

Sharing HOPE

HOPE NETWORK FOR SINGLE MOTHERS

DECEMBER 2020

OUR ANNUAL APPEAL:

Hold on to HOPE

By Babette Honoré, Executive Director

We are experiencing a year like no other. This year has magnified the challenges single mothers face daily. Single mothers now must juggle their children's online schooling while managing their family's health and safety—all while stretching an income that has shrunk or even disappeared. It is overwhelming, to say the least.

We thank you for your continued support of HOPE Network's mission. We serve hundreds of families throughout Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha counties, and your gift changes lives.

Our small but mighty team of dedicated staff and volunteers work hard to serve families as they confront the many challenges of our time. We look forward to keeping you informed of the exciting changes on the horizon.

Please share the HOPE by giving on our website at hopenetworkinc.org, or use the enclosed envelope. Your gift will create an even better year for single moms. We are grateful for your continued support!

Babette



*Our hope is unshaken,
for we know that
you share in
our comfort ...*

Our Outcomes

October 2019–September 2020



Single Mothers
Served

274



Scholarships
Awarded

\$18,000



Portable
Cribs

22



Layette
Bags

39



Clothing
Items

2,290



Diapers
Provided

12,455

HOPE Network is highly responsive to the needs of women parenting alone and their families' in Milwaukee and Waukesha counties. We provide access to resources, opportunity, and supportive community to promote self-reliance and to nurture strong families.



HOPE Network for Single Mothers

Community



Stepping to HOPE

Our newest program, Stepping to HOPE, follows single mothers for three years providing supplies and support. Members with children under the age of three were invited to participate in the program during the pandemic. Twenty-five mothers responded, serving a total of 36 children.

With your support, here is what we provided:

- 3215 diapers
- 1800 items of clothing
- 30 COVID-19 kits
- Blankets
- 25 packages of baby wipes



“ I don't know what many young mothers in dire straits would do without this resource!”

- HOPE Member



Finding the Best Child Care

4C For Children

Looking for quality child care when you need to go to work, school or other commitments can be a difficult and exhausting task. Your child's happiness and safety ultimately depends on your decision when choosing a quality child care program to meet their needs.

At 4C For Children, the goal is to help you make a wise and informed decision when choosing a child care program. They offer help with all your child care questions and concerns. By calling 4C, you may be able to receive a detailed child care profile on some of the child care programs in your area.

The profile will include but not be limited to the following information: ages served, total capacity, type of care, days of week care is available, rates, additional fees, environment of child care programs, education and training of child care provider, meals offered and financial assistance.

We wish you the very best of luck in your child care search and encourage you to call 4C For Children whenever you need help finding the best child care for you.



4C-For Children, Inc.

Milwaukee Office

P: (414) 562-2650

E: 4c@4c-forchildren.org

W: 4cfc.org/parents



Scholarship Recipient SPOTLIGHT

HOPE Network scholarships address the unique challenge of our single mother's education. Recipients use the Scholarship funds for tuition or for childcare while she attends school. In this issue, we continue to share the testimonies from the ladies who received scholarships in 2020.

My name is Joana Lozano, and I am a single mother to a wonderful 6-year-old little girl. Her name is Mila and she is everything to me. She is an amazing, energetic and extremely smart little girl, who you would think was all grown up by how she engages in conversation with adults.

So, to better provide for her financially and allow her to keep growing up carefree, I returned to college to follow my dreams. I wish to set a good example for her so she can one day be as proud of me as I will always be of her. For this, I am currently enrolled in the registered nursing program at MATC and hope to graduate with an Associate's Degree in December 2021. After graduation, in 2022, I will take my state nursing exam and an additional two science classes in order to transfer my degree to UWM and complete my Bachelor's Degree there, while working as a nurse in the emergency room of a hospital.

I am incredibly grateful to this organization for granting me this gift again and allowing me to continue with college without taking on a 2nd job which would have affected not only the time I would dedicate to my education, but the time that I could spend with my family. They are the number one priority in my life. My mom, younger sister and daughter are an amazing support system and I love that I can always count on them. They have helped me raise my daughter into the wonderful little girl that she is and have become more like a second and third mother to her, rather than a grandmother and an aunt. I hope to one day repay them for all of their sacrifices by helping them achieve their dreams as well.

—Joana Lozano



Joana Lozano
MILWAUKEE AREA
TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Registered Nursing

My name is Porcha and my daughter and I will benefit greatly from this scholarship because it is going toward our future which starts with my education. I am almost done with my associate's degree in early childhood and my plan is to one day open my own in-home childcare center. I am so grateful for this scholarship because it will be another step closer to providing a better future for myself and my daughter. Thank you all for this opportunity!

—Porcha Brown



Porcha Brown
WAUKESHA COUNTY
TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Early Childhood Education



For More Information ...

To learn more about HOPE Scholarship opportunities for single mothers, go to our website at hopenetworkinc.org.

