



Mamma's Hands

www.MammasHands.org

Summer 2007

There's nothing sweeter than having a little one look your way, smile, and with outstretched hands and clumsy little feet, wind their way toward you until they're close enough to pick up and squeeze. It's a simple, joyful experience that always lifts my spirits.

I know that the little ones at the **HOUSE of HOPE** have lifted me up far more than I have lifted them. It's easy to love the children, who still possess the tender spirit of perfect innocence and are happy and eager to share a smile and a hug. It's these little ones that help us all to see what is most important in life, and what truly brings joy to the soul.

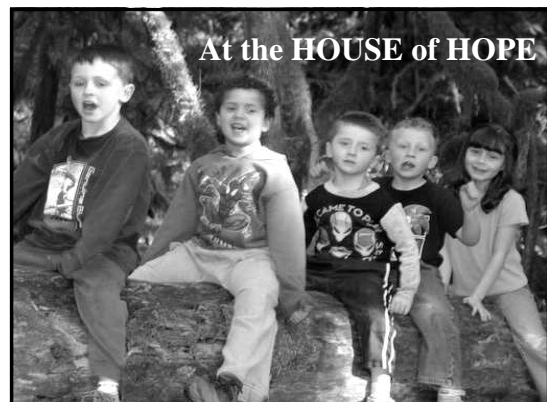
Just a few days ago, I was playing the **HOUSE of HOPE** piano when one of these little angels joined in with a wonderful rendition of "How Loud Can I Bang on These Keys." His mom quickly pulled him away, thinking he was disturbing me. I asked her if "Joey" could play a duet with me. The lively 3-year-old happily started banging the keys again. Carefully, I placed his fingers on the keys, softly pressing down, resulting in a pleasant sound that I knew he would appreciate. I felt he was now ready to play on his own with his new understanding of making soft, beautiful tones. He looked up at me, smiled, and then proceeded to bang on the keys. Thinking that maybe he just needed a little more attention and tutoring in the art of playing softly, I took his little hands in mine and we played together for several minutes.

It was so sweet to see him smile as we played and sang a couple of tunes. This time I knew Joey was ready to play on his own. I stood him on my left, with the lower, less piercing notes at his reach. I helped him play the first few notes, then joined in. Just when it looked as though Joey had learned the art of soft piano playing, out of nowhere returned the pounding — louder and more jubilant than ever! He looked up at me and smiled, confident that all was well, then took his elbow and tried to play even louder. By now, I was smiling too. Having given up on my version of our duet, I joined in and together we made a beautiful noise.

When we were done, I leaned over to him and told him how much I enjoyed our session. That's when I realized we had a surprise audience — a group of young women volunteers and their leaders had really been enjoying our impromptu concert!

At the **HOUSE of HOPE** our children are free to run, play and do all that happy children do.

I find great joy in knowing that our **HOUSE of HOPE** is truly a place where the children are free to discover all of the wonders of this beautiful world. And, it is all due to the heartfelt support of so many wonderful families and friends — **Thank You!**



- Denny Hancock, Founder & Executive Director

HOUSE of HOPE

When you are a mother, you are never really alone in your thoughts.
A mother always has to think twice, once for herself and once for her child.

- Sophia Loren

Introducing . . .

**Melanie DenBoer,
HOUSE of HOPE Director**

Bringing a wealth of Social Services experience, enthusiasm and compassion to her new role at the HOUSE of HOPE, Melanie says,

“I am very excited about my work at the HOUSE of HOPE. I am looking forward to the opportunity to spend in-depth time with each resident as she works on identifying and using her strengths to regain her independence.”

Melanie is already having a very positive impact on everyone involved with Mamma’s Hands and the HOUSE of HOPE.

We are excited to have Melanie help to strengthen and enhance our innovative program.

Welcome Melanie!



**Resident Mgr. Linda Beckvold (left) welcomes
Melanie DenBoer to the HOUSE of HOPE**



Working Towards Success

Presently, 5 women and their 14 children live at the **HOUSE of HOPE**.

Our moms are working very hard, taking steps to overcome crisis and rebuild self-sufficient lives with their children.

