

A 501(c)(3) TAX EXEMPT CHARITY

HOUSE OF HOPE
Christ-Centered Recovery

"Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, Whose hope is in the LORD his God..."

Psalms 146.5



Christmas Miracles and Blessings Immanuel | God with Us

RAISING HOPE \$15,000 MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE: YOU DID IT!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the *Raising Hope Matching Gift Challenge*. Because of our generous donors, we were able to meet this challenge head on.

A special thanks to our anonymous supporter who started this challenge... your faithfulness helped House of Hope (HOH) raise \$30,000. Wow! \$30,000 that will be used to provide individuals with a safe place as they recover from life's ills. It will help men and women experiencing homelessness to get off the streets, if only for one night. That one night can be the start of something new. Check out our [story](#) about Ron – someone who benefitted from your donation through our [Hope and Soap](#) outreach.

This year, HOH found a generous new partner in [North Avenue Presbyterian Church \(NAPC\)](#). In May, we applied for funds from NAPC's Endowment. After submitting the required financial and organizational

documentation, giving a tour of our house, and making two presentations, we were notified that NAPC was gifting us \$5,000! It was this seed money that inspired one of our donors to issue the *Raising Hope Challenge*. Also, HOH was designated as NAPC's charity of the month for November which resulted in the donation of a large amount of cleaning supplies. During Covid, cleaning supplies are very valuable and we were happy to receive them. Most importantly, we are looking forward to developing a continued relationship with NAPC.

Huge thanks to all those at NAPC who made this contribution and new relationship possible.

We are eternally grateful to everyone who has supported the House of Hope since its inception almost 17 years ago. Your prayers and financial contributions impact more lives than you know. Thank you.

CONNECT WITH US!



www.houseofhoperecovery.org



[@houseofhoperecovery.org](https://www.facebook.com/houseofhoperecovery.org)



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678-789-2503

[DONATE SECURELY ONLINE](#)

HERE FROM THE START:

JULIE KESSLER and SMITH GAMBRELL AND RUSSELL (SGR) LAW FIRM

When God places someone on your heart to call, stop what you're doing and make that call. I did just that on December 6, 2021, when I reached out to my mentor, Julie Kessler.

Julie was my mentor, counselor, and friend when I entered treatment at [My Sister's House](#) in 1989. She and her husband, Ralph, were a constant presence during my recovery. Although I thought about them often, the pressures of life got in the way and we had lost contact. I was not sure if I had Julie's most recent contact information but to my surprise, Julie actually answered the phone. As we talked and reminisced, she shared that her husband had passed away a couple of years ago and that she's now living in a small cottage in Marietta. I made my way to her the following week.



Rosie and her mentor, counselor, and friend, Mrs. Julie Kessler

It really was a grand reunion at her home. We ate, laughed, and talked for hours. She ministered to me as she always did and I left her home full of renewed hope and a reassurance that I am doing what I'm supposed to be doing. We intend to stay in touch from now on.

Also involved in HOH from the start are the attorneys and staff at Smith Gambrell and Russell (SGR). Even though I left my job at SGR 17 years ago, my friends there continue to be a great support to HOH and made meaningful contributions to the Raising Hope Challenge. No one but God can inspire people to do that for so long.

I am truly grateful for all that God has done for HOH and for me personally. During these uncertain times, I know I must stay calm and trust Him to see me through. He has been faithful since I opened the doors of HOH, and I'm certain He will remain faithful to the end.

I have seen some miraculous changes in people's lives. For those who have yet to recover from their addiction, I firmly believe that their recovery will come when they surrender ALL to Christ and allow Him to do a new thing in their lives. The seed of healing has been planted. It will be watered and God will give the increase.

ROAD TO HOME THRU HOH'S HOPE AND SOAP OUTREACH

Last year around this time I introduced you to Ron. Ron is an unassuming man living on the streets of Covington Highway in Decatur, GA. Ron is one of the reasons I launched [Hope and Soap](#)... during a pandemic no less.

