

Cape Hope NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter 2021-2022



Offering 'hope' in a new year

Cape Hope is looking to build on past success



CAPE MAY COUNTY
— In 2021, Cape Hope experienced some of the same challenges the rest of society faced due to COVID-19, including following CDC guidelines on social distancing and the use of personal protective equipment. Efforts included holding an outdoors Bible study for SetFree participants, while the weather permitted.

Cape Hope also saw a number of changes to the board, as some longtime members stepped down for various reasons, and new faces joined the board. Cape Hope is developing a

more formal outline for board members and volunteers to follow in our efforts to fight homelessness in Cape May County.

Cape May has taken steps to make our operation more orderly and professional, including hiring a consultant to help us meet those goals. With the help of The Savage Group, Cape Hope is aimed at developing the resources needed to help our clients break the cycle of homelessness and re-enter mainstream society; in a sense, to “get back home.”

Here are some of the ways Cape Hope has made effort to help some of the most vulnerable members of our community get back on track:

Set Free Program

CW came to Cape Hope at the end of September. He was sleeping outside and he was covered in feces and urine. He was sick, had no food or clean clothing. He was able to get a 30 day voucher through Social Services but could not continue getting help from them due to his inability to provide the necessary

paperwork. That is when Cape Hope jumped in.

We have provided clothing, food, laundry services, bedding and transportation. As our client, he was able to get food stamps, was signed up for Fare Free transportation, and he was provided a phone so he could reconnect to Acenda for medications and mental health services. He made appointments with Complete Care to get back on medications for diabetes and high blood pressure. Cape Hope referred him to One Stop (employment office) and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. He just completed a work related evaluation in Pomona and should be getting a job coach to help him procure an occupation. He has an upcoming eye doctor appointment and primary care doctor appointment. He expressed an interest in nicotine gum, so Cape Hope contacted Cape Assist to provide assistance with his nicotine addiction. He also attends a men's support group offered through the CURE program at Lighthouse Church, and he attended church there on Christmas Eve. He has met with his mentor and has done everything that was asked of him. He has been housed in Wildwood since October

through Cape Hope's SetFree Program funding.

CW often reflects on his life on the street saying, "I can just go back to living by the dumpster. That's where I belong."

This is a sad reflection on how some of our homeless brothers and sisters feel about their worth in our world today. It continues to show us that we need to provide for people's physical needs along with their emotional and spiritual needs. They are broken people sometimes struggling alone against incredible odds. Cape Hope can be that lifeline that pulls them to a safe shore. — Barbara Allison.



Emergency Housing

LV came to us after receiving several weeks of medical treatment, with the prospect of becoming homeless. Cape Hope immediately stepped in and provided two weeks emergency housing and assisted him in getting

connected with other resources related to his medical condition. After some time, he expressed a desire to have spiritual guidance. Cape Hope connected him to a mentor. He also expressed a desire to reconnect with his estranged family. Cape Hope provided clothing, food, small household items and furniture. Cape Hope helped connect LV with another service provider that has assisted with his rent while he is receiving medical treatment. With the help of the Christ Child Society, LV and his family were able to enjoy Christmas gifts provided for his three children.



Family Support Grant

TW came to us when her employment hours were reduced. Being a mother of three children she was concerned about being able to afford her rent. She qualified for the Cape Hope Family Support Grant and received five months of partial support for her rent,

as well as assisting her in applying for the American Rescue Plan money which was able to get her caught up on the rent.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 is a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus rescue package designed to facilitate the United States' recovery from the devastating economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today, TW is current on her rent payments, is employed and completely independent.



Blessing Bags from the good folks at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Marmora.



Blessing Bags

Once again, Cape Hope was provided supplies for

Cape Hope was also the recipient of emergency food supplies through the **South Jersey Rural Development Corporation**. Some Cape Hope clients and other volunteers helped organize the donated food.



Above left, the Cape Hope banner was carried in the **Lower Township Rotary's Annual Christmas Parade**. Shown above, right, Cape Hope President/CEO Denise Venturini-South and board chair Christopher South joined members of the Lower Township Rotary Club at Uncle Bill's after the parade.

Cape Hope to hold Community Dialogue on Homelessness, Feb. 10

CAPE MAY — The public is invited to Cape Hope's Community Dialogue on Homelessness at the Seashore Community Church of the Nazarene, 446 Seashore Rd., Cape May on Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022, from 6 to 8 p.m. Come and receive updates about Cape Hope's plans for helping those experiencing homelessness in Cape May County for the new year and beyond. Join Cape Hope in bringing more hope to the "least of these" in your community. Please RSVP by Feb. 2 to capehopecares@gmail.com or call 609-997-1794 for more details.