



The Sunrise

Dawn of Hope, Inc. | Johnson City, Tennessee

WINTER 2018 | Vol. 9 No. 2

The Time of My Life



Some 12,217 days ago [July 20, 1985] I was ecstatic that I had just been hired as the new Vocational Director at Dawn of Hope. It was actually my second attempt at becoming employed with the agency – the first being unsuccessful. Little could I have imagined that in the next 14 months I would become the Executive Director. And I surely had no thought of holding that position for the next 33 years. But as I say, all good things do not have to end, but all good things do have to change, and the time has come for that change.

As Dawn of Hope also celebrates the beginning of its 50th year, we remember those parents and dedicated civic personalities like the late Jay Gump, who we consider the founding father of Dawn of Hope, which built an agency out of nothing but sheer desire. By the time I came along 17 years later we were serving about 120 individuals with a staff of 32. Our annual budget was \$750,000. Dawn of Hope was probably best known then for our greenhouse hortitherapy program in which clients were employed in caring for the Christmas Poinsettias and Spring bedding plant sales.

One of the defining elements in Dawn of Hope's growth came in 1996 when as a result of litigation against the State of Tennessee regarding institutional conditions, DoH decided to also begin providing residential services; up until this time we had only been a day program. Over the next 18 years DoH expanded with an annual budget growing \$11 million and more than 210 people being served by over 300 staff. While I am proud of the tens of millions of dollars we brought to our local economy as an employer of hundreds that otherwise would not have been here, I leave more so with the satisfaction that I played a part in expanding opportunity and per our mission, enriching the lives of those we served.

When considering this venture a success, I can easily identify two reasons. First a faith in God, thankful that he gave me this opportunity to make a difference. Secondly having the absolute best director staff one could want. They currently are – Paula Bridges, 40 years tenure; Jon Cardwell, 32 years tenure; Ronnie Carr, 25 years tenure; Pam Cox, 23 years tenure; Steve Cox, 22 years tenure; Shannon Haney, 17 years tenure; Sharon Lloyd, 16 years tenure; Bobbi Love, 10 years tenure; and Lisa Pawley 8 years tenure. These people have been such a blessing to this organization and ANY success I have had – I owe to them.

Continued on page 2





Hope for the Holidays

Help make the holidays special for those in need... Details Inside!

Special thanks to the Dawn of Hope Boards:

OPERATIONS BOARD

Chair: Rob Sampson
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 Secretary: Jill Grayson Stott
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 Immed. Past Chairman: Rodney Conduff
 Operations Board Liaison: Sam East

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Continued from page 1

Also with any great organization, is the governing Board of Directors. We have been blessed with so many dedicated board members for both our Operations Board and our Foundation Board. Their guidance and leadership has been fantastic. I do have to acknowledge two very special board members that have been so inspirational to me in this professional journey – Valda Jones and Rodney Conduff. They have faithfully served above and beyond, and their guidance has been a beacon for me through these 33 years.



Additionally I would be remiss in not recognizing the value of



Tennessee Community Organizations [TNCO] the state association of which DoH is one of 65 members. TNCO has not only improved the quality of services and the organizations that provide them, they have also helped me and many other executive directors understand how to better do this complicated work. They have made the road easier.

Finally YOU, our community of support is why this organization has existed for 50 years and touched so many lives of individuals served as well their families. Your generosity in financial support, the businesses and industry that has provided work for those we serve, our city and county government support – without YOU this would not have been possible.

I leave this position extremely confident that my successor, Steve Cox, will do even far greater things for those we serve. I have shared a professional and personal friendship with him for 22 years and I trust that all of you will give him the same level of support you have shown me.