With the assistance of our program, their efforts include:

- Meeting requirements for resolving legal, child-custody, CPS and DSHS issues, including attending treatment programs.
- Strengthening parenting skills, rebuilding close relationships with their children and learning to function as a family unit.
- Working to overcome depression and the many lingering effects of having been a victim of domestic violence.
- Finding & keeping stable employment.
- Working on a financial plan to manage debt, buy a car, begin a savings plan, and build security for the future.
- Finding permanent housing.

Our Heartfelt Thank You to . . .

- ♥ **Kelly Rakes, Char Herman & Judy Goldfarb**, who consistently volunteer for childcare, freeing the HOUSE of HOPE mothers to attend meetings, counseling, classes and jobs, all vital to their progress.
- ♥ **Paul & Susan Lawrence**, for once again opening their home to the women & children from the HOUSE of HOPE for a Fun, Festive and Delicious 4th of July celebration!
- ♥ **Steve & Shar Olson & their colleagues at Microsoft**, for their continued support, including their expert and vital work on the computer system at the HOUSE of HOPE.
- ♥ **Mt. Si Lutheran Church**, for the on-going strong and generous support of the HOUSE of HOPE, and for sponsoring the children of the HOUSE of HOPE at their 5-day Summer Bible Camp.
- ♥ **Snoqualmie Valley Alliance Church**, for sponsoring the purchase of school shoes for the children at the HOUSE of HOPE, and for all the generous assistance they provide to our program.
- ♥ **Tolt Congregational Church & Lynn Crumb**, for the new-socks-&-underwear drive, held for the HOUSE of HOPE children, and for the continued generous support of our program.
- ♥ **Dr. Jeff Malyon**, for providing free dental work to a HOUSE of HOPE child in need.
- ♥ **Eastside Sweet Creators**, for their gift of the proceeds of their Annual Bake Sale.
- ♥ **Woodinville Montessori School**, for donating the proceeds of their school Bake Sale.
- ♥ **Girl Scout Troop 1988**, for their “Day of Caring” donation — their personal Cookie Sale proceeds.
- ♥ **Issaquah ORECK store**, for donating a portion of sales from their Special Savings Saturday..
- ♥ **Curves, of North Bend**, for organizing a food drive for the HOUSE of HOPE.
- ♥ **Karie Foo & Safeway**, for sponsoring a food drive for the HOUSE of HOPE.
- ♥ **Windermere Agents & Staff, Bellevue South**, for their outstanding work at the HOUSE of HOPE on their annual Service Day, and for their long-time belief in and support of our mission and work.
- ♥ **Teresa Hollenbeck, LandAmerica**, for sponsoring an annual luncheon to benefit Mamma’s Hands.
- ♥ **Scott Laufer & his Microsoft colleagues**, for their tremendous work at the HOUSE of HOPE.
- ♥ **The “Ron & Don” Show on KIRO Radio**, for awarding Denny Hancock as a “**Hometown Hero**”!
- ♥ **Our Fabulous Auction Committee & EVERYONE involved in our 2007 “Hope is . . .” Auction & Dinner Event!** Each of you helped to make this a fun and successful evening!
- ♥ **All of our Very Special Friends (too numerous to mention here)**, who continue to give us their generous, unwavering support, year after year — enabling us to assist those in crisis through the PHONE HOME and HOUSE of HOPE programs. **We Could Not Do It Without All of You!**



Details Enclosed! >>>

11:00 am — 2:00 pm
Saturday, August 25

Join Us for Family Fun!

PO Box 40464
 Bellevue, WA 98015-4464



Phone Home: Sending the homeless home . . .

2007 Gregory Scholarship Award Recipient

Andréa Williams has been a very welcome addition to the weekly volunteer staff of Mamma's Hands Phone Home Program. For over two years, she has devoted nearly every Wednesday night to assisting the homeless on the streets of Seattle.

Her friendly spirit and her ability to draw the homeless close have played a major roll in the reuniting of many a lost soul with their families. Andréa's ability to lift spirits with her song of joy brings a feeling of hope to a place where many are in need of just that.

Andréa is currently studying music at Bellevue Community College and is the regional vice-president of Phi Theta Kappa. She is mother to **Ethan**, a very active 7-year-old, who often volunteers alongside his mom. We are certain one day he too will be the recipient of the annual Gregory Scholarship Award for extraordinary volunteerism.



A very warm Thank You & Congratulations to Andréa!