



REPLACING BARRIERS WITH BRIDGES OF HOPE

Sending Hope

www.HopeCenterAtPullen.org

The Hope Center at Pullen is a beacon of hope for members of our community who are struggling to overcome homelessness and make a new start in their lives.

**Winter
2011**



2011 Raising Hope Dinner Meets Goal

Raises a Record \$20,000

Our 2nd Annual Raising Hope Dinner was held in Finlator Hall at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church on September 18th. One hundred thirty-two people gathered for a fun, relaxing evening with great food, including delicious homemade desserts and cakes donated by Sara Lee, wonderful music, the screening of our new video, and a touching personal testimony given by Judy, one of our program participants (see the “Finding Hope, Finding a Home” article on page 4). When we announced that we had reached our fundraising goal of \$20,000 the hall erupted with clapping and cheering.

We were able to reach this ambitious goal because a very diverse group of people decided to work together. We want to recognize our Raising Hope donors along with everyone who has supported the center this year (see the “2011 Donors” list printed here). Thanks to your generosity The Hope Center will be able to show even more of our homeless neighbors that we care. Raising Hope also renewed the spirits of everyone who participated. Each of us left knowing that we are a part of something special. It was a great feeling and a great evening thanks to all of the volunteers and donors who helped us reach our goal.

You can watch our new video about The Hope Center online.

To go directly to the video [click here](#), or search for Hope Center at Pullen on www.YouTube.com.



Off to a Great Start

Cycle for Hope Raises \$2,975

Our very first Cycle for Hope fundraiser raised almost three thousand dollars, and it went so well that plans are already underway for a 2nd Annual Cycle for Hope in 2012. The rainy September weather did not dampen the spirits of the 42 riders, or the volunteers who gathered to send them off. Cyclists of all ages participated in the event, which had a choice of two bike routes: a 40-mile ride through three local parks with lake trails, or a 12-mile ride on the greenway.

Special thanks to Serena and Ted Buckner who planned and organized this brand new event, as well as to all of the cyclists who participated, the great volunteers who worked so hard

to make it possible, and our wonderful sponsors who are listed with our 2011 donors in this newsletter. We also want to thank our in-kind sponsors for their generous support: Food Lion at Creedmore Crossing, Harris Teeter at Old Raleigh Village, P. H. Enterprises, REI, Trader Joe’s of Cary, and Whole Foods Market.

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Anne Sayers, MSW

Our Vision for the Future

a message from The Hope Center at Pullen Board of Directors

Dear Friends,

As chair of the board of directors for The Hope Center at Pullen, I am privileged to witness the profound relief felt by homeless men and women who walk through our doors and discover that they have *finally* found someone who can help them. With the opening of The Hope Center in 2009, we began to fill a critical gap in the support system provided by Wake County's network of social services agencies. Since then we have dedicated ourselves to providing help to those who need it most—men, women, and families with children who are experiencing homelessness, or who are at risk of becoming homeless. The unabated disruption of our economy is forcing more and more people to turn to The Hope Center for help. We have stretched our limited resources to meet this increased demand for our services and we are committed to growing both our programs and our financial support so that we can maintain this important outreach to our neighbors in need.

To ensure the continued fulfillment of The Hope Center's mission, in 2010 the board of directors began to develop a long-term plan for stable and sustainable growth in the quality and quantity of the center's services. The result of this process is a sophisticated strategic plan that will guide our development over the next five years. In January of this year, we hired two new staff members as part of this effort:

Diane Daily, as job readiness program manager, and Pat Hielscher, as office manager. The center has flourished under their care and the board of directors is pleased to announce Diane Daily's promotion to executive director. She has demonstrated exceptional leadership, vision and passion for The Hope Center and she brings considerable social services management experience to her new role. As executive director, Diane will be able to streamline operations, offer daily guidance to the center, and provide consistent execution of the strategic plan established by the board of directors.



Diane Daily with George, a Job Readiness Program participant

With these important planning and leadership developments in place, as well as enrichments to the Job Readiness Program introduced this year by Diane (see the "New Growth" article on page 3), the board is confident that The Hope Center is well prepared for 2012 and beyond. We are so grateful to all of the wonderful donors and volunteers who have helped us reach this point. If you are not yet part of The Hope Center family, I invite you to visit us at www.HopeCenterAtPullen.org to learn more about us, and how you can become involved in our life-giving work in Wake County. Together, we can keep hope alive in the hearts of those who have lost their jobs and their homes—and we can help them build a better future for themselves, their families, and our community as a whole.

