

# Loisann's **HOPE** House NEWSLETTER

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Lisa Crittenden, Chief Executive Officer

## *A Note From Lisa -*

Thank you to everyone that showered our families with love during February, and especially to Erin Menefee and Christin Calaman for providing wonderful Valentine's Day gifts for the families at Loisann's Hope House. We are also grateful to Sedona Taphouse for partnering with us for the Steak Out for Charity nights in January. While it may be cold outside, the families here are safe and warm thanks to the generosity of our supporters.

All of us at Loisann's Hope House are thrilled to share with you that we opened a new house! Please read more about this big announcement on page two. We are grateful that we can grow to help meet the needs of our community. Just halfway through our fiscal year, we have already assisted 370 clients with shelter. In comparison, last year we assisted 398 clients for the entire year.

Loisann's Hope House continues to lead efforts surrounding shelter, housing and health in our region. This month we feature staff member Linnea Albrycht, a Homelessness Helpline Specialist, as she works to answer homelessness crisis calls quickly and compassionately. We also look forward to the Bags of Hope online auction taking place on March 4-5. More information can be found on page five.

As we take heart in warmer days to come, we want express gratitude to all of our friends and supporters for their ongoing commitment ending homelessness in our region and brightening the days of homeless children and their families this winter. Thank you!

With gratitude,

Lisa Crittenden

## OUR IMPACT

During the past 6 months, we have served 370 clients facing homelessness, including 198 children.

**CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY**

## *Why I Volunteer - A Discussion with Dorothy -*



Loisann's Hope House is fortunate to be supported by a wonderful team of volunteers! This month we talk to Dorothy, who is in her second year of volunteering at Loisann's Hope House. After retiring from a 33-year career at the Defense Intelligence Agency, Dorothy connected with Loisann's Hope House through her daughter, who also volunteered here.

"Volunteering at Loisann's Hope House helps me be a part of my community and it's a reminder that you're part of something bigger than yourself," she explained. Volunteers at Loisann's Hope House are an integral part of operations, and Dorothy handles everything from answering the phones and the front door, straightening the ever-revolving groups of pantry items, to helping set up the new house at 909 Lafayette Boulevard.

Volunteering, she says, "helps me to practice compassion and kindness. Sometimes we get wrapped up in other things, and it's even more important to realize kindness when so many people are suffering during Covid-19. You want to be part of something that makes you feel that you're contributing something back to the community. I love working here, I really do!"

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## *In and Around Loisann's Hope House*



Loisann's Hope House is thrilled to announce that we have opened a new house! 909 Lafayette Boulevard is located across the street from our existing campus, and will accommodate three more families. This brings the total number of families we can house from 16 up to 19. We remain grateful to The Silver Foundation and Atlantic Builders for their ongoing support of our growth as an organization, as this expansion ensures we are even better equipped to meet the needs of families facing homelessness in our region. We look forward to the day when we can once again safely gather and provide tours of our new home and campus to friends and supporters in our community. Thank you!

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## Donor Spotlight



Preparing the new house to welcome three families required many modifications and furnishings. One of the most important requirements were 10 new beds! The Secure Sleep Initiative was launched in January to help raise funds to purchase the beds. A huge thank you to Christine from Spotsylvania, who stepped up to purchase beds! Thank you also to CTI Real Estate for their participation in the Secure Sleep Initiative. We are so grateful for their support, which will not only impact the three families moving in soon, but countless families in the years to come. Thank you!



## Board Member Profile



Janny has lived in Fredericksburg with her husband Shane and son Cooper for 17 years, during which time she has been very involved with the community. She volunteers for many organizations, such as The Community Foundation, and she sits on the Boards of an HOA and the Fredericksburg Country Club. She chairs The Academy's annual auction and has been helping out at Loisann's Hope House for many years. Janny was a jewelry designer and sold her work at high end galleries and resorts locally and all over the country, including The Inn at Little Washington, The Tides Inn, and places in St. Croix, Atlanta, North Carolina and Ohio. Today she is an established REALTOR in town, and absolutely loves helping people buy and sell their homes. Janny believes that to be fulfilled and successful, she must help others get to where they are going.

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## *Focus on the Homelessness Helpline*

### *- An Interview with Linnea Albrycht*



The Homelessness Helpline is a key feature of homelessness prevention in our region. Linnea Albrycht, a Homelessness Helpline Specialist, along with her team, responds to the housing crisis calls that come through the helpline. For every person that calls into the helpline, an assessment is completed that determines the client's unique needs, and then referrals are provided to community resources. "Having our line as the front door for homeless services has decreased client confusion around available services and has streamlined the process for entering shelter," explained Linnea. The numbers speak to the impact of the helpline — in the first six months of the fiscal year, 4,632 homelessness crisis calls were answered quickly and compassionately.

#### **What is the best part of your job?**

*The best part of my job is being able to watch clients grow. We often encounter people at their lowest points, so seeing clients get connected with services and regain stability for themselves is a great reward.*

#### **What is one of the biggest challenges that you face in your job?**

*The hardest part of my job is that I wish I could do more. Homelessness is a symptom of a system that has made it nearly impossible for many people to flourish and survive. There is a great deal of work that needs to be done at a higher level to tackle the issues that cause homelessness.*

#### **What is an interesting thing that others may not know about you?**

*I think the most interesting thing about me that most people don't know is that I absolutely adore classical music. I play the piano, violin, and sing, and I always try to find time every day to indulge in music as a form of self-care. I also write music in my spare time! I spend at least three hours a day at my piano, playing comfort pieces I've known for years and pushing myself to learn new pieces frequently. For me, music is about emotional exploration and communion; every piece is an honest display of the internal.*

#### **What is your motto?**

*The motto I live by is that we should make it a priority to love others unconditionally. We are all people with hearts and lives, and we all deserve respect. I find it calming to admire others, their journeys, and love them because of who they are.*

**CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY**

## *Bags of Hope is Coming Up!*



*Save the Date for  
Bags of Hope 2021!*

Nab a DREAM BAG and help homeless families achieve their dreams! Shop the Dream Bag Pop Up Boutique to benefit Loisann's Hope House.

**Don't miss out!  
Two days only!**

Thursday, March 4 and Friday, March 5 at the Ethan Allen store in Central Park. Dozens of gently used designer handbags will be on display ... browse in person or online to bid or "buy it now!" Register at **<http://bidpal.net/bagsofhope2021>**

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TODAY](http://bidpal.net/bagsofhope2021)**



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**Chief Executive Officer:**

Lisa Crittenden



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