



Foundation of  
**HOPE**  
ANNUAL REPORT 2015

# Executive Director, Susan Orr, MA

## Dear Foundation of HOPE Supporter:



**T**HE YEAR 2015 was a game-changing year for Foundation of HOPE (HOPE). On the following pages, you'll catch a glimpse of how HOPE has had an impact on so many lives since it was formed by Christian Associates of Southwest PA (CASP) in 2002. HOWEVER, 2015 was a pivotal year for Foundation of HOPE, because, as of January 1, 2015, HOPE and CASP officially became separate entities, HOPE taking on its own identity.

I started as HOPE's first full-time executive director just weeks later, on Jan. 20. I continue to be amazed by the work staff and volunteers alike accomplish to improve the lives of Allegheny County Jail inmates and ex-offenders. Supporting inmates and ex-offenders throughout the day, 365 days a year, our staff and volunteers are the reason HOPE's mission to "Empower incarcerated and released individuals to restore their relationship with their God, rebuild their lives, and reconcile to their communities" is as relevant as it was when CASP first created the program at the beginning of this millennium.

Here's to another stellar year for Foundation of HOPE, doing what we do best: helping to give people the opportunity to have a second chance at a successful life.

All the best,

*Susan Orr*

Susan Orr, MA  
Executive Director



## The Mission of HOPE

The Foundation of HOPE is an interfaith non-profit with the mission to "Empower incarcerated and released individuals to restore their relationship with their God, rebuild their lives, and reconcile to their communities."

## The History of HOPE

The Foundation of HOPE grew out of Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania's (CASP) former chaplaincy program. CASP incubated, fostered, and nurtured the growth of HOPE. The two organizations continue to work closely with one another as partners in ministry.

The Foundation of HOPE offers inmates and ex-offenders the opportunity for a new life by offering three distinct elements of a continuum of care: Chaplaincy, Pre-Release, and Aftercare. We offer chaplaincy services in Allegheny County Jail and in Shuman Juvenile Detention Center. The Pre-Release Program takes place in the Allegheny County Jail. Our Aftercare office on Pittsburgh's North Side serves ex-offenders coming out of county, state, and federal institutions.

The goals of the program are accomplished through counseling, religious services, discipleship, practical resources and referrals, life skills education within and outside the jail, choice awareness training, and one-on-one mentoring. HOPE serves inmates regardless of their race, age, ethnic background, or faith tradition. The Chaplain's Office cares for inmates of Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and Muslim traditions, among others.

Since 2002, HOPE has been providing a continuum of care for inmates and ex-offenders in Allegheny County. The Foundation of HOPE became a registered 501(c)(3) in 2006.

HOPE currently offers its programs in Allegheny County, but expects to expand services to other areas over the next few years.



## Evening of HOPE

Here's a recipe for a successful fundraiser: Have the support of nearly 200 guests; numerous corporate sponsors; a well-known media sponsor; much-loved honorary co-chairs; a long-time staple on local television as emcee; a stellar planning committee; and numerous in-kind donations. That said, Foundation of HOPE's "Evening of HOPE" fundraiser could be considered quite the success. As a matter of fact, it turned out to be a record-breaking event, raising nearly \$40,000!

Taking place at the Rivers Club, the evening included presentations by three HOPE participants, and words of support from honorary co-chairs Charlie and Tasha Batch.

Thanks to their support and the support of corporate sponsors: UPMC; Sears Home Services; Monteverde's; Allegheny Plywood; First Lutheran Church; Good Looks Eyewear; InSight LASIK & Refractive Group; The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh; Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; Graway family; Adventure Development; Grace United Presbyterian Church; and media sponsor Pittsburgh Magazine.



Long-time volunteer Mary Harwick presenting co-honorary chairs Charlie and Tasha Batch with a plaque signed by HOPE participants



Emcee Jon Burnett shares a laugh with Chaplain Vernetta Byrd

## Voices of HOPE

*Our programs make a difference to hundreds of incarcerated and released men and women every year. Here, in their own voices, HOPE clients talk about the challenges and victories they face as they rebuild their lives.*



Executive Director Susan Orr; General Minister to Pittsburgh Presbytery Sheldon Sorge; Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh The Right Rev. Dorsey, VIII Bishop; and CASP Executive Minister The Rev. Liddy Barlow



Fundraiser planning committee

**JEFF G.** 34, lives in Beechview. Addicted to heroin for more than a decade, he was in and out of jail so many times he lost count, mostly for retail theft to support his addiction. Today, Jeff is clean, and works his AA program to the fullest. He persevered in his job search and is employed in a good-paying sales job. He continues growing spiritually, and is committed to being a good father to his seven-year-old daughter. Jeff contends that the HOPE Pre-Release and Aftercare programs put him on the right path.