Continued on page 3

ORGANIZATION FACTS

P.O. Box 30, Johnson City, TN 37605

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Lee Chase

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Paula Bridges, *Director of Developmental Services*

Jon Cardwell, *Director of Vocational Services*

Ronnie Carr, *Director of Finance*

Steve Cox, *Director of Personnel*

Shannon Haney, *Director of Operations*

Sharon Lloyd, *Director of Health Services*

Bobbi Love, *Director of Residential Services*

Lisa Pawley, *Director of Public Relations and Development*

Pam Sams-Cox, *Director of Quality Improvement and Compliance*

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS: Lee Chase, Lisa Pawley and Pam Sams-Cox

So as I look back on this most wonderful professional career one could imagine, I am so thankful to have been a part of this great organization and all that it has been able to do for those we faithfully have served. I have to say I am so pleased at the progress that has been made in Tennessee's service system for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. After all, that is WHY we are here.

I have been writing these newsletter articles since about 1995, and in final parting comments – I want to go back to an article written on my 10th anniversary of employment – some 23 years ago. I think it STILL resonates.



Recently I looked up and discovered I had just completed my tenth year with the Dawn of Hope, and I do mean it really seems just so quick. I guess it is milestones like anniversaries that do cause one to reflect, about where we've been and where we're going. When I came to this profession I can now confess that I probably had a lot more energy than knowledge, more initiative than experience. And while there are days when the energy and the initiative are not exactly what I would like them to be, and there are days when all the knowledge and experience seems worthless in such a quick changing world. There are some things however that I can truly lay my hands on after the last ten years.

The first of these is a genuine love of people. A love that recognizes that there are no perfect people whether their imperfection be physical, mental or emotional. That is the true basis of love in that it blinds, or should blind us regardless of those imperfections.

Second is dedication. I know of no profession that involves a group of people with such dedication. Sure it is a job, but there are so many other jobs that would allow our staff to earn a living without dealing with some of the issues they encounter each day. While I would always place myself the least among our wonderful staff for these day to day efforts, I can say I have met face to face and know what dedication involves.

Finally the thing that I guess has made the last ~~ten~~ 33 years seem so fast is a personal fulfillment. I can honestly say I did not study specifically for this profession, in fact I was not aware of this profession in school, and making it the central focus of my career was nowhere in my mind. I think it was best described recently at a dinner honoring a retiring colleague. She said "It starts out as just a job that quickly steals your heart, and then captures your soul."

I can think of no more fitting description of the last ~~ten~~ 33 years. For all those people, colleagues, staff, parents, and most of all the people we have served, thanks for the chance.



It was truly the time of my life!

THE MISSION OF DAWN OF HOPE

Dawn of Hope is dedicated to providing person-centered supports to help people pursue the life they desire including community involvement and integrated work opportunities.

Fun in the Sun!

Summertime fun included a beautiful day on the lake, courtesy of East Tennessee Mogul Mashers, of cruising, captain's training, food & refreshments and numerous opportunities for friends to cheer each other on during Challenger League softball games.



Dedication

Dedication. It's not necessarily something you can teach, it's something you feel. Mildean can testify to this first hand. As a member of the Human Rights Committee shared by three Tri-Cities agencies, Mildean knows her attendance and votes are important as a representative of the Dawn of Hope. Recently she turned down an invitation to attend a wreath making class because she was already obligated to the HRC meeting which meets on the second Monday of every month. As it turns out, Mildean was the only committee member who was able to attend the meeting in October. When asked, "Mildean, you are the only committee member here?" she replied, "that's why I came." Mildean smiled with confidence as she stated in her own way about feeling a sense of responsibility. All of us could learn a thing or two about dedication from Mildean. Thank you Mildean, for your dedication!





Many of the people receiving services from Dawn of Hope do not have the financial means to celebrate their special day, participate in community activities and have never been on vacation. In 2018, through your donations and a Chili Lunch fundraiser, we were able to provide numerous birthday parties, a variety of community outings, and a weekend getaway in Gatlinburg!

Make a donation today and help fund an unforgettable experience for someone:

\$50 Donation – provides funds for participating in activities in the community; gas, food, entry fee etc.

\$100 Donation – provides a birthday party for someone; cake, decorations, birthday presents, etc.

