

THE Village Voice

Villages of Hope
Guiding Our Youth to Healthy Adulthood

April 2008

AN UPDATE FROM VILLAGES OF HOPE



Our Strength
is in community,
our hope is in God!

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Kathleen Spoh is a wonderful blessing to our team, children and young adults. Kathleen sits on the Board of Directors for VOH. She has spent numerous hours volunteering as a mentor and chairing a number of events, the most recent one being The Hope Ball. She is now volunteering with Villages of Hope to lend her talents directly to all the young adults. Kathleen is the Mentor Liaison as well as the Employment Counselor for the campus. She consistently meets with each resident to discover their passions and interests in hopes of finding the perfect job placement for them. We are thankful for the many opportunities for employment she has presented to the young adults at Villages of Hope. They are obtaining exposure which will allow them to gain the experience needed to accomplish their career goals one day in the future. Kathleen also volunteers a lot of her time networking in the community. Because of Kathleen, Villages of Hope is now establishing partnerships with **Publix, Albertson's, Chic-fil-A, Quarterdeck, Panera Bread, Rapids Waterpark, and Anushka's Spa and Salon**. We are very grateful for Kathleen's servant heart and willingness to devote her time to changing lives.



New Youth Spotlight

Erica became a resident at Villages of Hope in July, 2007 when she was nineteen years old. Growing up, her Uncle Al became a source of guidance. Uncle Al, who currently works at Place of Hope's Seven Stars Emergency Shelter, encouraged Erica to apply for residency at Villages of Hope, knowing that this transition could be a key to her livelihood. Erica (now the age of twenty) has been working at the YMCA for almost seven years and is currently taking classes at PBCC. With the education workshops we provide, Villages of Hope has instilled a spirit of motivation in Erica to achieve her goals. The stability offered in the program, along with Erica's determination, has allowed her to keep a steady job and to succeed in college. She is studying to be a high school teacher and dance instructor. The Independent Living Class that helped Erica reach one of her objectives was "Credit Card Debt vs. Credit," taught by Gordon Martin. She greatly benefited from learning how to stay out of debt and save money. Erica is also very active in her church and has been a member for sixteen years. Some of Erica's passions include singing, dancing, and playing various instruments in the church band. We are very proud of Erica and are privileged to have her residing at Villages of Hope.

Ages to AGES
Transitions to Independence

The spring set of Independent Living Classes at VOH has begun! Some of the classes this term include: *Passion for Purity, Knowing Your Rights, Maintaining Employment, Home Management, and Doing the Right Thing*. The young adults have expressed a lot of gratitude to Gordon Martin for teaching them about credit cards and budgeting in the recent weeks. Gordon and his wife Cheri are both very involved with numerous aspects of Place of Hope and Villages of Hope. We are incredibly appreciative that you have chosen to use your talents and wisdom to help transition our young adults to success!



Meet Our New Director, Linsey Driskill

Linsey and her husband, Christian, recently moved to West Palm Beach due to a job transfer. With a degree in Marketing and International Business, Linsey has experience in fundraising at a non-profit in Denver and teaching math and Spanish to at-risk youth in an inner-city, Atlanta school. She also spent a year working in Guatemala at a non-profit organization leading and facilitating missions trips for visiting U.S. delegates. Now taking the position of Director of Villages of Hope, Linsey is looking forward to the new and exciting challenge at hand. She will be overseeing coordination with the young adults, the Independent Living Classes, and various aspects of the program as a whole.



"Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge." — Psalm 16:1

2008 *Hope Ball*
WISH UPON A STAR

Place of Hope and Villages of Hope's Second Annual Hope Ball on January 18th raised more than \$300,000 net to benefit children in foster care and young adults throughout Palm Beach County. This year's event, themed "Wish Upon a Star," hosted 350 guests at Admiral's Cove in Jupiter.

The Hope Ball's benefactors were Gordon and Cheri Martin and Stuart, Stacy and Maggie Par, in memory of Joann Serrine, as "Star of Peace" sponsors for \$50,000; Lawrence and Florence DeGeorge of the DeGeorge Charitable Trust and Albert E. and Birdie W. Einstein Fund as "Star of Life" sponsors for \$25,000; The White Family Foundation as a "Star of Love" sponsor for \$15,000; and Kathleen Speh as a "Star of Hope" sponsor for \$10,000.

Co-chairwomen Joy Miltenberger, Kimberly Specce, and Kathleen Speh organized the event, which featured an extensive silent auction, a three-course menu, a special opportunity to bless the children, and an evening of dancing to the Powerhouse Group.



Our Goals

- Debt Reduction on the property's mortgage
- Completion of the Community Learning Center and new duplex
- Meeting the young adults' needs and becoming a support system to them

PLANNED GIVING COUNCIL

One of Place of Hope's greatest assets is our team of volunteer professionals who are dedicated to our organization's mission. The members of our Planned Giving Council work in various industries and commit to:

TEAMWORK

- Promoting Place of Hope & Villages of Hope and its mission
- Advising Place of Hope and Villages of Hope with regards to its assets

We currently have 28 business professionals on our 2008 Planned Giving Council.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Planned Giving Council, please contact Charles Bender at charlesb@placeofhope.com or at 561.775.7195.

NEEDS & PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise God for His provision of a new VOH Director, **Linsey Driskill**.
- Praise God, our campus is near capacity and young mothers with children are also being helped.
- Pray for God to move in the hearts of our youth so they will be focused and goal-oriented.



SMI has announced that they will donate all the hurricane resistant windows and doors for the **Barsanti Family Life Center**.

For information about our Hope for the Future Capital Campaign, e-mail Charles at hopeforthefuture@placeofhope.com or visit www.placeofhope.com and look under "Ways to Give."

Invest in the life of a youth! Visit www.villagesofhope.net and click on "Give Online" to make your on-line donation today.

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