*“Staying clean is hard, but it has been possible for me with God’s help. I spent seven months on the HOPE Pod [and] saw that positive things can happen. Through HOPE, I saw that God is there for me. Please let everyone on the HOPE Pod know that if I can do it, anyone can.”*

## Collaboration with Chatham University

Foundation of HOPE's **Aftercare Program** recently teamed up with Chatham University to offer VoiceCATCH (Voice Creation AT Chatham), a free writing program for ex-offenders and their supporters. Members of VoiceCATCH write from prompts, share work, and support each other's writing. This program is free, informal, and open to the public.

Meetings take place at 10am on the second Saturday of each month at New Hope United Methodist Church on the North Side and all other Saturdays at the East Liberty Branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.



## Mother's HOPE

*Good Night, Moon... Dr. Seuss's Green Eggs and Ham... Harry Potter...*

What mother doesn't treasure the special bond she creates with her child while she reads them one of these beloved stories? Thanks to **Mother's HOPE**, children can continue that cherished bonding time even when their mother, or grandmother, is incarcerated. With help from volunteers from the Foundation of HOPE Pre-Release Program and Shadyside Presbyterian Church, mothers use donated digital recorders to read age-appropriate books to their children. Shadyside Presbyterian Church then packages and mails the recorded CD and a copy of the book to each child. Over 45 women have recorded books to date.

"The program keeps women connected to their children and creates a lifetime keepsake for them and their children," explains Caitlin Werth, director, Foundation of HOPE Pre-Release Program.

## Mentoring Program

In 2015, 55 inmates were matched with mentors who maintain professional relationships with their mentees by visiting them in jail at least three times a month and maintaining the match for at least a year. Continuing education classes provide mentors with the tools necessary to maximize their effectiveness. Upon release, HOPE's weekly support groups provide a forum for ex-offenders and their supporters to share resources, network, and address social, intellectual, vocational, spiritual, emotional, environmental, and physical needs.



## Chaplaincy: Holy Thursday

More than 40 Allegheny County Jail inmates were able to attend Holy Thursday worship services with Bishop David Zubik on April 2, 2015. The service included Bishop Zubik performing the ritual of washing, drying and kissing the feet of 12 inmates who volunteered to be a part of a tradition of service, just as Jesus did on Holy Thursday.



**MICHAEL G.**, 36, is a college graduate and Army veteran from Altoona, PA. Felony drug charges and a second DUI sent him to the Allegheny County Jail. He no longer has the desire to become a high school history teacher. Instead, his job, staying clean, reestablishing his former life and his relationship with his family, and keeping his freedom are paramount. Michael appreciates the honesty and support he received from the HOPE Pre-Release and Aftercare programs. He still visits HOPE's Aftercare Center on the Northside where he uses the computer stations and gets support and "big-picture advice" from Aftercare director, Jody Raeford, a source of stability and optimism.

"In jail, you can sit and vegetate, or try to rehabilitate yourself in a program like the HOPE Pod. I never want to go back where I was, so I learned how to reach out for help. HOPE kept me on the right path. Trying to restore your life is daunting. You have to keep working and stay busy. Most of all, you can never give up."

# HOPE at a glance...

Nearly 500 Chaplaincy, Pre-Release, and Aftercare volunteers gave **13,747** hours in 2015.

## Chaplaincy

- 20,400** attended Christian worship services
- 3,527** attended Muslim services
- 16,471** written inmate requests were answered
- 2,292** care packages were delivered
- 7,442** attended Bible study groups
- 205** attended Jehovah Witnesses Watchtower services
- 490** attended Buddhist meditations
- 4** attended Jewish Studies
- 36** attended Native American circles
- 5,081** volunteer Chaplain visits
- 895** reading glasses were distributed

## Pre-Release Program

- 344** men were served
- 157** women were served
- 121** men graduated
- 26** women graduated
- 26%** the average increase in pre-test to post-test scores
- 38** women & their children served through Mother's HOPE

## Aftercare

- 730** support group visits
- 227** served
- 52** received transportation assistance
- 110** received employment assistance
- 145** utilized our computer stations
- 55** matched with a mentor

## Fundraising

**\$30,000**

raised from organizations via the annual Christmas Appeal and individual donations

**\$40,000**

raised for the Evening of HOPE fundraiser and general donations

**\$125,000**

support from foundations

**NIKIYA D.**, 38, saw her life change dramatically after her arrest for disorderly conduct. She could no longer work as a mentor in an after school program for at-risk youth, and her dreams of going to nursing school vanished. Nikiya struggled to support herself and her children, ages 11 and 7. Without a job, she couldn't afford to pay the fine that would expunge her record. Though she was never jailed, having a record meant finding a new job became difficult at best. She turned to the Foundation of HOPE Aftercare program. HOPE gave Nikiya a new perspective on her situation, and practical help in her job search. With HOPE, she says, her future doesn't seem as bleak anymore.