With gratitude,

Anne Sayers

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New Growth

Job Readiness Program Extends its Reach

This year, the Hope Center's Job Readiness Program helped twenty people take positive action to find employment and restore balance to their lives, and there were over six hundred visits to our JobLinks access point by men and women seeking assistance with job searches. At The Hope Center, we take a comprehensive and personalized approach to each job seeker's needs by working with them to create a life plan, set goals and form strategies for success that are tailored to their abilities.

Our Job Readiness Program now includes not only job search assistance, but also support to deal with the psychological stresses of unemployment and homelessness, as well as education guidance to help improve job prospects through skill development. Participants can take advantage of on-site mental health assessments and counseling with a licensed mental health professional, as well as work with our education specialist to develop learning goals and create personal learning plans.

We also actively link participants to community resources and program partners and this year we have formed an important new relationship with StepUP Ministry. This partnership allows The Hope Center to provide our Job Readiness Program services to participants in StepUP's program for homeless military veterans. Our collaboration increases the services available to veterans, and reduces the difficulty of accessing those services by allowing StepUP staff to meet with participants at our location.

More partnerships are on the horizon for The Hope Center as we develop opportunities to work with like-minded organizations such as Haven House Services and Wake Technical



Mental Health Consultant Allyson Siegel, LPCA, NCC listens to an update from James, a program participant

Community College's Fostering Bright Futures Program. The Hope Center's model for success is partnership. We believe that we must connect and share with others in order to achieve our goals. And so, we work together—with the men and women who come to The Hope Center for help, with our partner agencies, and with the community. By doing so, we make the most of our resources so that we can serve the growing number of men, women and youth who need our help in these tough economic times.



Education Specialist Cristina Ruiz works with Cherie, a program participant

More Good News

Hope Center Receives ABC Foundation Grant

The Hope Center at Pullen has been awarded a 2011 Palmer Grant in the amount of \$18,125 through the American Baptist Churches Foundation. The Hope Center was one of eighteen ABC-USA-related congregations and organizations that recently received \$5,000-\$25,000 each to enhance their outreach.

JobLink Welcomes New AmeriCorps Volunteers

We welcome Carlos Williams and Jalissa Truesdale who are working one afternoon each week in our JobLink Center. Carlos is from Dunn and is a recent graduate of UNC Charlotte. Jalissa is from Greensboro and is passionate about working with our homeless population.

You can help us grow online

To go directly to our page [click here](#), or visit www.NetworkForGood.org and type The Hope Center at Pullen in the Charity Name field then click on the Search button. You will be taken to the center's Network for Good page and Donate Now button. Just click and give—it's that easy!

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Finding Hope, Finding a Home

by Diane Daily

You may have met Judy, one of our program participants, when she told her story during a Sunday service at Pullen Church, or at our Raising Hope Dinner.



Our Job Readiness Program participant Judy has a new job, a new home, and is “doing great!”

When I met Judy she was living in her car. She did not want to go to a homeless shelter because her 13-year old son was “too old” to stay with her in the women’s area—he would have had to stay in the men’s section of the shelter, alone. So, Judy slept in her car while her son stayed with family and friends for a few nights at a time. Her situation seemed hopeless until she discovered The Hope Center at Pullen.

What a difference that discovery has made! Judy’s life has changed dramatically in just a short time. With the help of The Hope Center team, Judy was able to repair her car and secure a position working in a dentist’s office. Then, The Hope Center and a loving couple from Pullen Church made sure that Judy and her son had safe places to stay while she earned enough money for her first month’s rent and deposit. Because of this support, Judy quickly was able to move into

a home of her own—one block from her son’s school and a short distance from her job.

Judy asked me to “be sure” to tell everyone who heard her story in September that she is “doing great!” and that she thanks you from the bottom of her heart—because healing is not just about finding a job, or a home, it is about connecting with people who believe in you and sincerely care. And Judy’s connection with The Hope Center remains strong. She continues to work on her long-term goals with our team, and one day hopes to call herself a college graduate. When she reaches that goal, I will be sure to let you know.