



Mamma's Hands

HOPE IN EVERY INDIVIDUAL

Summer-Fall 2013

A Look at Domestic Violence & Homelessness

From *The American Almanac of Family Homelessness - 2013*,
by the Institute for Children, Poverty & Homelessness (ICPH)

- Domestic violence has a devastating effect on women nationwide. Approximately **91.6% of homeless mothers have experienced severe physical and/or sexual abuse during their lifetimes.**
- Women facing domestic violence experience high rates of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), major depressive disorders, substance abuse, and physical health problems.
- Many mothers stay in abusive relationships because they have nowhere else to go, leaving themselves and their children at risk of further violence. They are often cut off from social and financial supports by their abusers, leaving them with few alternative housing and support options.
- **... and Their Children:** The well-being of homeless children is inextricably linked to that of their mothers.
- Approximately 5 million children in the country are exposed to domestic violence each year.
- Abuse can have severe, long-lasting effects on children's well-being. Children who grow up with domestic violence are more likely to abuse drugs & alcohol, attempt suicide, and have physical & mental problems.
- Boys who witness and/or experience domestic violence are almost 4 times more likely to perpetrate violence as adults. Girls who experience childhood physical or sexual abuse are 3 times more likely to be victimized as adults.
- Because many battered women attempt to leave their abuser several times before successfully escaping, their children may experience multiple episodes of homelessness.



"I am so grateful to be in the HOUSE of HOPE program. I have been a survivor of abuse since my first childhood memory.

I used to think of myself as a victim, but since I came to live here, I know that my fight to create a new way of living and thinking for myself and my daughters makes me a SURVIVOR."

- Amy, HOUSE of HOPE Resident

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From the Founder — Denny Hancock



HOUSE of HOPE: Quality vs. Quantity

The statistics on domestic violence are indeed sobering, and they remind us why we started the HOUSE of HOPE program, and why we continue to ask for your support to maintain and enhance these important services for women and their children in crisis.

Many larger shelters serve hundreds of families each year, but because of the sheer numbers they need to serve in order to qualify for government funding, nearly all of them have restrictive time limits on how long clients can stay. Their purpose is to get people off the streets, referred to agencies, and on their way. Due to funding source requirements, the population they serve often bounces from shelter to shelter, and exhaust their options before they have received the fundamental help they need. They “fall through the cracks” in the system — 69% of these families return to homelessness.

What Makes the HOUSE of HOPE Program Unique

- The women we serve come from varied backgrounds and crisis situations, but they share a common thread of hopelessness, despair, and loss of self-esteem. Most are penniless and do not have a functioning family to turn to for emotional or financial support. They come to us at their lowest point, struggling and alone. They realize they must change their life to survive, but simply don't know how.
- Our residents function like family members, surrounded by the values and nurturing that build self-esteem and the confidence to move forward. They learn essential life-skills, share responsibilities, and celebrate each other's accomplishments. The support system at the HOUSE of HOPE is absolutely crucial to their success, and they leave with newfound hope and self-reliance.
- Because we rely primarily on private funding sources, we have no significant restrictions on how we serve our clients. This means that we are not subject to quotas, and can take the time needed to solve the fundamental, root-cause issues rather than treat only the symptoms.
- We can be flexible and innovative in our approach, and we can focus on providing specific, individual guidance to each family. Our residents stay an average of 8 to 18 months, as they learn how to take steps toward recovery and stabilize their lives.
- The HOUSE of HOPE program works because we give each of our residents the time, tools, support, and individual guidance they need to make the life-changes that will move them toward a better future. The HOUSE of HOPE serves from 17-25 families a year (50-100 residents). **Over 93% of our residents move on to life without homelessness,**
- **Our primary goal for our residents is self-sufficiency and NOT a return to abuse, dependency, and homelessness.**

Thank You for Your Support!



The **HOUSE of HOPE**

Introducing Paige & Kaylene

Paige Mobley is doing a wonderful job as on-site manager at the HOUSE of HOPE. The skills, passion, and compassion she brings to our program have been invaluable.

Paige, along with husband, **Ed**, began volunteering at HOUSE of HOPE several years ago. Paige's professional experience includes positions as an office manager and legal assistant. As a full-time mother to a son (now 17) and a daughter (now 12), Paige was president of a mothers' group, and served on the PTA Executive Board of every school her children attended.

Paige says of her position at the HOUSE of HOPE, **“Outside of motherhood, this is the most difficult and rewarding, heart-wrenching and tremendously joyful job I’ve ever known. I’m so fortunate to have this opportunity . . . especially watching the kids grow to be carefree and happy, giving huge hugs because they just want to share the fun — it’s amazing!”**

Kaylene Fraser joined us in June, and we are thrilled to have found someone with such spirit and desire to work on our HOUSE of HOPE team!