\$300 Donation – provides funds to help pay for someone to take a vacation; food, lodging, gas, etc.



Donations can be made at www.dawnofhope.com (note in comments which experience you would like your donation to go towards; Birthday, Vacation, or Community or note Experience and we will use it where it is needed most!)

Or mail check to (made payable to Dawn of Hope Foundation):

Dawn of Hope Foundation

Attn: Birthday, Vacation, Community, or Experience (we will put this where it is needed most!)

P.O. Box 30

Johnson City, TN 37605

Weekend in the Smokies!

Ten people kicked off spring with a long weekend getaway in Gatlinburg. Weekend goers visited Dollywood, Ripley's Aquarium and some local shops. A few even took a relaxing soak in cabin provided hot tub! Donations to the Vacation Fund and a Chili Fundraiser assisted with the cost of this trip.



2ND
ANNUAL

SPOOKTACULAR

Thank you!

Thank you so much for making our 2nd Annual Spooktacular & \$10,000 Reverse Raffle fundraiser an amazing night! Your support helps us to fulfill our mission and provide crucial services to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Northeast Tennessee Region.

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Gourmet & Co.
Hands On Discovery Center
and Gray Fossil Site
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International Storytelling Center
Jacobs Brothers Cabinets
Jay & Beth Miller
Johnson City Brewing Company
Johnson City Country Club
Jones Chiropractic Clinic
Keith Dixon Studios
Luray Caverns
Mahoney's
Main Street Antiques
Martha Washington Inn
Mauk's
Mike & Nina Marchioni
Momac Studio / Ladonna West
Mona Lisa

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Mutual Omaha
Nona Ruth's Stationary
Olive Oil Divine
On the Rocks Bartenders
One Stop Wine & Spirits
Otter Products, LLC
Panera Bread
Renasant Bank
Rhoda Epstein
Rob Hungate
Soleus Massage
South Holston River Cabins
Southwest Airlines
Symphony of the Mountains
Tamara Marshall
Tennessee Hills Distributing
The Black Olive
The Detail Shop
The Posy Shop
The Salt Mind Experience
The True Healthy You
Tri-Cities DJ's
Tweetsie Railroad
Universal Wine & Spirits
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Walmart - Browns Mill Road
Walmart - W. Market Street
Wilderness at the Smokies



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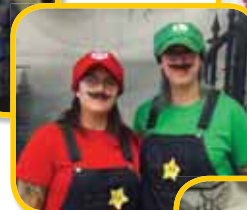
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BOO-TIFUL BAY PHOTO AREA SPONSOR

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A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Kelsi Arnold
Shantel Balentine
Kellie Barger
Jeana Bradford
Paula Bridges
Joseph Byrd
Cara Campbell
Melissa Carl
Ronnie Carr
Wendi Carter
Jim Cavin
Lee Chase
Ursula Chester
Courtney Corcoran
Steve Cox
Charles Danuser
Noah Davis
Morgan Doss
Sam East
Shelton Eldridge
Danielle Ensor
Crystal Feathers-Smith
Wendy Fields
Marsha Grindstaff
David Guy
Shannon Haney
Jessica Hatley
Kyla Hensley
Timothy Hensley

Keri Holloway
Amanda Hopson
Donna Hopson
Poole Jenny
Crystal Jobe
Sharon Lloyd
Lora
Bobbi Love
Susan Lovelace
Josh Mancuso
Chuck Mason
Brooke Miller
Tonya Moore
Melissa Murrell
Myra Paessler
Lisa Pawley
Brenda Phelps
Joshua Robbins
Rachel Roberson
Pam Sams-Cox
Katie Stacy
Michelle Steele
Rebecca Steels
Tamara Briscoe
Codi Taylor
Amy Thomas
Cosmo Tice
Cassandra Warren
Janie Whittimore

Kelly Whittimore
Ash Williams
BreAnna Woods
Justin Wright

SPOOKTACULAR CREATIONS!

