

HOPE Housing Matters

Home Ownership for Personal Empowerment

Aging in Place: HOPE Renovations Keep Residents Healthy and Thriving

HOPE believes that our residents should have the ability to live in their homes for as long as they want. These individuals deserve to feel safe and able to accomplish their daily activities within their current housing as they “age in place.” In response to this need, HOPE launched its Aging in Place program in 2018.

This initiative prioritizes the maintenance and renovation of our homes to support our residents’ ability to remain independent as they get older when their health poses challenges to accomplishing tasks of daily living. We do this because we acknowledge that most of our residents have no desire to leave their homes where they have comfortably lived for many years. However, the reality is that as people with developmental disabilities age, some begin to require changes to their homes to address increased accessibility or mobility needs. Otherwise, they may be forced to move, lose their independence, or be displaced from the communities they love.

During the past fifty years, the life expectancy of seniors with developmental disabilities has increased as the quality of healthcare and services has improved. This is true as well for people who live in HOPE homes. A recent survey of our residents found that individuals who have lived in our housing for 15 or more years are starting to require accessibility modifications. Many of

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From top left: Roll-in shower increasing accessibility, hardwood floors ease use of wheelchairs, residents enjoying “Aging in Place” renovations.

Page 2: Legacy Society Member Mercedes Lowery being honored with naming of HOPE housing site.

Page 3: Legacy Society Member Pam Muir providing major gift to HOPE received by Executive Director Kristin Martin.

Cover: Resident Eddie giving tour of his HOPE home.

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which are now either not able to walk or have limited mobility. If their housing is not remodeled to include accessible features and appropriate furnishings, they may be vulnerable to falls or injuries within their homes.

To enhance accessibility and increase the functionality of HOPE homes, we work directly with our residents and their service providers to identify needed Aging in Place renovations. These modifications to our homes increase safety, ensure comfort, maintain independence, and ensure the ability of our residents to navigate and care for themselves. This program also contributes to positive mental health as residents feel more emotionally supported when they are able to stay in their existing homes and neighborhoods as they age. Residents can then continue to enjoy spending time with friends and neighbors, retain their local jobs, continue to attend school or day programs in the area, and preserve their support networks within the community.

This work is made possible in part by The Rose Hills Foundation, which in 2018 provided our Aging in Place program with the seed money needed to launch renovations at two HOPE sites off of

Ardmore Avenue in Bellflower and Premier Avenue in Lakewood. These properties are home to six residents who have lived in these homes for 10 to 20 years.

Each of these residents has varied needs and require accessibility support.

With the help of The Rose Hills Foundation HOPE installed grab bars, enhanced lighting, added accessible doorknobs, installed safer floors, built ramps, removed walls, and widened doorways so that residents could have easier mobility inside of their homes.

Also, countertops were lowered in the kitchens, and roll-in showers were added in the bathrooms. Recently, The Rose Hills Foundation awarded HOPE with a grant of \$500,000 over two years to grow our 250 by 2025 campaign and continue to support our Aging in Place Initiative.

Another example of community partnership is Harbor Regional Center providing hundreds of thousands of dollars to support the accessibility renovations at HOPE homes along Clark Avenue and Hathaway Avenue in Long Beach. Their support for this work has a significant impact on the individual lives of our residents, like Jodi Pentecost, who has

lived in a HOPE home on Hathaway Avenue since 1996. She works part-time and lives with a roommate. Jodi uses a cane or a 4-wheeled walker when moving around her house. The focus for her Aging in Place renovation was safety.

"I want to keep my independence. I can now maintain my safety better and prevent falls," Jodie said.

Harbor Regional Center had a specialized clinician conduct an evaluation of this resident's needs, which further informed HOPE on what would be the top priority modifications to enhance her quality of life. The final renovation included installing a higher toilet and walk-in shower to help ensure her safety and continued independence. Thanks to Harbor Regional Center and HOPE, Jodie's environment has improved, and she can continue to live in the home of her choice in the community that she loves.

Because of your support, HOPE continues to achieve our goal to provide long term housing for people with developmental disabilities. Through the HOPE Helps gift catalog, you can shop online and choose a renovation item to contribute to this work directly; because no one should have to leave their home or lose their independence due to a need for greater accessibility.

Visit our website today to contribute:
www.hope-homes.org/shop-to-give.

"I want to keep my independence. I can now maintain my safety better and prevent falls"

HOPE Relaunches Planned Giving Program and Legacy Society to Provide Donors with Options to Balance Financial, Tax, and Estate Planning Goals

GIVE BACK

What we create together at HOPE is meant to last, to stand the test of time. Our collective purpose is to create housing that serves as a foundation for the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DDs). This mission is not a short term objective. Our staff, board, volunteers, and donors recognize that this work must be sustained for generations to come. That is why we are proud to announce the relaunch of our Planned Giving Program and Legacy Society. HOPE invites our supporters to consider making a planned gift that will help to ensure the long-term expansion of our mission.