Kaylene brings a background in Marriage, Family, and Human Development, and personal experience assisting with a substance-abuse recovery program and helping domestic violence victims.



Kaylene & Paige at HOUSE of HOPE

Kaylene lives on the Eastside with her husband, **Paul**, and infant son. Both she and Paul were drawn to and impressed with the work of Mamma's Hands. Kaylene says of joining the HOUSE of HOPE team, **“I want to give hope to those who need it most. I know how hard it can be to help women in crisis, but I am prepared and willing to work hard because of how this change impacts not only the women, but their children as well.”**

“At HOUSE of HOPE they taught me that a true home is where you are surrounded by people who care about you and your family.” - Recent HOUSE of HOPE graduate

HOUSE of HOPE Success Story!



“Denise” came to HOUSE of HOPE in November 2012. She was living with an abusive family and had an abusive boyfriend. CPS ordered her to find a safe place for herself and infant daughter to live or lose custody. At HOUSE of HOPE, she built her self-esteem, improved her parenting skills, found a job and secure housing, and set goals for furthering her education and choosing a career. When she left in July 2013, she was emotionally stronger and able to take care of herself and her daughter on her own. We are so grateful to have made a difference in their lives.

Denise Tells Her Story: My stay at the HOUSE of HOPE has been bitter sweet. I love being here, but at first I did not want to come here. I was given two choices in where I should live. Those choices cut me down to my heart because I feared for my daughter’s well-being if she did not come with me. Although I did not want to go to a shelter, I decided my best choice was HOUSE of HOPE.

I’ve been in my share of shelters and none of them are happy places. A shelter isn’t supposed to be a happy place. It’s a place where you’re supposed to be getting your life together - that’s what you do and nothing else. There is no support system and no encouragement to keep you going and motivated. That’s what I was expecting at HOUSE of HOPE.

The first difference I noticed at HOUSE of HOPE was that they greeted me and told me what the program was about. They were compassionate and caring, and understood why I was there. Although I didn’t want to be there, I knew it was where I needed to be for me and my daughter.

HOUSE of HOPE taught me the value of friendship, compassion, help, and what it means to have a home. These are things I never knew before, and I am grateful that I know them now.

Friendship, because I made some awesome friends, from the women residents to the people who make this program what it is. **Compassion**, because I felt sorry for myself for getting into my situation, and I learned that I shouldn’t, because in the end it would all work out. **Help**, because it gave me the strength to keep going, to make life better for me and my daughter.

And lastly, **I really value what a home is.** Before I got here, I was clueless to what a home was because I had never lived in one. At HOUSE of HOPE, they taught me that a true home is where you are surrounded by people who care about you and your family. Without HOUSE of HOPE, God only knows where my daughter and I would be.

Denny + Leslie + Paige = HOPE. The HOUSE of HOPE is a dream-come-true for the women who stay here because of these very special people. They are why my stay here was the best. **Because of them, I will always have a feeling of hope, something that I never had or allowed myself to have, and for that I will never forget them.**



Phone Home Program Sends *Bruce* Home to Pittsburgh!

Overcoming the Past to Make a New Start

I am the oldest of 8 children. We didn't have a lot of time with our parents. We were placed into foster care when I was 9, separated into 3 different homes.

I was exposed to different kinds and levels of abuse in those places—constantly beaten by the adults and locked up in parts of the house away from everyone. I last saw my father alive while in the first home. He wasn't allowed to come to the house. When he visited he would wait at the bottom of the hill. One day I was told to tell him that he could no longer visit. I never knew why, and I never saw him again.

I came to Washington with my wife in 1976. I thought I could finally escape the pain of my past, but ended up in prison due to my drug use. I still struggle to find freedom from this addiction—in this too, I say, I am going to make it!

I was with my sister when a call came from an unknown cousin to say that our father had just passed away. We had heard years earlier that he had passed, so this was big news. Our cousin said she knew how to contact us because our father had left his phone book open to a page with the note, "I have children there."

We buried the father most of his children had not known. How long had he known of our whereabouts? Why hadn't he ever come for us? There were so many times when I had needed him. I never hated him for his faults or failures.

I don't judge whether he was a good man or not. He was my father, and I vowed to not be like him. But, I too abandoned my children.

I'd taken the girls to school that morning. My wife and I had a huge fight. This is it, I thought. I can't do this any more. I had really tried to keep us together, but things had gotten really bad, and I was spent.

