

# Loisann's HOPE House NEWSLETTER

## In This Issue -

- A Note from Lisa
- Shona's Story
- In and Around Loisann's Hope House
- Donor Spotlight
- Keys for Christmas
- Board Member Spotlight
- Focus on Housing
- Trees of Hope Dazzled
- Thank you Sponsors

## A Note From Lisa -

This holiday season at Loisann's Hope House, we have much for which to be grateful. We are so thankful for the generosity of our supporters, not just during the holidays but year round. Thank you for providing hope in a year of uncertainty. Your impact is felt daily by the families we serve, and we could not fulfill our mission without you. In just the month of November, Loisann's Hope House served **194 clients from 64 different households**. This includes **100 children** - truly, you are making a difference!

During this time of giving, I am reminded that one of the greatest gifts we can give is service to others, and I am thankful for the dedicated staff at Loisann's Hope House, who work tirelessly to serve our clients and lift up the lives of homeless children and families. I also want to thank our board of directors, who helped guide us through a challenging 2020 with an unwavering commitment to achieving our vision of No Family Homeless.

Looking forward, I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a safe holiday season and a happy New Year. The beating heart of our program is optimism for our clients and for our community. The past year has been hard on everyone, but we have come together in our mission; because of people like you, there is always hope. This makes us confident that the future is bright. Happy holidays and we look forward to connecting with you in the New Year.

-Lisa Crittenden



Lisa Crittenden, Chief Executive Officer



### OUR IMPACT:

Did you know? We serve families in 5 localities - Fredericksburg City, and the counties of Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania, and Stafford.



### 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](#)

## Shona's Story -

Shona didn't necessarily enjoy asking for help but a confluence of circumstances -- curveballs that 2020 has been prone to deliver -- put her in a predicament.

Her apartment lease was about to expire, and she was on a waitlist for a new place in Spotsylvania.

Then the pandemic turned everything upside down. Her hours at a daycare where she worked were dramatically cut. She moved into an extended stay motel with her 13-year-old daughter. Unbeknownst to her, she said, the waitlist for the complex where she hoped to move had been frozen.



Life as a single mother, however, prepares you for setbacks, she said.

*"You put on your big girl britches and keep moving," she said. "If I cried and fussed over every little bad thing that happened, I'd never get anywhere."*

They moved and stayed with her sister for a short time but the "hustle and bustle and carrying on" in DC didn't suit her. Born and raised in Virginia, she was more accustomed to grass and trees than concrete and drama.

They moved back home and resumed looking for an apartment without success. Her unemployment benefits were nearing an end.

At the time, Shona was generally aware of Loisann's Hope House. Her mother, she believed, had stayed there briefly years ago and a few mothers of children she had cared for at the daycare had received help.

But her understanding was that Loisann's Hope House was a "battered women's shelter" and she wasn't that, she said.

It took a while to connect, in part, she acknowledged, because of her tendency to screen calls from unfamiliar numbers.

Loisann's Hope House began looking for an apartment and then brought her in as a resident.

It wasn't a completely seamless transition. A private person by nature, she said, she wasn't accustomed to a curfew and other rules. At Loisann's Hope House, however, assistance comes with expectations.

Still, she began to appreciate the Loisann's Hope House community, even if it was sometimes from the sidelines. She enjoyed watching the younger kids running around. *"They were so adorable and it was nice meeting new people."*

Her daughter also enjoyed the company and interacting with the kids as well.

For the most part, clients don't fully comprehend the reach of the Loisann's Hope House umbrella of supporters and network of providers, she said. They just know that the support is there when they need it. It can be overwhelming and frustrating, she said, reaching out to various support agencies as an individual, not always knowing whom to call and not always getting responses

**CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY**



as quickly as you'd like. But Loisann's Hope House, she noted, always received quick replies from agencies that she had called and left messages.

Shona and her daughter stayed at Loisann's Hope House for three months before, in November, moving into her new apartment, which was completely furnished by Micah

Ecumenical Ministries, a nonprofit responsible for coordinating efforts of Fredericksburg church congregations to make a better community and assist people living in the margins.

Shona, meanwhile, is working at a new daycare that gives her more hours. Loisann's Hope House assisted with her rent and security deposit and is providing continued support, both financially and emotionally.

Loisann's Hope House, she said, was there for her when she hit a rough spot and her new roommate, another childcare worker, jokes that she wished she knew about LHH when she was struggling.

For anyone in her situation who doesn't know about Loisann's Hope House and what they can do, *"I'd definitely recommend they go over there."*

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



At Loisann's Hope House, we don't just grow hope! Our campus is now growing beautiful new trees thanks to the generosity of Anne Little and Tree Fredericksburg. We are the proud recipients of two new redbuds planted by the back patio, and two shade trees – one planted by the open lawn area in front of the outdoor grilling patio and one to the left of the playground. In addition to planting the trees, Tree Fredericksburg arranged to have them routinely watered and cared for. We can't wait to watch these trees grow over the years and provide beauty and shade to countless families in the future. Thank you Anne and Tree Fredericksburg!

**CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY**



## Donor Spotlight

A HUGE thank you to the team at Atlantic Builders for the giant check to Loisann's Hope House - pun intended! We are so grateful for their generous donation of \$25,000 towards our Bridge the Gap Campaign. As a result of the pandemic, Loisann's Hope House was unable to hold many of the fundraising events this fall upon which we traditionally rely. The Bridge the Gap Campaign was conducted to help us cover this gap in event-based fundraising for the remainder of 2020. Thank you for leading the way, Atlantic Builders, and thank you to all of their valued trade partners that work so hard to help Atlantic Builders give back to our community. YOUR IMPACT MATTERS!



[CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY](#)

## *It's the final days of Keys For Christmas!*



Recent CARES Act funding has presented an immediate opportunity for the Fredericksburg region to permanently re-house those experiencing homelessness. With your help, the majority of those currently staying in the community's emergency shelters, like Loisann's Hope House, could be housed by Christmas. The goal is to get 95 households housed in the next 90 days. Click the button below for more details!

**Click this link to learn more about the program:**

<https://stablehomespartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Stable-Homes-Partnership-Palm-Card.pdf>

**Here's how you can help our community reach this milestone:**

Landlords have an extraordinary opportunity to join homeless services in ending homelessness in the Fredericksburg region!

- Sign a lease with a household experiencing homelessness between October 1 and Christmas Eve (December 24) and receive a signing bonus in addition to the regular security deposit and the first month's rent.
- Your signing bonus will equal one month of rent. It is free and is our way of saying thank you for doing your part to end homelessness in the Fredericksburg region.

**Become a Landlord partner and click below!**

Click this link to become a Partner Landlord:

<https://stablehomespartnership.org/contact-us/>

Local congregations have developed a system to collect donated furniture and household items. They will then distribute them to those who need it. Drop off gently used sofas, beds, tables, chairs, dressers and other household essentials at 1212 Lafayette Blvd., Tuesday through Thursday from 9am to 1pm or complete our online donation form to arrange a pick-up.

**Click here to donate furniture:**

<https://micahfredericksburg.org/give-help/furniture-donations/>



## **HELP US END HOMELESSNESS!**

## Board Member Spotlight - Tom Tomzak, M.D.



Dr. Tom Tomzak

Loisann's Hope House is honored to have Dr. Tom Tomzak as a member of our Board of Directors. Many of us are familiar with Dr. Tomzak as the Mayor of the City of Fredericksburg from 2004 - 2012. He is a Member and Chairman of the Virginia Municipal League Committee of Health and Education and is on the Board of Social Services for City of Fredericksburg. A native of Superior, Wisconsin, Dr. Tomzak served in the United States Navy from 1977 - 1985 before entering into private practice in obstetrics and gynecology. We are grateful for his service and leadership as a member of our Board. Thank you, Dr. Tomzak!

## Focus on Housing



Jessica Martien

At Loisann's Hope House, the ability to help families navigate into permanent housing and connect them to needed services is an important way we serve our clients. Our Housing Counselor, Jessica Martien, is dedicated to guiding families toward independent living in their own homes.

### **What does your job entail and how does it enhance the mission of Loisann's Hope House?**

*I meet with clients to understand and and work towards achieving their goals: housing, employment, and other services. During this assessment process we prepare and set goals for independent living. This includes completing a budget and savings plan and discussing with parents how to financially care for their families. I also connect our clients with services such as mental health assistance and life skills classes.*

**CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY**



**What do you love most about your job?**

*I love to meet new people and exchange knowledge and wisdom. You can always learn something from another person if you just take a moment to listen.*

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

*I played volleyball my entire school career and I enjoy watching volleyball.*

**What is your "motto?"**

*"I can only work as hard as you, and second chances are real!"*

---

*Trees of Hope Dazzled - Thank You!*

Thank you to everyone that participated in Trees of Hope! We are so grateful for the community support of this annual event to brighten the lives of homeless children and their families. Thank you to the tree decorators who once again decorated and donated a dazzling display of trees. We are also grateful to Fern and Mitch Constant and Karen Trivett for creating so many beautiful pieces of artwork and decor to sell at our Holiday Bazaar.

Thank you to our incredible sponsors this year! We truly could not have held this event without your support. And of course, a very special thank you to Mike Trivett and the fantastic staff at the Ashley Homestore Outlet for allowing us to display the trees on their spacious showroom floor for over two weeks.



**CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY**

## *Thank You!*

**Ashley Homestore Outlet Lana King**

**Stafford Printing Medtronic**

**Fredericksburg Monti and Michele Schmitt**

**Motor Sports Keddie Real Estate**

**Lewis Insurance Associates Coldwell Banker Elite**

**The Gemini 3 Group Abby Construction Co.**

**Rappahannock Electric JON Properties**

**Cooperative Virginia Partners Bank**

**Thomas Tomzak Dawning Point**

**and Suzanne Belmore Chatham Ltd.**

**Ken and Leigh Ann Kroko Michele Herron-Trusel**

**Walt and Teresa Kiwall CTI Real Estate**

**United Sprinkler Co., Inc. The Links, Inc.**

**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	Thomas Tomzak
Howard Owen	Mike Trivett

**Chief Executive Officer:**

Lisa Crittenden



(540) 371-0831

902 Lafayette Boulevard,  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

[www.loisannshopehouse.org](http://www.loisannshopehouse.org)