

Ten Years of HOPE

It hardly seems possible that Hope Care Center is ten years old. And while it has certainly been ten years of hope and success, it is unfortunate that the need for a place like Hope Care Center continues to be so critical. It is rare that we celebrate the success of an endeavor and at the same time wish that the need for it would end. These two seemingly opposing concepts truly come together at Hope Care Center...and are bridged

of more than two years of work by Project Hope, a not-for-profit board of medical personnel, concerned citizens, caseworkers and people with HIV/AIDS." Among the group was Sharon Lee, MD and Jane Crnkovich, RN who had first hand knowledge of the barriers encountered by their patients. Dr. Lee first served as the President of the Board of Directors and later served as the Medical Director for the facility. Jane Crnkovich served as the Director of Nursing initially and later moved to the position of Administrator. Many other volunteers served in roles separate from the Board of Directors. Ruth Michael and Jo Kelley are long-term volunteers, who continue to help in Hope's front office, but who also had many roles over the years, including helping to clean the facility prior to its opening. Keith Anderson contributed original art work that he created to help the facility be more homelike. And many, many other people volunteered and helped in other ways.



Missouri State Rep. Jeneé Lowe, reads from an official decree commemorating Hope Care Center's 10 year anniversary while Center Staff Members Ann Hron, Mitch Wood and Mike McTavish look on.

Hope Care Center was formed as a way to provide care for people with HIV/AIDS who needed care beyond what could be provided at home, and yet did not need to be hospitalized. At that time there was a great deal of difficulty finding nursing homes where these residents could be cared for and comfortable. Traditional nursing homes that primarily served elderly residents simply did not provide an environment in which younger people, even some in their 20's, could feel comfortable. This truly left a gap between hospitals and home.

So in the early 1990's, this committed group of volunteers began what surely must have seemed to be a nearly impossible task. Simply put, this task included:

- Purchase a property,
- Hire a staff of thirty,
- Develop a plan to make the finances work,
- Get special Medicaid legislation passed by the state,
- Renovate a nursing home built in the 1950's, and closed for a number of years,
- Furnish the facility,
- Operate within the rules and regulations of one of the most highly regulated industries in the country,
- Provide excellent skilled nursing care to every resident.

together by our realization that if the need continues to exist, that we need to do our absolute best to meet the need, and that we need to celebrate our success in doing so. That's what Hope Care Center is all about!

Hope is such a fitting name for what came into existence ten years ago. At that time we were fifteen years into the disease HIV/AIDS and as a society were still learning how to best deal with its many effects. In Kansas City we were very fortunate to have a committed group of community volunteers who recognized that there were significant gaps in the continuum of care that was needed for people with HIV/AIDS. As was stated in the first newsletter in January 1995 "The facility is the culmination

www.hopecarecenter.org
 Kansas City, MO 64114
 115 E. 83rd St.
HOPE CARE CENTER

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Send a Donation Today!

You can make a difference in one person's life with your donation to Hope Care Center. Any donation, great or small, is truly appreciated. Please return the envelope inside this newsletter with as much as you can give.

HIV/AIDS

community events calendar

AIDS WALK Kick-Off Celebration
Thursday, Jan. 25th, 5pm-7pm
 Bar Natasha

The 2007 Kansas City Conference on AIDS
Friday, Feb 9th, 8am-6pm
 Embassy Suites – Country Club Plaza
 Presented by Good Samaritan Project
 Details at www.goodsamaritanproject.org

AIDS WALK OPEN
Saturday, Mar. 3rd, 10am-6pm
 Details at www.aidswalkkansascity.org

MOSAIC
"A World Without AIDS"
Friday, Apr. 6th, 5pm-8:30pm
 Art Lobby at 2020 Baltimore

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Through tremendous commitment and an unthinkable amount of hard work Hope Care Center actually came to be and admitted its first resident in September of 1996!

As amazing as this history seems, the work was only beginning. In the years that followed it became very clear that Hope Care Center was very much needed and that it served a critically important role in the community, caring for over 200 residents in a caring, supportive and homelike environment. As time passed, Hope became nearly full most of the time, continued to enjoy the generosity of the community, and gained stability as an operating business. As time passed, great improvements were made in the treatment of HIV/AIDS and in many cases allowed thoughts of having a future for people infected as opposed to only the prospect of death as was the case for so many early on. In so many ways this is a time for celebration, yet it is still so clear at this point that the need for care of people with HIV/AIDS will be with us for some time into the future. At this time, the number of people living with HIV/AIDS in Kansas City is more than double what it was when the concept of Hope Care Center was born, so the challenges and the reasons to celebrate will continue.

As we enter our second decade, we thank you for your tremendous support and caring. We look to the future with continued hope and a desire to find ways that we can continue to improve the lives of people with HIV/AIDS, and care for them in a caring, supportive, homelike environment. Just as there were gaps in the care available ten years ago, there are gaps now. Perhaps more subtle, but there continue to be needs that go unmet. So stay with us as we continue our work so that hopefully some day we won't be needed any longer.

Hope Care Center, Inc. Past Presidents

*Thank you
for your
commitment
and hard work!*

Sharon Lee, MD
Charlotte Hill
Bill Quinn
Pat Kelley
Mike McTavish
Jeff Knight
Dan Hubbard
Glenn Van Stavern
Jan Russell

Colaboration with **SAVE, Inc.**

For many years SAVE, Inc. leased two apartments located on the Hope Care Center property that were used by SAVE to provide transitional housing for people with HIV/AIDS. In the summer of 2005, SAVE experienced significant funding cuts and notified us that they would no longer be able to lease the two apartments. Just prior to that time we had experienced a similar possibility of funding cuts that worked out favorably, so we understood the difficulties resulting from this situation. As a result, we recognized the opportunity to work with SAVE in a way that could help offset a small part of their funding loss by renovating the three apartments and leasing them to SAVE for one dollar per year.



Mark Anderson, Executive Director of SAVE, Inc., Kansas City
Mayor Kay Barnes and Mike McTavish, CFO of Hope Care Center.

Everyone involved in this collaboration was excited that these apartments would be available to people served by SAVE, so on August 28, 2006, Hope Care Center hosted a luncheon celebration at which Mayor Kay Barnes officially 'cut the ribbon' to the apartments. The celebration was well-attended by board members and staff from both organizations as well as many other supporters from the community. SAVE and Hope Care Center are both grateful to the many people who made this important collaboration possible.



THANK YOU! for your 2006 Contributions!



Hope Care Center recognizes and thanks the following individuals
and organizations for their generous gifts in 2006.

AIDS Service
Foundation of Greater KC
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Alliance of Greater KC
United Ways
American Century Foundation
Dr. Terry Anderson
Richard & Emily
Ballentine Charitable Fund
Marla Blanton
John Bridenbaugh
Darrell Brooks
John & Nancy Brooks
Church of the Resurrection
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Please notify the HCC office at 816-523-3988 if we have inadvertently left your name off this donation list.