

Cape Hope NEWSLETTER



Fall 2020

First babies born under Operation 1923



Stock photo

A big big thank you!

The first babies born to mothers being assisted through Operation 1923 were born in May and June 2020. This was realized due to the generosity of contributors, as housing expectant mothers is a very expensive proposition. Cape Hope spent over \$6,000 to house one person in a very small room, which is why we are prayerfully seeking a house where homeless, expectant mothers can transition into a stable housing situation. Having a managed home where we could house multiple women would be a more cost efficient means of housing expectant mothers. Still, Cape Hope succeeded in saving two lives and a lifetime of guilt and regret for a mother who might have aborted her child. It is Cape Hope's desire, with your support, to have these babies born into a safe, caring and nurturing environment. The current program will provide assistance to expectant mothers, wherever they are in their pregnancies, until three months after delivery. This support allows the mothers to meet with various agencies and line up needed services.

COVID-19 a barrier to serving clients

The Coronavirus has been a major barrier to serving our client base. Once COVID-19 resulted in social distancing and other preventative measures, such as wearing masks, the ability to interact with clients was seriously affected. Those experiencing homelessness did not have access to proper personal protective equipment (PPE), nor did they have the ability to self-quarantine. And, according to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the homeless are at a significant risk if they are to contract the coronavirus. The virus more seriously affects those over 65, according to the CDC, being homeless can result in individuals who "have physical conditions that mirror those of people 15-20 years older than them." "On a single day, an estimated 202,623 single adults experiencing homelessness are over age 50, suggesting they may be uniquely vulnerable to becoming seriously ill

during the pandemic crisis" (www.endhomelessness.org).

The State of New Jersey has not been able to adequately define how individuals are to self-quarantine during the pandemic, which has no projected end date. The NATEH says this is even more difficult when people are homeless.

"Self-quarantine, social isolation, and stay-at-home orders are difficult, if not impossible, to follow when you do not have a home," the NATEH said, while predicting that the number of COVID-19 infections will. COVID-19 and social distancing requirements are making it difficult, but not impossible, to plan for the 2020-2021 Code Blue season.

In the past, Cape Hope has been managers for a Code Blue warming center. This Code Blue season, the West Wildwood Bible Church has offered to be a warming center for Wildwoods. Pastor Tim Kincade has requested donations for the homeless from the DAV and American Legion, saying there are homeless vets who will

need food and shelter at the the warming center

Emergency Housing during the pandemic — how do we do it?

“Emergency Housing has been a major point of discussion,” said Cape Hope Director Denise South.

Denise said Cape Hope became a member of the Citygate Network, which has helped Cape Hope do its job.

Citygate provides links to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, which has helped Cape Hope see what is coming down the pike; such as “immediate housing.”

“The top echelon, HUD, wants immediate housing because of the pandemic,” Denise said.

Under the new guidelines, Cape Hope is trying to house people, first, and then ask them questions, in order to keep them and us safe.

New to homelessness

Cape Hope received a request for assistance from a client who had travelled from Florida to Cape May County. According to the Health Department guidelines, she should self-

quarantine for two weeks, while she applied for benefits through Social Services. Typically, individuals come to Cape Hope for assistance after they have become homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless. Of the two scenarios, it is easier to help the latter — to assist people to stay where they are — rather than to help the homeless. “We would rather put dollars into homelessness prevention,” Denise said. However, that might not be an option based on a recent trend Cape Hope has witnessed in the area. Over the past year, a number of ladies came to Cape Hope for services, saying their landlords were not going to renew their leases because they were dropping year-round rentals and going to Airbnb — taking more housing units off the market. A grant is becoming available to help with affordable housing, which falls in line with our Cape Hope’s vision of a rescue mission program. “Changes are happening all the time,” Denise said.

Set Free Update

Cape Hope initiated its Set Free Program for individuals who have been released from incarceration after having been convicted on a distribution charge; such a conviction resulting in a lifetime ban from social services. The program will offer six weeks of emergency

housing while the individual is being disciplined.

All Cape Hope programs provide food and personal care items.

Cape Hope Family Support Grant

The Family Support Grant helps single parents with up to one-third of their rent for five months. To qualify, the applicant must have a job and a lease. Support may come in the form of help with up front rent, back rent, and security deposit.

Fourth and final Homeless Seminar

Cape Hope held three Homeless Seminars, with plans to culminate in a fourth and final seminar in 2020. Like many other events around the community, state, and even the nation, this seminar was postponed due to COVID-19. This fourth seminar will be presented in the future as social distancing allows.

Office Location

The Cape Hope office is located at 1304 NJ-47, Unit L, Rio Grande, NJ 08242. Call Cape Hope at (609) 997-1794.

Applications for service by appointment only.

Email Cape Hope at capehopecares@gmail.com.

hours are: Tuesday 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and Thursday 2 to 4 p.m., by appointment only. All social distancing measures are required to be observed.

VOLUNTEERS — If anyone wants to take part in this important living transforming work, it is necessary to complete a volunteer application.

Your donations are appreciated

Food Pantry items desired are: Canned soup with pop-tops, canned meat or fish, PB&J. Cracker packs, granola or cereal bars, fruit or pudding cups.

Large and small bottles of water.

Personal items needed; Large and small towels, wash clothes, gently used and clean items are accepted.

Please call before dropping off items.

Monetary donations: Checks can be mailed to: Cape Hope, P.O. Box 1061, North Cape May, NJ 08204.

Mission Statement:

Cape Hope's Mission Statement states: Guided by God's word and inspired by God's spirit to love our neighbor as ourselves, Cape Hope offers help to persons desiring to overcome the physical, emotional, and financial barriers that keep them from permanent housing and guide them to achieve their goals to re-enter the community. Our goal is to not only rescue, but to walk with persons who are marginalized and are experiencing homelessness. We provide personal attention and offer immediate and direct benefits to homeless children, families,

and seniors that they may live with dignity as they work toward achieving their goals of sustainable housing. We begin by building and fostering relationships of mutual respect with county and state organizations to create a setting of compassion and service.