

# Cape Hope NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022

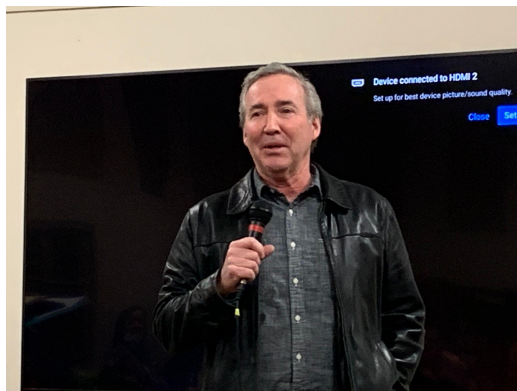
*“In This Together”*



Cape Hope is very happy to express its appreciation for all you have done to support our efforts to alleviate homelessness in Cape May County. Only by being “In This Together” are we able to offer the programs and services we do. Again, thank you for your generous donations.

The new year began with the challenges COVID left in its wake; namely a shortage of housing and a fearful rental market. However, Cape Hope is determined as ever to make an impact and provide some relief for those experiencing homelessness in our community.

Although Cape Hope did not provide overnight shelter during Code Blue, we did see an increase of clients visiting the office to keep warm and have lunch while waiting to be transferred to the warming center.



Shown above: Rev. Craig Mayes addresses the audience at Cape Hope's Community Dialogue.

Cape Hope held its 'Community

Dialogue' on February 10 at the Seashore Community Church of the Nazarene. Our special guest was Craig Mayes, former administrator with the Bowery Mission in New York City. At the time, Craig was pastoring a church in NYC, where the congregation was 98-percent homeless. He gave a presentation on the topic, “Who do I see?” which emphasized the fact that we often overlook those who are homeless in our community. The point of his presentation on this topic is that every person who is homeless is someone's son, daughter, father, mother, and so on. During the Community Dialogue, Cape Hope introduced the public to the idea of a community care center to serve those experiencing homelessness.



Cape Hope President/CEO Denise Venturini-South works alongside volunteers distributing food to families.

Cape Hope began a partnership with the Community Food Bank of New Jersey-Southern Branch, based in Egg Harbor Township, and the USDA Rural Development office in Vineland, in order to help meet the needs of families with food insecurity. Cape Hope helped distribute family food boxes to members of the community.

Cape Hope has been seeking more and more to collaborate with peer organizations. For example, Cape Hope and Catholic Charities, working together, were able to secure permanent long-term housing for a young mother with a toddler. Cape Hope is also working with Jewish Family Services and the Volunteers of America.

Cape Hope is honored to add the First Baptist Church of Whitesboro, pastored by Rev. Douglas Moore, as a community partner.



Chris Willis

Cape Hope pays respect to a client and friend, and extends its thanks to the Radzietta Funeral Home in Cape May Court House for their support and contribution to the celebration of life for Christopher Willis. Chris passed away April 8.

Cape Hope received another generous grant from Ocean First Bank — a major sponsor — to ensure continuation of our programs.

Sturdy Bank continues to be a community partner through their support.

Cape Hope held its first banquet, “In This Together,” event hosted at the beautiful Cape May Winery. The main purpose of this charitable event was to increase community awareness of our intention to create the Cape Hope Community Care Center.



Shown is one of Cape Hope's Set Free graduates with the bicycle he earned.



**WITH YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT-** Cape Hope was proud to announce the graduation of nine clients from its Set Free program, which was established for individuals who have been released from incarceration. Each of these young men successfully completed the program and are employed and able to pay their own rent. They continue to live in supportive living programs in the community, and attend the program's Friday night Bible

Study. Some have continued to attend even after graduation.

**“This is what we do!”** Cape Hope President/ CEO Denise Venturini-South told the board members. “Thank you for your continued support and encouragement.”

“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.

Denise, second from left, delivering Blessing Bags to Cape Regional Medical Center.

Volunteers from the Cape Regional Medical Center accepted 12 Blessing

Bags for individuals they encounter at the hospital. We are always looking for donations. Stock is going down. Need food bags.

### **Cape Hope Vision**

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.

### **Cape Hope Strategy**

We begin with an asset-based approach—guiding the client to discover and use their talents and strengths combined with the assistance of agencies, state and local organizations to achieve their goals.”