“The HOPE Aftercare program has given me encouragement and a new outlook. I've taken full advantage of the personal counseling, help with my resume and job referrals. I believe God brings people in your path. I'm keeping an open mind—I know eventually I will find work and proceed with becoming a nurse.”

# Foundation of HOPE Board and Staff

Susan Orr, MA, Executive Director  
Foundation of HOPE  
616 North Highland Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
Phone: 412-688-9070  
sorr@foundationofhope.org

## CHAPLAINCY PROGRAMS

The Rev. Kimberly Greway, MDiv  
Chief Operating Officer; Director  
of Chaplaincy Services  
950 Second Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Phone: 412-350-2057  
kimberly.greway@alleghenycounty.us

## PRE-RELEASE PROGRAM

The Rev. Caitlin Werth, MDiv,  
Pre-Release Director  
950 Second Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Phone: 412-350-1322  
caitlin.werth@alleghenycounty.us

## AFTERCARE PROGRAM

Jody Raeford, MS, Aftercare Director  
114 W. North Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
Phone: 412-321-3343  
jraeford@foundationofhope.org

## STAFF

Imam Dawud Abdul-Alim, Muslim Chaplain  
The Rev. Dallas Brown, Protestant Chaplain  
Marci Burkhart, Office Manager  
Brittany Buttry-Watson, Aftercare Assistant Director  
The Rev. Vernetta Byrd, Protestant Chaplain  
Mark Carter, OFM Cap., Catholic Chaplain  
Deacon Ross Dacal, Catholic Deacon  
Jean Marie Farina, Catholic Coordinator  
The Rev. Kimberly Greway, Director of Chaplaincy/COO  
Dennis Klemash, OFM Cap., Catholic Chaplain  
Frances Morrow, Pre-Release Administrative Assistant  
The Rev. Floyd Palmer, Shuman Chaplain  
Susan Orr, MA, Executive Director  
Jody Raeford, MS, HOPE Aftercare Program Director  
The Rev. Caitlin Werth, MDiv, Pre-Release Director  
Meghan Wise, Pre-Release Service Coordinator  
Deacon Timothy Zenchak, Catholic Deacon

## Board of Directors

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Susan Orr, MA, Executive Director

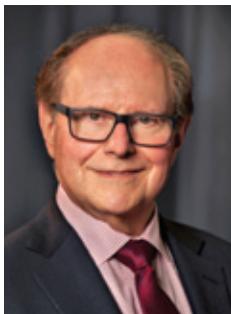
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Worth M. Helms  
Jackie Keiner-Szwarc  
The Rt. Rev. Dorsey McConnell  
Hon. Patricia McCullough  
Carol Popp

### MEMBER EMERITUS

Rev. John Cochran

## A New HOPE Board President



John A. Tumolo, Esq.



Daniel W. Kunz, Esq.

Foundation of HOPE wants to thank board member John Tumolo, Esq. for dedicating more than six years to HOPE as its board president.

Board member Daniel W. Kunz, Esq. was voted in as president in May. He has served on the board for six years. Kunz currently is practicing law at his private practice in Pittsburgh. He sits on numerous boards and committees throughout Western Pennsylvania. Kunz received his Bachelor of Science in Management from Saint Vincent College, his Masters of Business Administration at Duquesne University's John F. Donahue Graduate School of Business and his Juris Doctor Degree from Duquesne University School of Law.

By the time **SHAELYN N.**, of Washington, PA, was 27 years old, she had been incarcerated for four years. Most young women her age were starting careers, getting married, planning families. Instead, Shaelyn was doing time for selling drugs. It took Shaelyn's own courage and maturity, and help from her HOPE mentor to pull the young woman out of the mire of crime and punishment that nearly destroyed her. Shaelyn learned that the riches she thought she'd found in the illegal drug world were not worth the pain of having your freedom, and your baby, taken away. She also learned that having someone care about you in the worst of times can be life's most priceless gift.

