



**Supportive Living  
for Recovery**

# News of Hope



DECEMBER 2011

**CELEBRATING  
15 YEARS  
OF  
OPERATION**

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### Recovery Humor



## Message from Beth - Hope Grows...

One of the most rewarding parts of this work is its collaborative, community nature – it is impossible to do this work in a bubble...we are tremendously grateful to our alums, board, volunteers, referral sources, and families. We could not keep on without you. This newsletter is designed to keep you apprised of 'our latest'.

It's been an exciting year – we've been able to reach out and spread the voice of recovery locally and nationally, and have experienced record growth.

Some highlights:

- Realizing a long time dream of carrying our model "abroad". We were able to open this year in North Carolina. Charlotte is a community that is steeped in recovery. HH has been very warmly received there. We have a growing community of men and women and a tremendous staff!
- Atlanta men's community moved to a very convenient Perimeter location. We continue to flourish in all four Atlanta locations for men and women, and have seen a record number complete our program this year!
- Wonderful retreats at Lake Alatoona for our men and women this summer.
- Generous donations and grants that facilitated the Charlotte opening, provided new furniture for several of our communities, and enabled our Hardwick Financial Assistance Fund to grow.
- Participating in the start up of a National Association for Recovery Residences (NARR). Hope Homes and Georgia (GARR) played important roles in helping launch this much needed Association and the national standard for all levels of recovery residences.

More news inside these pages...Most invigorating are the days I receive calls, visits and e-mails from alumni and families that were with us recently or many years ago. It is our greatest reward to see the ways recovery has touched your life!

Wishing you all blessed holidays and a year filled with peace and joy.

*Beth*



Shey Wilkey, Beth Fisher & Dick Cottrill  
2011 GARR Recovery Fair

## Behind the HH Scenes 2011 The COO's Perspective

Not only is it my job to ensure that we have a sound financial foundation but, as an alumnus of Hope Homes, it is my passion to provide that foundation for future clients whose needs I fully understand.

As I am wont to say with increasing frequency, I believe our role is to provide the environment in which our clients can succeed in their recovery. That environment must therefore be safe, secure, sober and supportive. It must include safe and pleasant places to return to at night, fun and supportive staff, a community that can be leaned on in times of concern and a security of knowing that all of this will be there next month and next year.

This role has not been without its challenges this year; not without its sweats! But the Team got through it and I can say with confidence that our Alma Mater stands on a sure footing, that the future looks solid.

## Staff Spotlight - Jack Carlton



If an animated cartoon were drawn about Jack, it might be of a very tall busy bee with 8 or 9 hats. He would be buzzing around the Hope Homes office, performing many tasks at once and the sound for the cartoon would include a very strong heartbeat.

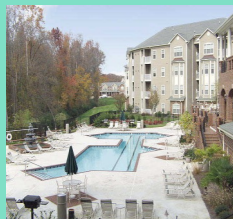
Jack has been working with Hope Homes for five years and truly is the heart beat of the operation. Jack coordinates the administrative operations at Hope Homes Inc. He has extensive experience in financial services from a previous career, and is well versed in all aspects of office management.

Jack wears so many hats it is hard to keep track, from fielding initial inquiry calls from prospective residents and referral sources, managing all facets of our bookkeeping, moving furniture, under office animal removal, filing, painting, and on and on and on.....

Jack came to Hope Homes Inc. to be a part of the important and meaningful work we do, and the community and staff are very fortunate to have him on the team.

## Hope Homes Opens in the Queen City

After a considerable time of research and dialogue, Hope Homes commemorated its first 15 years of service by 'starting over' – with a brand new program in Charlotte, NC! Executive Director Beth Fisher states “for several years now we have felt that the Hope Homes program was ‘portable’ – our use of apartments for residences allows us an ease of mobility...the challenge was finding the right staff to implement our residential life skills support program. Several treatment centers over the years have requested that we bring Hope Homes to closer proximity to them, and Charlotte was a loud voice in that dialogue. We learned that Charlotte had a number of great detox and outpatient centers and a tremendous wealth of 12 step groups, but no long term residential programs. We found fertile ground in Charlotte, and already much fruit has grown! We have quickly expanded to 24 male/female (separate locations) beds, and have a tremendous staff in Donna Williams, Andrew London, Chris White and Chelsea Scott. We are grateful for the warm welcome we have received in Charlotte, and appreciate the many opportunities for collaboration with individual and program providers.” Best wishes for continued growth and lives changed in recovery in the Queen City!