This year people utilized their creativity to get involved with decorating for the 2018 Spooktacular fundraiser. Multiple hands worked at creating advertising signs which were posted around town while others turned cardboard squares into a brick wall for the Day of the Dead themed room at the event!



Our Employees Rock!

October 15th kicked off employee appreciation week at Dawn of Hope! In honor of all the amazing, dedicated, and hardworking staff we hosted a fun filled week of theme days and prize giveaways. Themes included were Crazy Hat, Hair & Outfit Day, Pajama Day, Cancer Awareness Day, Throwback Thursday, and Team Spirit Day! Many service recipients got into the spirit and dressed up to celebrate their staff as well! The week climaxed with a celebratory lunch compliments of Honey Hot Dogs & Gardner Paint Co.

Dawn of Hope is truly blessed to have more than 280 employees who all play a crucial role in providing high quality, dedicated care to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in East Tennessee. Thank you so much!



Hope ^{for the} Holidays

Join us in raising **\$4,400** or adopt a lady or gentleman & purchase their gifts! Help us ensure that everyone has *gifts to open* on Christmas morning!

The holidays are a time for family & cheer; Help bring *joy* this season!



"It isn't how much we give, but how much love we put into giving."

- MOTHER TERESA

If you would like to purchase gifts instead of a monetary contribution, please call 423-722-1689 for more information.

MAIL THIS PORTION WITH YOUR DONATION

Dawn of Hope Foundation
Hope for the Holidays
P.O. Box 30
Johnson City, TN 37605

Yes! I want to spread some holiday cheer!

DONATION AMOUNT: \$ _____

*Donations may be made in memory or honor of a loved one.

DONATION OPTIONS:

Invoice Me: _____
email to send invoice

- ☐ **Check** (Please make payable to Dawn of Hope Foundation)
☐ **Credit Card** (visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express)
☐ **Card No.** _____ **Exp.** _____ **CSC** _____ **Zip** _____

If you have questions or if you would like to purchase gifts instead of a monetary contribution, please call 423-722-1689 for more information.

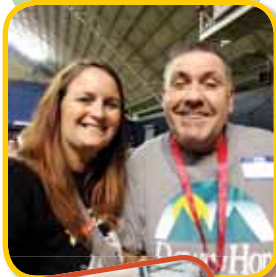
www.DawnOfHope.com

Need Holiday Cards? Purchase a pack of 20 holiday cards designed by Dawn of Hope Service recipients (3 designs per pack).

\$5 per pack of 20

All proceeds go to our Hope for the Holidays Campaign & help provide holiday gifts!

Work • Play • Community



Creativity keeps the Spirit Alive

The 2018 Dawn of Hope Art Show was a plethora of masterpieces which had been created throughout the year. Proceeds from the Art Show assist the artists or group of artists in purchasing additional creative supplies.



This holiday, make a difference while you shop

Shop for holiday gifts and supplies at smile.amazon.com and Amazon donates

You shop. Amazon donates.
amazonsmile

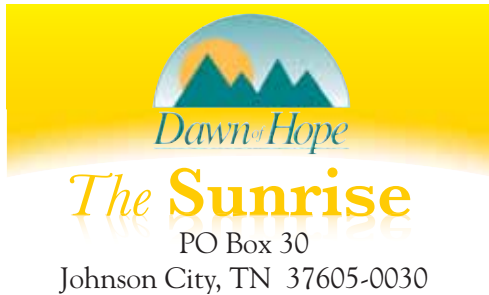
Support Dawn of Hope with each purchase! <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-1774736>



Save the Date!

2019 Golf Classic

Monday, May 13th at the Johnson City Country Club



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Memorials



Charles David Jones
1/26/1943 - 2/10/2018



Betty Smithpeters
2/19/1953 - 5/11/2018



Sammy Colbert
2/18/1956 - 7/5/2018



Larry Hazelwood
11/19/1952 - 9/25/2018



Milton Phipps
11/21/1949 - 10/8/2018