January 2020 and moved out on July 7 into a new apartment and a new life. It feels like both a lifetime ago and yesterday that she was consumed by seeking her next high, she said.

It began with prescription painkillers and graduated to heroin. After a few months, the heroin wasn't working. The girl she bought from provided a needle and injected her. Melissa remembers her foretelling words: "Congratulations, you're officially a junkie. You'll always want it." "It was the end for a long time," Melissa said.

She got clean four years ago after learning she was pregnant with her second child, a boy.

Still, ruined credit and a felony conviction kept her out of housing and full-time work. Her family didn't trust her. She connected with a temp agency and found work in housekeeping in the healthcare industry. Whatever money she made went to rooms at low-rent extended-stay hotels.

Then she found Hope House, where the staff provided her with a road-map and the support to reach her goals. She met with her counselor every week. They pored over



her finances and budget. Looked up housing options. Job opportunities. Provided moral support when she was down and celebrated victories, however small.

LHH provided every essential -- food, clothing, even tampons -- so she could aggressively save. She began taking online classes at Germanna Community College. And when it came time for her new apartment, Hope House paid the landlord her security deposit and first month's rent. She promised to pay back the money if she moved and was surprised by the reply. She was told that it was seed money, a stepping stone for her new life.

"They are the reason I am where I am today," Melissa said. "If it wasn't for them, I wouldn't be here."

She was surprised with the community's generosity. When she moved in, Hope House told her that parishioners of Lifepoint Church wanted to furnish her apartment. When she came home from work, there was living room furniture, a toddler bed for her son, a twin bed for her daughter, cabinets stocked with kitchenware -- everything. Even a crock pot.

With recovery comes gratitude, which she wanted to express for the kindness. "Thank you for everything. I am appreciative. My kids are appreciative. If it wasn't for them, my kids wouldn't have a bed to sleep in, pots and pans and plates to eat off of."

With recovery comes perspective. "I used to have a very different image of homelessness. Until I became it."

CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY

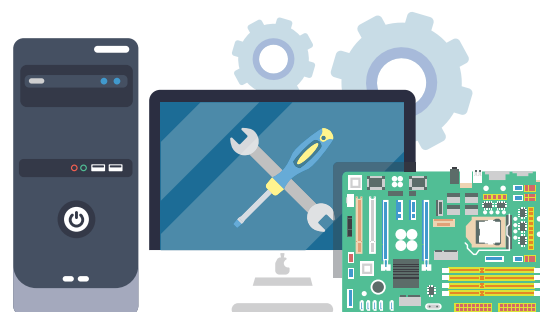
In and Around Loisann's Hope House



Loisann's Hope House is getting a technology upgrade! We are pleased to share that we have been awarded \$40,000 to cover the costs for a computer system upgrade from Stafford County CARES Act funding.

As noted in the Stafford County press release, "The grants were based upon the size and demonstrated needs of each organization. Grants can be utilized for project expenses related to COVID-19 response or organizational capacity in response to COVID-19. The goal is to ensure the sustainability and maintenance of the organizations that serve the community and, in turn, the people who are served."

The computer upgrades are scheduled to be completed in September, and we look forward to serving our clients with our newly upgraded systems!



Donor Spotlight

Thank you to Howard Owen and the dedicated employees at Stafford Printing for all that they do to support Loisann's Hope House! For many years, Stafford Printing has been an invaluable partner to Loisann's Hope House by helping us get the word out within our community about the vital services we provide. From start to finish, Stafford Printing generously donates graphic design expertise, materials, and printing so that we can focus on achieving our vision - *No Family Homeless*. Thank you, Stafford Printing!



We also want to thank the Elk's Lodge 875 for their generous donation this month. In June, the Elk's National Foundation of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks made grants available to every Lodge to help shine the light on Covid-19 relief efforts. As the recipient of the grant awarded to Lodge 875, Hope House was able to purchase much needed supplies for our families in shelter. Thank you, Elk's Lodge 875!

CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY

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

Thank you to everyone that donated to help fund the outdoor classroom on our campus! Virtual school is in full swing, and we currently have 12 school-aged children that are learning remotely from Hope House.