I went to a bar and ended up smoking crack. I never made it to pick up the girls at school, and I never made it back home to my family.

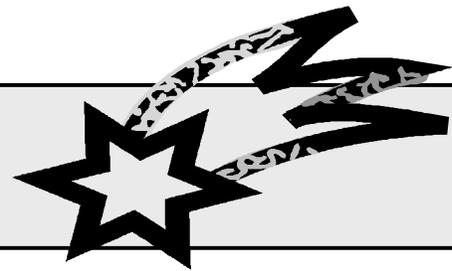
Over the years, I've been in and out of prison, jobs, and relationships. I kept running to try to forget the horror of abandoning my family.

In 2010, I returned to Washington to try to mend things with my girls. It hasn't gone well. Too much has happened while I was gone. They don't get along with their mother or each other. They don't know me and haven't figured out if they even like me. They are adults now and don't need a father to raise them.

I don't know, maybe the timing wasn't right. But I did what I set out to do—I came back. Now, maybe I can manage to move forward and make a life for myself. I want to go to Pittsburgh to be with family. I'm no longer the little boy wanting his family back, but I still just want to go home and be with my family.

- *Bruce* , sent home to Family in Pittsburgh

Volunteer Spotlight!



Windermere Service Day!

Once again, the INCREDIBLE people of Windermere–Bellevue South amazed us with their commitment and service to the HOUSE of HOPE!

From Mamma's Hands' Denny Hancock:

“Thank you so much for the wonderful work you did for us. You not only made our home look beautiful, you set such a good example for our HOUSE of HOPE families.

Your energy, along with your positive attitude and efficiency, showed true charity towards all of us at Mamma's Hands. We are so very blessed to be among the charities that Windermere supports.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you!”



Our Gratitude goes to **Kristin Issacson!**

Kristin taught a Dale Carnegie course on verbal expression at HOUSE of HOPE. It was a rare and very beneficial treat for our Moms! **Thank you, Kristin!**

Doug & Karen Parshall



For about a year now, **Doug & Karen Parshall** have dedicated every other Thursday evening to facilitating a group meeting for our HOUSE of HOPE Moms.

They present and explore the topic of Family Development, giving our Moms an informed and beneficial perspective.

Shelter manager, **Paige**, says, **“The Moms love Doug & Karen. They think of them as loving, but firm, parents — something most of them have never had.”**

Thank you, Doug & Karen!

A Special Thank-You to the Youth Group from Grace Lutheran Church!

They spent an entire week at the HOUSE of HOPE doing all manner of projects.

You are the BEST!

AUCTION 2013!

There was much to celebrate on May 10th at our 17th Gala Dinner & Auction Event to benefit the HOUSE of HOPE!

This year's theme, "**HOPE IS . . . Magical**" truly described the event . . . sunshine on a beautiful venue, record attendance, and a record amount of funds raised for the HOUSE of HOPE!



Britney Porter, Newcastle staff, and Board member Becky Rands celebrate the gorgeous array of desserts in this year's Dessert Dash!

With our Fund-a-Need reaching a new high of \$102,000, and the spectacular bidding on auction items, we netted 2/3 of our annual budget at this year's event!

Our **Heart-felt Thank You to EVERYONE** who participated in this year's event . . . **our incredible Auction Committee, Volunteers, Item Donors, Financial Sponsors, and our spirited & generous Attendees!** We were so excited by the number of new people who joined us alongside our long-time friends and supporters! **Thank You, All!**

2013 Auction Committee!

Genie Benson
Jerry & Nichole Carlson
Sarah Gerdes
Denny & Leslie Hancock
Michael & Melissa Hancock
William (Billy) Hancock
Esther Hansen
Carr & Lori Krueger
Sheila Mackay
Ed & Paige Mobley
Brett & Janae Muhlestein
Denise & Erik Oh
Karen Parshall
Britney & Scott Porter
Becky & Jon Rands
Leila & Mark Sanelli
Jim & Sarah Thatcher
Bryan & Kristin Trussel
Derue & Kent Walker
Mary Jo & Sam Webb

2013 Auction Sponsors!

HOUSE of HOPE Sponsor:

Wayne & Christine Perry

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Mamma's Hands

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- ♥ All proceeds go to Mamma's Hands
- ♥ 100% Tax Deductible
- ♥ Free Vehicle Pick-up
- ♥ We accept cars & trucks in running condition

For Info or to Donate Your Vehicle:

Contact **Phil** at 206-931-5788 or philkrop@gmail.com

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Our Mission: *To awaken within individuals the hope they need to regain their self-respect and their desire for a productive life.*