



NEWSLETTER

January 2021



Drive-In Caroling held Dec. 20

A first ever Drive-in Caroling event was held on Dec. 20 outside the Cape Hope office in Rio Grande. Cape Hope particularly appreciates the musical talent of Mark Hickman, who played guitar and provided sound equipment. Mark was joined by board chair Christopher South who provided vocals and ukulele accompaniment. The Drive-in Caroling event was created due to COVID-19 restrictions requiring social distancing. Likewise, a group from Cape Hope took part in caroling at the Victoria Manor nursing home, where carolers sang for residents from outside the facility.



Holly Shores Campground Display

Cape Hope participated in another socially-distanced Christmas event at the Holly Shores Campground Resort. The drive-through event allowed people to remain in their vehicles as they cruised through the campground and viewed displays created by various groups in the community. Thanks to Barbara Allison for taking the lead with Cape Hope's display, and for Glenn Allison with his crafting skills.

Pancake breakfast

A Pancake Breakfast fundraiser was again held at the Avalon Manor Improvement Association club house, on Oct. 10. Cape Hope appreciates the continued support in this fundraising effort, with particular thanks to vice-chair Marty Montgomery and his family for their help in setting up the event — which features the best pancake breakfast in South Jersey...if not the world.

Alexander Bland, Rita Tice join CH board

Alexander Bland and Rita Tice joined the board of Cape Hope in December, filling necessary positions that will help Cape Hope deliver services to the vulnerable in our community.

Alexander Bland has agreed to take over the volunteer committee chair position and help fill out the need for regular or occasional volunteers to help with Cape Hope projects. Rita Tice has agreed to be Cape Hope's liaison to the Operation 1923 program, which supports homeless expectant mothers. Cape Hope is partnering with other agencies, particularly the Christ Child Society, in the effort to provide the means to good housing and services while

New CH board members seated

A new slate of board officers was selected for one-year terms at the Oct. 20, 2020 Cape Hope board meeting, with a new position of president/CEO being created to replace the director. Former director, Denise Venturini-South was named to the new president/CEO position, and assistant director Mary Montgomery named to the new vice-chair

position. Christopher South has assumed the role of board chair, and will facilitate meetings. He retains the position of board secretary in the absence of another interested party.

Claudia Kammer has been named to another term as treasurer, and Karen Keenan as assistant treasurer.

Committee chairpersons include: Communications (IT/Media): Jeff Thomson; Communication (Information) and Outreach: Barbara Allison; Grants: Maria Repici; By-Laws: Dani Barnsby; Capital Projects: Kit Marlowe, Marty Montgomery, Christopher South; Volunteer: Alexander Bland. The Fundraising committee chair position remains open.

The board voted to accept Chaplain Denise Venturini-South as the new President/Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Cape Hope. The board approved the new paid position, but no funds are currently dedicated for a president's salary. In addition, the board approved the hiring of a part-time Social Worker; however, the position will not be immediately filled.

"We see ourselves growing," Denise said, "and we hope to be able to hire a part-time social worker in the future." Denise wants people to understand that salary dollars would never be taken from donations — only from grants.

West Wildwood church supports Cape Hope

Relationship with West Wildwood Bible Church
The Rev. Tim Kincade joined Cape Hope and as a member of the Spiritual Committee, has assumed the role of Chaplain for Men's Services. The pastor of the West Wildwood Bible Church, Pastor Tim has already set about creating a men's meeting at his church, which will include graduates from Cape Hope's Set Free program. The Set Free program was established to mentor released offenders who are having difficulty reentering society.

Thanks for all you do
President/CEO Denise Venturini-South wishes to extend her thanks to everyone who has volunteered through the year, in whatever capacity. Cape Hope is looking forward to growing its team of volunteers under the direction of a new Volunteer Committee chair. Cape Hope also appreciates all donations of goods or money throughout the year.

Who's Zooming who?
Cape Hope has been holding all its board meetings via Zoom since the pandemic struck in the spring of 2020 — with only a minimum of glitches. The public is invited to attend Cape Hope's next

public meeting, via Zoom, on March 16, at 7 p.m.

Set Free

Formally established this year, Cape Hope's Set Free program was originally conceived to help those prohibited from government assistance due to drug distribution charges. This fall, the board took the action of broadening the scope of eligibility for the Set Free program.

"The program was amended to include anyone released from prison and unable to gain access to housing assistance through normal channels," President/CEO Denise Venturini-South said. The program now provides partial housing assistance for four weeks in addition to spiritual mentorship, community connections, and provides food, clothing, and personal care items to its clients.

"Those being released from incarceration find barriers which make it harder for them to become employed, to rent or find suitable, stable housing and to get access to mental or medical health services, and attention to any substance abuse issues" Denise said. "That's why this program is so important, although it is short-lived." One graduate of the program said Cape Hope, through your generous support, allowed him the support he needed to get a job and maintain housing. As a result, he has gotten back into church, started forming healthy relationships, and is even eating better.



Operation 1923

Operation 1923 was established to support single mothers-to-be who are experiencing homelessness. The program allows Cape Hope, through your generous funding, to provide supportive housing from wherever the mother is in her pregnancy to three months after delivery, if they qualify. "This program is unique to Cape May County, yet it offers assistance to any woman experiencing homelessness who is pregnant," Denise said, explaining that the program is not limited to Cape May County residents. Operation 1923 clients have a mentor, and like those in other programs, receive food, clothing, and personal care

items; but also baby furniture and other baby items. Operation 1923 was named for its original aim, which was to ask area churches to donate \$1,000 over the course of a year — which comes to about \$19.23 per week.

Operation 1923 is now a collaborative effort with the Christ Child Society, which has generously supported the program in many ways.

“Cape Hope is thankful for the continued encouragement and support of the Christ Child Society,” Denise said.

Family Support Grant

Cape Hope has also had the ability, through your support, to provide its Family Support Grant. Qualified families can receive up to five months



Cape Hope board members pose with a check donated from the Holly Shores Campground to help those experiencing homelessness in Cape May County.

financial assistance with their rent.

“This program is exclusive to Cape May County residents,” Denise said.

Those who come from outside of Cape May County must establish residency here in order to be eligible. Many of Cape Hope’s emergency housing clients, who received two weeks of emergency housing, might also have qualified for Cape Hope’s Homeless Prevention Grant, moved on to the Family Support Grant and have succeeded in becoming independent.

“This is our hope for all of our programs,” Denise said.

Through 2020, 28 households were helped by your giving. Would you consider partnering with Cape Hope again in 2021 as we are committed to making change.

Public encouraged to visit website

The public is encouraged to visit our website at www.capehopecares.org to learn more about what we do.

Art Showcase postponed until Spring
Plans for a fall Art Showcase were put off until the spring as a result of COVID-19 and

inclement weather. Cape Hope received artwork for the showcase from more than 15 local artists, including several members of Cape Hope who donated artwork. The showcase, the date of which is to be determined, is meant as a celebration of the artistic talent in Cape May County and to promote a humanitarian cause in the county.

Case managers needed

Mentors for Set Free, Operation 1923, and the Family Support Grant.

Warming centers are not operating through the 2020-2021 Code Blue season, which typically runs November through March, as temperature dictate.

Warming center operations will be suspended fall 2020 and winter 2021 due to the difficulties associated with congregate settings and COVID-19

If need shelter during a Code blue declaration call 609-886-6200, Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or call 211 after 4:30 p.m. and on weekends and holidays.