This program is simple; donors who pledge to include a gift to HOPE in their will or trust (bequest intention) are automatically enrolled in our Legacy Society. Members receive special recognition throughout the year, unique naming opportunities, and invitations to exclusive HOPE activities and events. Leaving a planned gift through a charitable bequest is an excellent way to combine a donor's desire to support our mission and their overall financial, tax, and estate planning goals.

As we relaunch our Planned Giving Program this year, we cannot thank our four inaugural members enough for including HOPE in their will or estate plan. We recognize Barbara

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Robinson, Kristin Martin, Mercedes Lowery, and Pam Muir and welcome them into our Legacy Society. There is so much meaningful progress being made in the lives of those HOPE serves, and their gifts will ensure that this critical work continues well into the future.

For example, Eddie's parents always dreamed of their child living independently and enjoying all that life has to offer. However, for many parents who are caring for their aging adult children with I/DD at home, the idea of them living independently comes with several challenges, including the price of rent far exceeding their child's fixed income, as well as long-term supports being needed to assist them with daily living activities. HOPE addresses both of these concerns for parents, and Eddie has now been successfully living in his HOPE home for several years with drop-in Supported Living Services and rent capped at no more than 30% of his income.

Our Legacy Society members ensure that Eddie's home remains a stable aspect of his life for as long as he desires to live in it. Another HOPE resident, Kevin, was thrilled to see his



newly renovated HOPE home after moving from a lonely studio apartment with no kitchen and no laundry facility in an unsafe neighborhood. At his old home he paid more than 60% of his income per month on rent and could barely afford other expenses, especially after losing his job. He now spends only 30% of his income per month to live in his HOPE home that is located in a safe neighborhood with a kitchen, laundry, and a private backyard.

The HOPE team is dedicated to ensuring that our housing today, remains open for those we serve indefinitely. Donors who make planned gifts and join our Legacy Society are ensuring that these homes are never at risk of being lost to the real estate market. Each year in our state, though, there are hundreds of reported group homes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities that are sold and lost as affordable housing for this population. Your planned gifts position us to acquire and preserve those closing homes across the state while safeguarding our existing portfolio of homes for generations to come.

Join us today by completing and mailing in the attached pledge card.

 **INAUGURAL MEMBERS**

- Barbara Robinson
- Kristin Martin
- Mercedes Lowery
- Pam Muir

Reflecting on Housing in Solidarity with Black Lives Matter

Dear HOPE Community,
At HOPE, Inc., we pledge to pursue our mission with an actively inclusive and anti-racist world view. The ongoing killings of countless

members of the Black community continue to be a devastating reminder that our society has a long way to go to redress the systemic racial inequalities that plague our country.

Today, housing disparities contribute to this broader social injustice perpetrated against Black, Brown, and other people of color. At HOPE, we believe that everyone deserves to live in a safe and affordable home. These housing disparities reflect systemic issues such as the racial wealth gap, homeownership divide, inequity in access to credit, and according to the Urban Institute, persistent housing discrimination against marginalized communities.

HOPE addresses social injustice by providing housing for one of the most vulnerable and underrepresented groups in our society, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Today, people with I/DD are disproportionately underserved by the real estate market and are often denied accessible housing.

However, there is more we must do. We are committed to being an organization that supports those who are underserved and discriminated against, and we will demonstrate this in the

following ways. We will start by increasing the time we spend as a team intentionally learning the history of housing market inequities and reflecting on how we can improve our culture of inclusion and advancement. But most importantly, we pledge to increase the diversity of our partnerships with Black, Brown, people of color and women-owned businesses and will continue to explore ways to go above and beyond our required fair housing mandates to ensure equal access to HOPE homes.

there's ~~no room~~ for hate and discrimination

To be clear, this message reflects our core values at HOPE. Integrity and respect guide our organization's internal conduct as well as our relationship with our residents, partners, and stakeholders. We stand with the families affected by these recent killings and all those who continue to be negatively affected by systemic racial discrimination.

Onward,
The Staff and Board of HOPE, Inc.



Housing Matters

THANK YOU TO OUR TOP DONORS | January 2020—June 2020

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**IN
THIS
ISSUE!**

**Aging in Place: HOPE
Renovations Keep
Residents Healthy
and Thriving**

**Reflecting
on Housing in
Solidarity with
Black Lives Matter**

PLUS

**RELAUNCH
OF LEGACY
SOCIETY**