Through our *Hope and Soap* outreach, individuals experiencing homelessness are offered a hot shower, haircut, new (or gently used) clothing, and a night's stay at a local hotel. I have witnessed first-hand how these small gestures give a glimmer of hope to those living on the streets. Ron is just one of the success stories from our *Hope and Soap* ministry. After eight years on the streets, he is ready to go home to his family.

Ron's success story did not happen overnight. It started when HOH joined with the ACT Team to provide him with the support he needed to get back on the right path. The ACT (Assertive Community Treatment) team is funded by the National Institutes of Health and provides 24/7 care and treatment to people with serious and persistent mental illnesses.



Ron and Rosie

Continued on the Next Page

For my part, I would bring Ron to the House of Hope and get him cleaned up with a hot bath and new clothing. As a result, he started to feel better about himself. However, because of his mental illness, he was extremely distrustful of people and, as a result, there were times when he wouldn't come to HOH because he was fearful of the other residents. He had come to trust me and during those times, I would pay for a room at the local hotel so that he could bathe, put on clean clothes, and get a good night's rest.



After working with Ron for three years, he became a new person. The effort and the monies that I received for this mission before and during the pandemic have been a blessing to Ron and others living on the street. *Hope and Soap* has really paid off.

Finally, Ron felt ready to try to return to his family. I made a call to his sister letting her know that he needed his family and wanted to come home. Frequently, because of all the damage an addiction can cause, an addict's family is hesitant to be reunited. After extensive discussions with his sister, I was able to convince her that Ron is not the same person he was eight years ago. Reconciliation and healing began that day for the Slaton family and he was welcomed with open arms.

Ron spent Christmas Eve and the following four days with his family. He was so happy to be with them again that he no longer wanted to live on the streets. I am not sure what the future holds for Ron and his family, but it is my prayer and hope that he will be off these unforgiving streets and back home before the cold weather sets in. I will work closely with his case manager to get him back to his family in Meriwether County for good.



I thank God first and foremost for placing *Hope and Soap* on my heart and for the provisions to help His children through this outreach ministry. Without Christ in our midst, this reconciliation with Ron and his family might have never happened.

If you have any ideas on how I can expand this outreach ministry or want to make a contribution, please contact me 678-789-2503 | rosiehightower@comcast.net.

Images from left: Ron's (middle) nephews stopping by the House of Hope to pick him up for his first trip home in nearly a decade. Ron and his baby sister coming together after eight years apart. Ron giving Mom a big embrace.



HOPE & SOAP OUTREACH

HELPING TO RESTORE DIGNITY TO THOSE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS...

ONE SHOWER AT A TIME.

Learn more at <https://houseofhoperecovery.org/our-services/>



Need Help or Know Someone Who Does? Contact Rosie at 678-789-2503

HOUSE OF HOPE CONTRIBUTION/PLEDGE

House of Hope is a safe, non-traditional recovery home for individuals struggling with addictions, co-dependency, homelessness, depression, abuse or other social ills.

Our hands-on approach is designed to address the spiritual, financial, emotional, and relational needs of our clients. All of our clients are engaged in life-changing classes such as overcoming addiction, relapse prevention, financial stewardship and, where applicable, parenting classes.

Everyone attends Wednesday night Bible study, Tuesday night Celebrate Recovery (a Christ-centered 12 step program) at Peace Baptist Church (Tyrone E. Barnette, Senior Pastor) and Sunday service of their choice.

Please cut out your contribution/pledge card and complete. Make check or money order payable to House of Hope Christ-Centered Recovery, Inc. and mail your tax-deductible contribution to:

House of Hope Christ-Centered Recovery, Inc.
c/o Rosie M. Hightower
1291 Cornwall Road
Decatur, GA 30032

Secure on-line tax-deductible contributions may also be made at www.houseofhoperecovery.org

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