



PROFILES OF HOPE: Meet Joe, an IOH volunteer and supporter:

With so many non-profits and charities out there, it's hard to understand how one is different from another. IOH is different because it teaches families a better way of doing things. It's the best program I've seen that breaks the cycle of poverty and dependence.

I came to IOH as a volunteer and heard Deborah speak. She told of her upbringing and how she was taught the importance of advancing her family as much, if not more, than her parents had. When she started a career in social work, she realized that many of the people she worked with were not raised this way. They were trapped in a cycle that negatively affected each generation.

Deborah's story hit home for me. I was raised in a middle class family by a very hardworking father. He overcame his own difficult upbringing to teach us the importance of hard work and determination. Like Deborah's parents, he showed by example that each generation can improve upon the last.

This isn't always the case and, in some families, old habits and patterns are repeated over and over. IOH stops this cycle by teaching people the skills they need to be independent. IOH provides families with a safe place to live while they learn how to do things the right way.

This is what makes IOH unique. It's why my company, Imagers, got involved and provided Christmas gifts for the children last year. It's why I continue to be involved, and am willing to promote IOH to anyone that will listen. I wish there were 100 apartments instead of just 10, because this program can change things – for the families living there now, and for generations to come.