



OUR MISSION IS TO DEVELOP AND SUSTAIN THE INTERGENERATIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD, HOPE MEADOWS, FOR ADOPTIVE FAMILIES OF FOSTER CHILDREN THAT PROMOTES PERMANENCY, COMMUNITY, AND CARING RELATIONSHIPS, WHILE OFFERING SAFETY AND MEANINGFUL PURPOSE IN THE DAILY LIVES OF OLDER ADULTS.

Fifteen Years and Growing

On a beautiful fall day the families, seniors, staff and friends met in a tent just outside the office building to celebrate the history and development of Generations of Hope. The Calhouns recalled the struggles of the early years and the name change from Hope for the Children to Generations of Hope when it became apparent that the seniors were having a significant impact on the children and families, as well as the impact a stable, caring community was having on them.

Senator Mike Frerichs came with his little daughter (below, right) and spoke about the impact of having stable housing for children as well as seniors and praised Generations of Hope for all that they had accomplished in the past 15 years. Other members of the community spoke and sang their tributes to Generations of Hope. The most touching were the songs sung by Ashley Hines (*His Eye Is on the Sparrow*) and Brandon Davis, David and Josh Askew (*City of Hope*).

Following this presentation members of the community toured the facilities of Hope Meadows. They were able to see the Office facility, the Model Home, the Quilting Center, a senior's home, the Intergenerational Center (IGC) with its new sign, where there

were refreshments and the pavilion where there was entertainment. An estimated 25—30 visitors were in attendance that day.

This Open House had been preceded by a Hope Meadows celebration the week before at the Gifford Community Building. Following a delicious meal, all had a chance to share their memories of Generations of Hope, when they arrived, hard times and special times, and people they had known there.

These days were joyful and celebratory and yet we are working toward a future that may be different than we have had in the past. The next years may see some changes, but we hope that they will all be for the betterment of Hope Meadows and its mix of people.



Adoption Excellence Award-2009

For the third time in 11 years Generations of Hope was awarded the Adoption Excellence Award. This year's award was given for providing support to adoptive families. These awards were established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 1997 as a way of recognizing out-

standing accomplishments in achieving permanency for America's children in foster care. The awards honor those who, on a personal or organizational level, are making key contributions to increasing the number of children moving from foster care to permanent placements (adoptions).

The Story of Hope Meadows

Fifteen years ago it all began

This was the start of the master plan

The system's not working, the hurt cuts like a knife
Our hope for the children is they have a happy life

For just the right residents a search was begun
To live in this neighborhood which is second to none

If a supportive neighborhood is what you seek
Hope Meadows is the place, it is truly unique

Make a home for a child, it will be no small task
Just love him or her, that is what we ask

Nurture and support them, let them know that you care
During good times or bad, you will always be there

Children need grandparents in their lives too
Here at Hope Meadows there is so much you can do

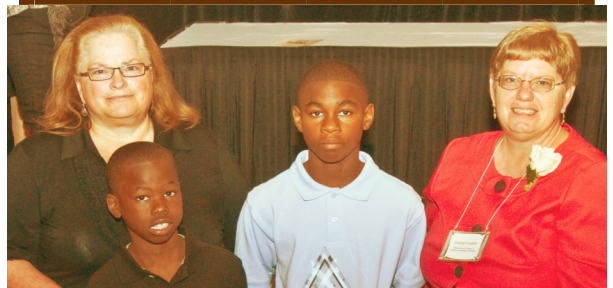
A few hours a week is all that's required
In return you'll receive the love of a child

Read to the children or just talk or play
The smiles on their faces will brighten your day

At the end of each day, be it calm or wild
"You were important in the life of a child"

We honor Hope Meadows, the love there is showing
Fifteen years young, still growing and growing.

By Joyce Blair, September, 2009



Rebecca, Colin and Andrew Ashe with Carolyn Casteel

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As always we have been busy at Hope Meadows in Rantoul. The summer is gone, but it was full of activity. We had our annual Fourth of July picnic and our float in the parade. A group from Catholic Heart Work Camp cleaned, raked, painted and polished our neighborhood. We had Sports Camp and National Night Out. There was an ice cream social courtesy of Edy's Ice Cream following the submission of a winning essay by one of our youth, Rhiana Gottlieb. We had a two-day retreat to start the school year and two of our high school seniors were named Homecoming King and Queen—Tyler Hines and Shana Calhoun!

