



A NOTE FROM *Natalie*

Remembering Our Founder, Sister Hope Greener, CSJ

Each spring is a time of high emotion and celebration at Providence House as we prepare for our anniversary and Annual Meeting & Luncheon. This spring, it's filled with even more emotion, as we say goodbye to the amazing woman who started our beloved organization, my dear friend and mentor, Sister Hope Greener, of the Congregation of Saint Joseph.

Sister Hope passed away peacefully on March 15, 2024, just shy of her 96th birthday in May and only weeks before our Luncheon, which she opened with a prayer for the past 43 years. As I reflect on my relationship with Hope, there are so many special moments I will cherish, and want to share at least a few with you.

It was nearly 23 years ago, when I came to Providence House as a consultant during a time of transition, that I was able to work side-by-side with Hope. She soon became my sounding board and champion as we worked to tirelessly rebuild and grow the organization.

During the most challenging times, she would say, "Trust God's providence... That's why it's called Providence House; with God, anything is possible." And she was right! She would offer up prayers for our children, staff, and supporters... and providence would happen!

In one particularly lean period of the early days, Hope received a bill for \$250, and, thankfully, had also just received a donation of \$200 from Saint Ladislav Parish. She told me, she asked God, "What am I supposed to do for the other \$50?" And sure enough, another gift came in the mail that day that helped pay the rest of the bill. Providence.

Another time, someone dropped off a swing set for the children and left it in the backyard in pieces. Sister Hope had no idea how she was going to get it assembled. Then, someone knocked on the front door, said he was a handyman, and wanted to see if he could help. She showed him the swing set and went inside to make him a cup of coffee. When she came back, the swing set was assembled, and the man was gone. Providence.

Day after day... milk delivered by a stranger when the last drop was about to be used. Diapers, clothing, and paper towels were donated before she could scrape enough cash together to buy them. Supporters and strangers alike, sending gifts to help care for the children. Providence.

Sister Hope was the most humble person you would ever meet, but when a challenge arose, she was unapologetically feisty about what needed to be done for the children of Providence House, whom she loved fiercely.

On one of her very last visits to West Campus, she marveled at how it has grown and how many children it has cared for and loved. With one hand holding mine and the other on her heart, she said, "Oh my. I never dreamed it could ever be this!" Providence.

As we prepare for our 43rd Annual Meeting & Luncheon, this year's theme, "Celebrating 43 Years of Hope and Joy," is most apropos. It honors not only Sister Hope but another guardian angel of Providence House, Hope's dear friend, our long-time Luncheon Hostess and champion, Rena Joy (Blumberg) Olshansky, who passed away last fall. I can't begin to imagine all of the hope and joy they are shining down together on their beloved babies at Providence House.


I feel so blessed to have received so much foundational support and strength from these two incredible visionaries of our organization. I see our work today as a continuation of their legacy: at the core, we're fulfilling what they set out to do 43 years ago... keeping every child safe who needs us.

Please help celebrate their legacy of Hope & Joy, and over 15,000 kids kept safe and families together, by joining us on April 25 by visiting provhouse.org/luncheon. If you cannot attend, please give a gift today in honor of these incredible women and their lasting promise for providence to care for their beloved babies and children in crisis.

Natalie

Natalie A. Leek, President & CEO

Expanding Our Team to Enhance Our Services



On any given day at Providence House, we have an average of 40 children on our waitlist, due to a lack of resources and space at West Campus. Our new 20-bed East Campus Crisis Nursery will help address that need when it opens later this year, and we've recently made some exciting additions to our Team to further enhance our services for children and families in crisis.

INTAKE MANAGER

Our new Intake Manager and Social Worker, Aysha Straka, is now providing case management to families with children on our waitlist, helping to understand their needs and connect them to resources that can mitigate the crisis they're facing until we're able to welcome their child into our Crisis Nursery.

"I have the honor to help families on our waitlist - this means ongoing communication, collaboration, and providing support to families in crisis," said Aysha, "Whether it is a listening ear or a resource for food and clothing, I am able to build relationships with families before they come to Providence House."

Aysha strategically maximizes the space we have to get them in as soon as possible and brings in children whose families only need support for a few days as we prepare for those who will be staying with us for an extended period.

Another wonderful skill set Aysha brings to Providence House is the ability to offer a mental health assessment to all parents and guardians during the intake process to determine if they have an undiagnosed need, so we can connect them with treatment resources immediately.

Aysha is also providing community services to families on the East Side ahead of the launch of services at our new East Campus in Buckeye-Shaker!

CHILD DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

We're very excited to announce that a member of our Childcare Team is transitioning to another new role, Child Development Specialist! Tai Fears came to Providence House with a background in teaching and will be applying that experience along with what she's gained as a Childcare Provider to advocate for our children and families and help them navigate the education system.

"I have always had the passion to help others in any way possible. As a once single mother of three I can relate to a lot of the struggles I've witnessed at Providence House," said Tai, "I knew that just helping children in an academic setting wasn't enough. Children have voices that are often unheard, and I want to change that."

Tai will serve as a liaison between Providence House and the schools, developing relationships with teachers and principals to ensure our kiddos get the support they need.

"Our kids may have experienced trauma, been in multiple schools, or had a gap in attendance as a result of the crisis situations impacting their family. Tai understands their challenges and sees them as more than their test scores, which is exactly what they deserve," said Ashley Stock, Providence House Programming & Clinical Operations Director.

We want to thank our wonderful partners, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and Saint Luke's Foundation, for providing critical funding to make this role possible!

Learn more about our services
at provhouse.org/services

SUCCESS STORY *Beverly & Raya*

Single mom, Beverly, needed to undergo an inpatient medical observation so she could begin treatment for Narcolepsy, but did not have anyone to care for her 3-year-old daughter Raya while she was in the hospital. She trusted Providence House to care for Raya in the loving environment of our Crisis Nursery.

During her time with us, Raya enjoyed playing outside on our playground, stacking blocks, and working on art projects - all while enhancing her gross and fine motor skills!

Thanks to the support of Providence House, Beverly was able to get the medical care she needed to prioritize her health and enhance stability for her and Raya's future.

Beverly reunited with Raya after her hospital stay and shared that Raya felt very loved and well taken care of by our Childcare Team!



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ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCHEON

Celebrating 43 Years of Hope & Joy
for Children & Families

join us
Thursday, April 25, 2024 @ 12 pm
InterContinental Cleveland
9801 Carnegie Avenue

exciting updates

on Providence House achievements
and our East Campus expansion

every child awards
honoring outstanding
supporters:

- Cleveland Browns
- Cleveland Cavaliers
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Get Your Tickets
Before April 19!

provhouse.org/luncheon



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