Auction Attendance Up 92%

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to the committee members that made this event such a success:

Ally Spaight
Babette Honoré
Gail Sweet
Jo Ann Durrett
Irene Skipper
Karen Hammersmith
Mary Witzlib
Pat Wille

Thank you to all who helped make a Time of HOPE, our first online auction event, a great success.

Following the fundraiser, we sent out a survey to collect feedback from our guests. We are pleased to share the results:

- 138 attended this year's event up 92% from last year's in person event
- 60% out of 138 were first time attendees
- 87% stated they are "likely" or "very likely" to attend the next event
- 77% found the items on auction very to somewhat valuable

Additional feedback:

"Until the pandemic is over, online auction is the only way. In the past, I was unable to attend in person because I was always out of town. This year I took my iPad."

"Considering the kind of year at hand, I felt this was very well done. So happy to be able to still raise money for this very worthy cause."

PREMIER PLATINUM SPONSOR



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DIAMOND SPONSOR



FRIENDS

Greg Dittrich, Schmidt & Bartelt
John & Olive Lietzau
Holly Ryan
Michael & Gail Sweet

GOLD SPONSOR



Richard & Barbara Wiederhold

Our online auction would not have been possible without the donations we received from these generous businesses and individuals. Please take an opportunity thank them with your patronage or expression of gratitude.

ONLINE AUCTION ITEM CONTRIBUTORS

Mary Kay Allaire
 American Family (Jeff Van Dan)
 Anonymous
 Bank of Flowers
 Bartelt
 Batteries Plus Bulbs
 Pauline Beck
 Colder's
 Costco - Menomonee Falls, Pewaukee, Grafton, New Berlin
 Culver's - Menomonee Falls
 Dave & Busters
 Elliotts Ace Hardware
 Extended Hands Massage Therapy
 Fairways of Woodside Golf Course
 Falls Auto Tech
 First Stage
 First Watch - Brookfield, Mequon
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 Friend of HOPE Network
 Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens
 Friends of the Domes
 Germantown Nails
 Glorioso's Appetito
 Brian and Karen Hammersmith
 Hand & Stone
 Home Depot
 Hot House Tavern
 Jake's Restaurant
 Jam Beautique
 Jewish Museum of Milwaukee
 La Terraza Pottery Studio
 Lynden Sculpture Gardening
 Tricia Massart
 Menomonee Falls Community Ed. & Rec.
 Menomonee Falls Chamber of Commerce
 Metro Market - Brookfield
 Metro Market - Mequon
 Michelle Shea - Thirty One Gifts
 Michelle Shea - Epicure (michelleshea.epicure.com)
 Milwaukee Community Acupuncture
 Milwaukee County Parks

Milwaukee Food & City Tours
 Milwaukee Public Museum
 Nino's Italian Bakery
 Odyssey Family Restaurant
 Oscars
 Packers Community Outreach
 Peace of Mind Concierge Service
 Peace Yoga Studio & Wellness Center
 Pick N Save - Germantown, Menomonee Falls, New Berlin, Wauwatosa, Brown Deer, Pewaukee, Good HOPE Road and Brookfield
 Maria Pilugin
 Pink Lemonade Salon & Day Spa
 Relaxation/Float Oasis
 Marcel Riebe
 River Falls Car Wash
 Riveredge Nature Center
 Rivoli Theatre
 Robin's European Cottage
 Dana and Anne Sanders
 Shady Lane Greenhouses
 Sky Zone Trampoline Park
 Songbird Hills Golf Club
 Starbucks - Cedarburg, Menomonee Fall, Mequon, Wauwatosa and Grafton
 Sugar Maple
 Target - Brookfield, Menomonee Falls, West Allis, Delafield and Grafton
 Trader Joes - Brookfield
 Tricklebee Café
 Urban Ecology Center
 UWM Manfred Olson Planetarium
 Village Bowl Family Entertainment Center
 Walnut Way Conservation Corp
 Waukesha Civic Theatre
 Waukesha County Parks
 Waupun Correctional Institution
 Wehr Nature Center
 Ritika Bhatia
 Carol and Mike Cinquegrani
 Karla Florance
 Jerry & Brandy Helchen
 Joe Leone
 Barbara Mangiafico

Carol & Chris Mastronardo
 Sue Russell
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 Irene & Walt Skipper
 Marilyn Skipper
 Alice Jo Star
 Gail Grenier Sweet
 Irene Taylor
 Kate & Bill Timm
 Cindy Vick
 Mary Witzlib Independent Beauty Consultant with Mary Kay
 Wood and Rose Florals
 Sue Yenter

MONETARY DONATIONS

Pauline Beck
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 Fred Weber
 John Weber
 Pat Wille
 Nancy Zaydell



a time of hope

VIRTUAL & VITAL
 ONLINE SILENT AUCTION

Supporting HOPE



Founder Tribute

Thirty-eight years ago, Gail Grenier Sweet had the vision to create HOPE Network Inc. In 1982, Gail Sweet founded HOPE Network. From the start, HOPE Network focused on pregnancy and the first year of life. The non-profit accepted and distributed used cribs to low-income single mothers. As concerns over product safety and Sudden Infant Death (SIDS) soared, the organization expanded its services.