While doing all this we planned and

hosted our celebration for our 15th anniversary—Generations of Hope and Hope Meadows—15 years and growing! On Sunday, September 20, we had a catered dinner for Hope Meadows residents and staff at a local community building with approximately 90 people attending. We had lovely decorations furnished by several seniors and a program with a video and reading of a poem. On Saturday, September 26, we had a program and an open house in the neighborhood. Approximately 75 neighborhood residents were in attendance, along with family and supporters from the past. State Senator Mike Frerichs spoke about the important work we have done over the past 15 years. Four of our youth sang and one read a story. It was a lovely day and a great way to share

with our neighbors and friends. After the anniversary celebration we were busy with our fall activities. We had our Hallo-vest celebration with games and a magician; there was the National Adoption and Veteran's Day celebration, celebrating our families and honoring our veterans, Family Reading Night with an entertaining storyteller, and our annual Christmas celebration.

During the months leading up to the anniversary celebration, we heard from former residents and supporters sending congratulations and good wishes. Many of them shared fond memories of their time at Hope Meadows. We hope there are more memories to make, relationships to form and more milestones to reach. We hope for continued success, and perhaps we can be an example to others to create their own community of care.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season.

Carolyn Casteel

Wish List

Board games: *Life, Guesstures, Lord of the Rings, Twilight*

Computer games for PC: *Harry Potter, Mario, Bookworm, My Disney Kitchen*

Wooden paint kits

Stencils

Art Supplies—Sketch pads

Photo Albums

Paper products and napkins

Plastic ware

Digital camera

New Families at Hope Meadows!

During this past year Hope Meadows has welcomed two new adoptive families to our community.

Whitney Gossett joined our community in June, 2009, moving from southern Illinois. She has made many new friends and is very active in attending community meetings and parent training classes. She volunteers at the after-school program at the Intergenerational Center (IGC) at Hope Meadows, where she has gotten to know many members of the community. Whitney is supportive of other families by assisting with childcare and transportation when needed. She has also been actively pursuing children to be placed in her home

since her arrival at Hope Meadows, and is very excited for the opportunity to expand her family.

Tim and Micci Granger, along with their three children, Kayli, Alissa, and Caleb, joined our community in December, 2009. The Grangers moved to Hope Meadows from Indiana. The Grangers are looking forward to finding their niche in the community. They are also excited to forge new friendships and to begin searching for children to adopt into their family.

From the GHDC Board

All of us at the Generations of Hope Development Corporation are extremely grateful for your support of the work of Hope Meadows. Hope's success, which is considerable, certainly helps advance our mission. We are currently working with people from coast to coast and are looking forward to having a small number of sites begin to break ground in the new year.

Over the holidays we will rejoice in the presence of family and friends. All of us at Generations of Hope Development Corporation wish you a new year filled with the joy of family and friends as well.

Brenda Eheart



Fourth of July Parade (↑) and Picnic (↓)



Sports Camp (above)



Rhiana Gottlieb, ready to host the ice cream social she won from Edy's Ice Cream. (Right)



National Night Out (Left)

Shalyn Calhoun and Ayden Davis read a poem about adoption (Right) at the National Adoption Month Celebration.



Hallowest Party (Below)



Veteran Recognition (L)

You're never too old for Santa: Marissa Raab, Shana Calhoun and Bo Raab enjoy a visit with Santa.



Charles Laws enjoyed a little music at the Hope Meadows Christmas Party.



G Giving
E Enjoyable
N Neighborhood
E Effective
R Rewarding
A Adjoining
T Tenderness
I Intergenerational
O Outpouring
N Nurturing
S Supportive

O Opportunity
F Friendship

H Helpful
O Obliging
P Participate
E Embrace

By Joyce Blair

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S Satisfying
W Warm
O Organized
D Distinctive
A Accommodating
E Encouraging
M Meaningful
E Embrace
P Participate
O Obliging
H Helpful



Donations

We know that at this time of the year you must receive many requests to fund a variety of good causes, and you, like many individuals and other organizations, are dealing with economic hardships. However, I hope you will once again consider giving a gift to Generations of Hope. Your generosity enables us to enhance the positive quality for all members of our neighborhood. All donations to Generations of Hope are tax deductible. You can help us continue to achieve our mission and sustain our program by: donating supplies; sponsoring a meeting or event; making a charitable gift in memoriam; ask others to donate instead of sending flowers to a funeral; or mail a donation to Generations of Hope, 1530 Fairway Drive, Rantoul, IL 61866 or call the office to make a credit card donation (Discover, MC or VISA) Thank you for your generosity

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