



NEWS *of* HOPE

Offering pregnancy counseling & assistance since 1971 **Spring 2017**

A Reflection on

MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA

"To bring the joy of loving to every man, woman and child, born and unborn, so that they can be something special."

— St. Teresa of Calcutta

Such was the response of Mother Teresa when asked why she was opening homes for the Missionary Sisters of Charity, the religious community which she founded in 1950. I dare say her words echo the true spirit of Mother's Day, a time of joy, love and giving. Mother Teresa's witness to selfless love gave cause for Pope Francis to elevate her to the status of sainthood with the title St. Teresa of Calcutta on September 4, 2016.

St. Teresa's passion of unbounded love took her to the streets of Calcutta where she often picked up the dying out of the gutter and carried them to a place where they would not die alone. She did not hesitate to care for the lonely, the unsightly, the hungry and the diseased. Her dedication was to those who were the poorest of the poor and had no voice but hers. Among the defenseless for whom she spoke were the unborn. Mother Teresa decried that any attempt to destroy a baby in the womb was "a war against the child, a direct killing of an innocent child, murder by the mother herself." These harsh words give rise to our consciousness as to the horror of abortion.

Few of us, if any, will ever be called to serve the poor in the streets of Calcutta. But let us pause this Mother's Day and reflect on how we might give love to the vulnerable within our reach. It may include reaching out to someone who is pregnant and is in need of a place called HOPE.

Happy Mother's Day,
Agustina Temprano

Associate Director of HOPE in Northern Virginia

This Newsletter is Dedicated to the Memory of Mary Ferron (1916-2006)

When Mary Ferron became a HOPE Volunteer in the earliest of HOPE's 45 years, the place was located in the upstairs of a Deli in Falls Church.

Mary, mother of six children, one of whom was handicapped, took her turn answering night phone calls, then a necessary service of HOPE. Mary volunteered above the Deli and into the days of HOPE House, meeting with women seeking HOPE's help and also answering the phone. For years, she urged one of her daughters to be a volunteer, stressing that she had never "worked" with more wonderful people than she did the volunteers at HOPE.

A daughter finally became a volunteer, grateful for her mother and agreeing with Mary Ferron's enthusiastic recommendation of becoming a HOPE Volunteer.



HOPE Highlights



A trunk full of baby toiletry donations from the Women's Ministry of Grace Community Church in Arlington, Virginia.



HOPE Volunteers celebrate Associate Director Agustina's birthday.



Kay, a Saturday HOPE Volunteer, packages baby layettes with a smile and lots of TLC.



Vy and Chi, two of our high-school volunteers, sort through baby boy donations on a Saturday morning.



Choose a Pro-Life License Plate!

You may have seen the Choose Life Virginia license plates. Did you know that HOPE received over \$1,500 from this program in 2016? That's because Virginia donates \$15 out of the \$25 fee to Heartbeat International, a pro-life organization that transfers the funds to pro-life pregnancy centers around the country. HOPE receives the money because it is a Heartbeat affiliate.

Here are the steps to getting such a license plate from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles:

1. Visit: www.dmv.virginia.gov/vehicles/#splates/info.asp?idnm=CL
2. Click on "Check personal character combination availability"
3. Select your preference in section 2 and click "Purchase Plate Now"
4. Continue through the process. You will need your vehicle's VIN and title number.

When filling out your payment information, note that it is less expensive to purchase a new plate than to re-register.

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Turn shopping into giving! Please consider choosing HOPE as your recipient charity of choice for Amazon Smile. When you use the following link, a portion of all of the purchases you make on Amazon will go to benefit HOPE and support our operations: smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7189096

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DEAR FRIENDS OF HOPE,



My most vivid memory of spring is my mom's spring cleaning. At some point during Easter week, my mom would open every window in the house to let in fresh air. Since we lived in Chicago and Easter week would often land in March, it's a pretty brisk memory. No cases of frostbite that I recall, but my brother and I would compete to see who could see their breath first.

So how are we sprucing up HOPE this spring?

We continue to upgrade our online presence. Development of our client website has begun with the focus of attracting more mothers uncertain about continuing their pregnancy; and we are rededicating ourselves to our mission of - Every mother chooses life. We are currently engaged with our web developer in the initial brainstorming phase of capturing how we want our client website to appear and what content it should contain.

On another front, Joanna James, our newest Board of Directors member, established a Rich Site Summary (RSS) feed, allowing us to more directly communicate with you our donors. This feed allows donors to receive timely updates such as an urgent need for diapers or formula, while also providing you with details on scheduled events and softcopy access to information such as this newsletter.

Finally, we are exploring a more welcoming physical atmosphere for our clients, to include: updating the colors in our waiting area by incorporating warmer hues to more appropriately reflect the way we treat our clients.

With your support, HOPE will continue to open its doors, its arms and its heart in welcoming those who need reassurance in accepting the gift of life. Because of you, over 200 babies were given HOPE in 2016. We continue to thank you for your time, treasure and talent.

Michael Bergeron
HOPE Board President

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GIVE HOPE

Donations can be made online to support HOPE. Contributions directly support service to our clients, including free counseling, adoption support, material needs (i.e. cribs and diapers), housing references, and parenting classes.

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HOPE with others



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