We are still seeking help to cover the cost of our safe, dedicated learning space for our resident children. At Hope House, our vision is *No Family Homeless*, and we are now working hard to ensure *No Child Behind* in virtual school. Please - help us take learning outside the box!

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT! In light of the urgent need to leave No Student Behind in virtual school, the Bible Family Fund through The Denver Foundation has pledged to match every dollar of the first \$3,000 raised for the outdoor classroom!

Would you like to donate your time? Loisann's Hope House is seeking tutors to assist our resident children with virtual learning. Please contact Kristen Kuppert at kristenkuppert@loisannshopehouse.org or call 540-371-0831 x1009.



Photo Credit:
Peter Cihelka / The Free Lance Star



Photo Credit:
Peter Cihelka / The Free Lance Star



Dr. Crystal Harmon

Welcome New Board Member - Dr. Crystal Harmon

Dr. Crystal Harmon is a native Floridian with a rich history working in the field of special education and leadership. Today she is a local humanitarian with a particular interest in world hunger, homelessness, and eradicating the stigmas associated with mental illness. Affiliated with many community service organizations, she is mostly known for organizing food drives to help needy families within Stafford County. She is a board member for Stafford Emergency Relief through Volunteer Efforts (S.E.R.V.E.) and the National Alliance for Mental Illness, Prince William Chapter.

Her mantra in life is simple: *"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."* - Gandhi

CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY

Focus on Child Services

Providing services to the children at Loisann's Hope House and in the Rapid Rehousing program is a critical component of our mission. Our Program and Child Services Case Coordinator works with parents to evaluate children's physical and mental health needs, schooling and socialization, and coordinates with parents to establish goals for each child.



An interview with Kristen Kuppert, Program and Child Services Coordinator

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

I conduct detailed conversations with the parents of children living at Hope House, and I assess the needs of the children. I want my families to feel a connection with me and reach out to call on me when needed. If the children are meeting their goals, it relieves the stress on their parents, enabling them to focus more on the program that we offer in relation to their housing and employment needs.

What do you love most about your job?

The meaningfulness in my line of work and knowing that I will always be able to help many more families.

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

I enjoy history very much, particularly, U.S. History and World War II. I am a huge supporter of our U.S. military men and women.

What is your "motto?"

Treat others how you would like to be treated.

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY](#)



Testimonial - "Why I Give," by Bill K.

Why do I help Loisann's Hope House?

I'm a writer, a storyteller, and the work at LHH is worth telling and the victories worth celebrating. I'm an alcoholic -- a recovering alcoholic -- but forever an alcoholic. I've hit my bottoms. I've picked myself up but not without help and support.

Why do I help Loisann's Hope House?

Because I'm committed to doing the next right thing. Service helps me in my sobriety, so I receive as much as I give.

I have been truly inspired speaking with LHH clients and staff. I witnessed determination. Gratitude. Heard stories of despair, support, hope.

I spoke to one mother who moved into her new apartment and already was talking about giving back to LHH. Whatever they need me to do, she said. "I'll sort diapers, whatever they need."

Gratitude and hope.

Why do I help Loisann's Hope House?

Because I can.

Bill K.



CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY

Information about Trees of Hope 2020

We are happy to announce that Trees of Hope 2020 will go on! It will just take place in an exciting new format! This year the trees will be on display for over two weeks at the brand-new Ashley HomeStore Outlet in Cosner's Corner. This spacious venue ensures we are able to safely enjoy the trees while practicing social distancing. Plus, the trees will look fantastic displayed among the stylish decor on the showroom floor!

Looking for a fun project for a good cause? We invite you to decorate a tree this year! When you decorate and donate a tree, your support of Trees of Hope provides shelter and hope to homeless children and families throughout our community. Please consider contributing something so enjoyable for the community and for such a worthy cause. Contact Audra at audrabielke@loisannshopehouse.org if you would like to learn more or to schedule a tree pickup or delivery to your door.



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 for updated information and ticket sales.

CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY



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Heather Cohen	Janny Sims
Crystal Harmon	Beth Sinkler
Walt Kiwall	Thomas Tomzak
Howard Owen	Mike Trivett

Chief Executive Officer:

Lisa Crittenden



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www.loisannshopehouse.org