## 2011 Hope Homes Staff



### Atlanta & Smyrna Staff

(From L to R) Trevor Purifory (*Smyrna Counselor*); Marc Pimsler (*Atlanta Counselor*); Andy Martin (*Atlanta Counselor*); Dee Owens (*Atlanta Counselor*); Shey Wilkey (*Smyrna Counselor*); Samantha Allen (*Smyrna Counselor*); Megan Shanik (*Atlanta Counselor*); Richard Ensley (*Atlanta Counselor*) and Dick Cottrill (*Chief Operating Officer*) Not Pictured: Jack Carlton (*Office Manager*); Beth Fisher (*Founder & Executive Director*) and Jami Shultz (*Office Assistant*)



### Charlotte Staff

(From L to R) Dick Cottrill (*Chief Operating Officer*); Chris White (*Counselor*); Chelsea Scott (*Counselor*); Andrew London (*Counselor*); Colleen Thomas (*Counselor*); Donna Williams (*Counselor*); Beth Fisher (*Founder and Executive Director*)



## Alumni Spotlight - Elizabeth P.

Elizabeth's journey to sobriety began in 2005 and on August 10, 2012 will reach the 7 year milestone. Even though the road was not always paved and easy going, Elizabeth has remained strong and continued her journey with diligence and courage. After completing the Hope Homes primary program she moved into an independent living house where she remained for about 2 years. During that time, not only did Elizabeth maintain her sobriety and begin her college career, she gave birth to her daughter Chloe.



After leaving Hope Homes, Elizabeth moved to Cedartown to live with her mother. She continued school toward a B.S Degree in Psychology, which she will receive in May of this year. She plans to continue her education working toward a Master of Social Work Degree. As for Miss Chloe, she is now 4, attends Pre-K and in Elizabeth's words "always has plenty to say, talking from the moment she gets up until she falls asleep at night".

Elizabeth sites Hope Homes for giving her the solid footing she needed to face the challenging road ahead. I asked Elizabeth what was the thing that she was most grateful for and she responded by describing the difficulty and pain she experienced after the death of her father, and the fact that she could be "present" throughout the entire process. She went further stating that her faith in her Higher Power is what helped her through the difficult times and keeps her sober each and every day.

*Written by Julie Millsaps*

## Give a Dollar . . .

### To Our Financial Assistance Fund...

Many of you are aware that the Gregory G. Hardwick Financial Assistance Fund was founded two years ago by long time supporter Greg Hardwick and his wife Karen Benjack Hardwick to provide assistance to individuals who would not otherwise be able to enter Hope Homes. Qualified applicants are partially funded in their first 90 days at Hope Homes. Many simply need help with the entry fees, some need assistance until employment is secured. Please consider helping someone attain the safe, healing environment of the Hope Homes community...

### General operating...

If all alumni and supporters that have passed through our doors would contribute \$1 for every year they have been sober, we'd have a considerable amount of donations! We need and appreciate all donations to maintain the high quality programming and staff we are able to provide. Additionally, we are continually maintaining clean, comfortable living environments; this requires routine replacement of household items and furniture. No gift is too small, and we are MOST appreciative of your support.

Hope Homes is a 501 c-3 non-profit organization. All gifts are tax deductible. Please visit [www.hopehomesrecovery.org](http://www.hopehomesrecovery.org) and click the 'donate' button on the home page – our website makes it easy to give!

## Step 12 - Giving Back

***"Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to other addicts, and to practice these principles in all our affairs."***

What does this mean and how do we do this? Helping others is a significant part of the program, and there are many ways the program gets passed on. When you live the program and share it with others, you are carrying the message, especially when you sponsor new members. At Hope Homes, we believe chances for long-term recovery increase dramatically with support from professionals and peers in an established community.

There are many ways we can give back to the recovery community and Hope Homes:

- Sponsoring or mentoring Hope Homes residents.
- Volunteering to lead groups, provide office help, participate on advisory boards, grant writing, just to name a few. More volunteer opportunities can be found at the Hope Homes website: [hopehomesrecovery.org](http://hopehomesrecovery.org).
- In-Kind Donations - Call the Hope Homes office or check our Amazon.com Wish List for items needed throughout the year.
- Financial Contributions - our operating costs are offset by the generous donations of individual and corporate contributors, and allow us to continue our mission of bringing recovery and healing to the lives of the individuals we serve. (See the Newsletter insert on how to make monetary donations.)





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*Place Address Label here*



**The Hope Homes Family would like to extend our heartfelt thanks  
to our generous 2011 Contributors:**

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