"HOPE has a really good program; my mentor is like a mother figure. I've learned to stay strong when there are struggles in life. And that you have to work hard for what you want. When God puts obstacles in your way, you need to be strong. I've been out for two years now, and I still stay in touch with my mentor. I have a good job [but] I hope to go to school one day."

# 2015 Financial Report

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## EXPENSES

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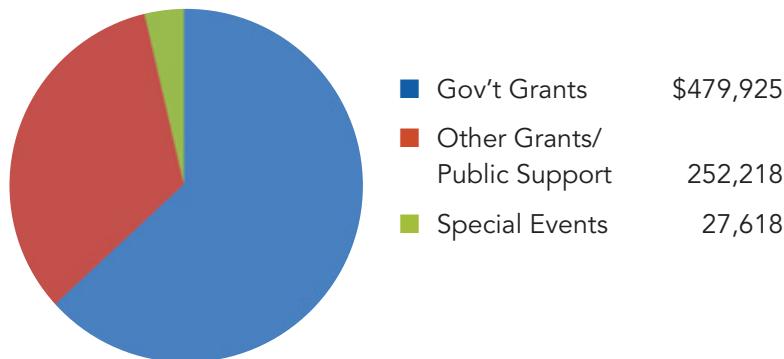
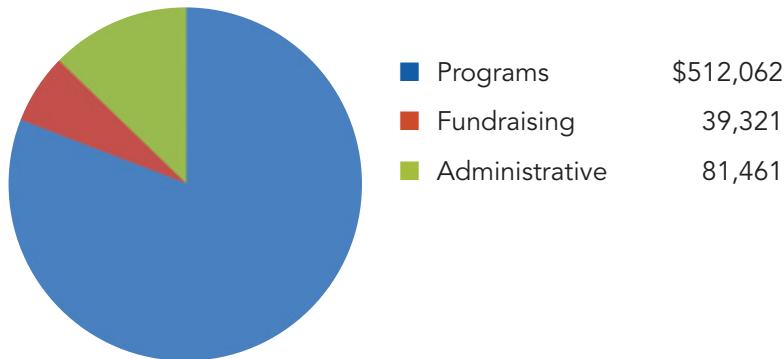
Programs	\$ 512,062
Fundraising	\$ 39,321
Administrative	\$ 81,461

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## REVENUE

Government Grants	\$ 479,925
Other Grants/Public Support	\$ 252,218
Special Events	\$ 27,618

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*Full financials are available upon request.*

# Foundation of HOPE Donors

## ORGANIZATIONS

Adventure Champion Partnership  
All Saints Church, Ladies of Charity  
Allegheny Center Alliance Church  
Allegheny Plywood Co.  
Association for the Ladies of Charity  
Bellvue Knights of Columbus  
Bull Creek United Presbyterian Church  
Women's Association  
CGH Garage Doors, Inc.  
Church of the Redeemer, Evangelical Church  
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First Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Women  
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New Life Community Church of God  
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Sisters of St. Joseph H-55  
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## Foundation of HOPE: Staying Connected

In 2015, we introduced three forms of communication: the website, Facebook and “e-News,” HOPE’s quarterly e-newsletter.

HOPE’s website:

**[www.foundationofhope.org](http://www.foundationofhope.org)**

Facebook:

**[www.facebook.com/foundationofhopepgh/](http://www.facebook.com/foundationofhopepgh/)**

HOPE’s “e-News” newsletter.

If you’d like to be added to HOPE’s mailing list or email distribution list, please call 412-350-2057 or visit [www.foundationofhope.org](http://www.foundationofhope.org)

The image displays two digital communication platforms for the Foundation of HOPE. On the left, a screenshot of the Fall 2015 issue of HOPE NEWS is shown. The newsletter features a blue header with the title 'HOPE NEWS' and 'FALL 2015'. Below the header is a photo of a woman. The main content includes an invitation to an 'Evening of HOPE' Fundraiser, a bio for Executive Director of the Foundation of HOPE, and a photo of a group of people. On the right, a screenshot of the Foundation of HOPE website is shown. The website has a light blue header with the 'Foundation of HOPE' logo. Below the header, there is a photo of a group of people and text that reads 'Spiritual Support and Practical Help for All Faiths.' and 'Excellence in Chaplaincy and Faith-based Pre- and Post Care for Incorporated and Reincarcerated Individuals'. The website also features a 'JOIN & SUPPORT' button.



**Foundation of HOPE**  
**616 North Highland Ave.**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15206**