Under Gail's leadership, HOPE Network championed scholarships, a powerful tool used to empower single mothers. Scholarships address the unique challenge of affordable education. Recipients use the funds for tuition or for childcare while she attends school.

While a lot has changed in four decades, single mothers remain among the most overlooked and least supported groups in our community. HOPE Network continues to support the community. Gail remains active in HOPE Network's community by providing support, guidance, and countless hours of volunteering. She is involved in our fundraising committee and continues to be a true treasure and inspiration.

To discover more about HOPE Network's history, visit our website at www.hopenetworkinc.org/about/history. Just for fun, take a look at the first issue of HOPE's newsletter from 1983. You can find it in the newsletter archives on our website www.hopenetworkinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/First-Network-News.pdf



I wanted this to be a network because it is more important to me to invest in the community and less in bricks and mortar."

—Gail

Become a Board Member

We are seeking qualified board members to support the work of HOPE Network and provide mission-based leadership and strategic governance. This is an extraordinary opportunity for an individual passionate about HOPE Network's mission and who has a track record of board leadership.

HOPE Network's Board Members serve three-year terms. Board meetings are held bi-monthly, and committee meetings will be held in coordination with full board meetings.

For the full job description and to apply, please contact Babette Honoré, Executive Director at bhonore@hopenetworkinc.org.

Volunteer with HOPE Network

Volunteers play a crucial role in delivering HOPE Network's services to single mothers. Volunteering gives us the opportunity to connect on a deeper level with the community. Whatever your skills and passion, HOPE Network has a way for you to contribute.

Volunteer applications are welcome! We will keep your application on file, and reach out to you when the pandemic changes and opportunities are available: www.bit.ly/volunteer-at-hope

COVID-19 Response

Impact and Solutions

In an abundance of caution, HOPE Network has decided to temporarily close the office due to COVID-19.

However, during the pandemic, we will continue to provide members with curbside service for emergency supplies of diapers, wet wipes, and layettes for moms-to-be. Also, we will share email notices of where to get essentials like free masks and food. We also provided curbside service for our Stepping to Hope program that included COVID-19 kits.

COLLABORATION BRINGS SINGLE MOTHERS ACCESS TO DIVERSE OPPORTUNITIES

For decades, HOPE Network has partnered with area agencies to publicize resources for single mothers. The Resources page on our website highlights opportunities that are available year-round or on a regular schedule.

Explore on online [Resources](#) page on our website which includes helpful information such as:

- Pregnancy & Prenatal Care
- Education
- Parenting
- Childcare
- Home Ownership & Energy Assistance
- Domestic Violence & Emergency Shelter

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

To find additional food pantries, shelter, meal sites, family resources, health & social services Dial 2-1-1 or call toll-free at a pay phone 1-877-211-3380.

Sharing HOPE: Our New Publication

Throughout our community, many knew the name HOPE Network from our quarterly newsletter, *Network News*. Having been in print for 36 years, the newsletter has gained a reputation for providing helpful resources and essential communication for single mothers across southeastern Wisconsin. Earlier this year we introduced *Sharing HOPE*, our new publication, to meet the needs of our growing membership. *Sharing HOPE* continues to be home to the resources and stories you love, now presented in an accessible and friendly format.

This publication and archived issues of past HOPE newsletters will be available on our web site at hopenetworkinc.org.



Pregnancy & Prenatal Care



Parenting



Childcare



Legal



Health & Wellness



Education



Home Ownership & Energy Assistance



Fun & Free (Or Cheap)

24/7 access to these resources can be found on our website at hopenetworkinc.org/resources/



HOPE Network for Single Mothers

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Milwaukee, WI
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HOPE Network Inc.
N88W17658 Christman Road, Ste 201
P.O. Box 531
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051-2630

Counting Our Blessings!

This list represents those who have volunteered and made a donation to HOPE Network

Volunteers and Donors

Ascension Lutheran Church
Jim Bickler
Christ Child Society of Milwaukee
Cortni Crum
Hanna De Graaf
Carol Deming
Lynn & Peter Engel
Anne Friedrich
Good Shepherd Catholic Church
Lois Graff
Lisa Graveen
Mary Grenier
Nadiyah Groves
Karen Hammersmith
Crystal Hearvey
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Angela Meinen
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Gail Grenier & Michael Sweet
Khushi Tanna
Gabriel Tawil
Karen Tieman
Kathy Wambold
Chris Wendt
Pat Wille
Mary Witzlib
Sue Yenter

In Memory of:

Robert Wachowiak by: Gail Grenier Sweet
Rachael Scortino by: Robert Nelesen
In Honor of:
Lillian Love by: The Doubek Family Trust