



E-Newsletter
Fall 2017

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REMARKS FROM THE DIRECTOR

“HOPE News” represents the four components of our organization: Chaplaincy, Pre-Release, Aftercare and Diversion. In each issue, you’ll learn about HOPE, our staff and volunteers, as well as current and upcoming news and events.

On January 17 of this year I took on the role of Executive Director of the Foundation of HOPE. Thus far 2017 has been an amazing journey. Our organization has hired additional staff, promoted one staff member from within, secured a larger and more user friendly Aftercare site, and added a fourth program to our continuum of care. In addition to our normal weekly support group, we have added a yoga group and a running group as additional Aftercare supports. In March of 2017, we began a Father's HOPE program to compliment the Mother's HOPE program which allows our Pre-Release participants to stay in contact with their children while promoting literacy. Volunteers record interested parents (and grandparents) reading a book (or books) to their child(ren) and send the book(s) and recording(s) on to the child(ren)’s home. Our Chaplaincy program has added new technology to the chapel which encourages a more satisfying worship experience.



Just recently we updated our website and have published new brochures to promote awareness of our newest program: The Diversion Program. The Foundation of HOPE has always focused on giving people second chances and strengthening our community, and this program is a natural extension of that philosophy extended to troubled youth.

I have been contacted by past participants who attribute their successes, ability to move forward and grasp a new life directly to the FOH, its volun-



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-teers and staff, and their renewed faith. The FOH has a selfless staff who continuously interface and support our participants and volunteers to create this living, breathing organization fueled by a desire to be there for people, when everyone else has given up on them. I have witnessed this time and time again.

As the leaves begin to change, we will once again be reaching out to you for our final appeal of 2017. As you know there is a direct relationship between the volunteers and supporters who give their gifts and talents, and the number of people we are able to serve and the types of services we are able to provide. In our current political environment there will surely be less funding available to assist those who are less fortunate. This lack of funding will place a strain on non-profits and faith based communities. Serving our clients who are struggling as a result of incarceration induced trauma and just need a little help to move forward will likely become more difficult as funding streams dry up. Think deeply about the people in your life when you receive our appeal letter. It is my belief that we are all one bad decision away from being incarcerated. Here is an opportunity to make a good decision.

Thank you,

Jody Raeford, MS

Executive Director

Foundation of HOPE



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Diversion Program

The HOPE Diversion Program is a voluntary pre-arrest/pre-booking program that enables non-violent, low and medium level offenders ages 16-26 to avoid the normal course of prosecution and criminal conviction. By partnering with local law enforcement, juvenile probation, Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh, the District Attorney's Office, identified family members, and other community stakeholders, the HOPE Diversion Program may serve as an alternative to prosecution for eligible participants. This initiative utilizes community-based providers who support evidence-based, outcome-oriented programs. It also supports trauma-informed care that results in academic success, personal and career development, and good citizenship saving tax payer funds and strengthening the community.



Offering better choices

A second chance to succeed

OVERDOSE DAY

In recognition of International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD), the Coalition for Leadership, Education and Advocacy for Recovery (CLEAR), Christian Associates of Southwest PA, and the Downtown Pittsburgh Ministerium sponsored a prayer service held at Trinity Cathedral in downtown Pittsburgh. Rev. Kimberly Greway, President of the Downtown Pittsburgh Ministerium and Director of Chaplaincy Services at the Jail, participated in the service. Attendees included city officials, EMS personnel, social service personnel, those in recovery, volunteers, passersby, and many others. Both City of Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto and Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald spoke at the service. IOAD is an international event that takes place every year and aims to raise awareness of overdose deaths, reduce the stigma of a drug-related death, and acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends who have lost loved ones. Before the service began, the bell tolled 613 times for each person who died from an overdose in Allegheny County in 2016. During the service, EMS personnel were recognized for their hard work in assisting those who have overdosed.





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Meghan Briggs Promoted to Aftercare Director

Meghan Briggs has been promoted to HOPE Aftercare Director. Meghan holds her Master's degree in Criminology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She has worked with the Foundation of HOPE Pre-Release Program since September 2014. Prior to working with HOPE, Meghan worked with other programs in the Allegheny County Jail and in other social service agencies. Meghan also teaches several classes as an adjunct professor at the Community College of Allegheny County. She is very excited about continuing her career with the Foundation of HOPE as the Aftercare Program Director.



Lindsay Montanari Hired as Pre-release Service Coordinator

Lindsay was hired as our new Service Coordinator and will be working in our Pre-Release Program. Lindsay has been an intern with the Foundation of HOPE since the beginning of January and "has loved every second of it." She grew up in the South Hills area of Pittsburgh and has always been passionate about helping others in any way she can. Lindsay will complete her Bachelor's Degree in Administration of Justice in April from the University of Pittsburgh. She is absolutely thrilled to become a full-time employee and continue her journey with the Foundation of HOPE.



Jeffrey Williams Hired as Director of Diversion Program

Jeffrey has been hired as the Director of the Foundation of HOPE's Diversion Program which will be housed on the second floor of the current Aftercare Program site. He has a Professional Certificate in Social Work/Public Administration from the University of Pittsburgh, a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Youngstown State University, and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Central State University. Jeffrey has over 21 years of experience in the nonprofit



Mohanad Alotaibi Iman Hired as Muslim Chaplin

The Foundation of HOPE hired Mohanad Alotaibi as our Muslim Chaplain. He has already celebrated Eid al-Fitr with the Muslim inmates. Eid al-Fitr is an important religious holiday celebrated by Muslims worldwide marking the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting.

