

# HOPE Works!

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 2

A publication of Steps to HOPE

Fall 2021

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## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF



*Steps to HOPE's Spring Shindig (shown above and below) was a hit! Everyone enjoyed a night of dining, dancing and donating to kick-off our Capital Campaign.*



*This rendering (shown right) of Second Chance Home Goods was designed by Dean Trakas. This is the view from the front parking lot. This new store will allow us to have ample room for larger furniture and give more space for clothing and accessories at our existing store, Second Chance Thrift Store.*

Steps to HOPE was excited to kick-off our Capital Campaign with the Steps Spring Shindig in June! It was a perfect end of spring event. You could feel the excitement and anticipation everyone had after a year of living in a world where social distancing and quarantine became the "new normal".

We danced the night away while still remembering why we were all there in the first place. Around the venue we had ribbons displaying the victims that we have lost in Polk County, NC to domestic violence. On the front of the ribbon read their name and ages, on the backs were their pictures and a short story detailing the horrible situation that resulted in their deaths.

The Clothesline Project that we typically display during the month of April was also displayed reminding attendees that sexual abuse awareness is also a part of Steps to HOPE's mission.



We have a long way to go in renovating the old Red Cross building located behind our thrift store at 231 Ward Street. We purchased the building with the hopes of expanding our thrift store. Upcoming events and fundraisers will be announced soon!

If you would like to make a donation to our Capital Campaign for Second Chance Home Goods call today at 828-894-2340!



## CALENDAR

- Second Chance Thrift Store Change-over
- October Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- Volunteer Training
- Back to School Bags
- Thanksgiving Coffee Cake Fundraiser September 27-October 15
- Holiday Coffee Cake Fundraiser Oct 1- Nov 15
- 2021 HOPE Golf Classic November 5
- Toy Run November 27
- Adopt-A-Family
- Volunteer Holiday Breakfast



### Administrative Staff

**BJ Bayne**  
Executive Director

**Heather Cash**  
Communication &  
Development Coordinator

**Jessica Cashwell**  
Office Manager & Volunteer  
Coordinator

**Libby Chavez**  
Outreach Educator & Program  
Coordinator

**Sandra Halford**  
Case Manager

**Connie Orr**  
Finance Manager

### Shelter Staff

**Cindy Thacker**  
Manager

**Kitty Edwards**  
**Annette Mucciolo**  
**Cherie Rogers**

### Second Chance Thrift

#### Store Staff

**Edith Lance**

Store Manager

**Randy Conklin**  
Assistant Manager

**Elizabeth Lance**  
Warehouse Assistant

**William Miller**  
Warehouse Assistant

**Joyce Neely**  
Cashier & Retail Assistant

#### 2020-2021

#### Board of Directors

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## FLAMINGO FLOCKING FUNDRAISER



*Pictured below and to the left are a few examples of the homes and businesses that we flocked as part of this fundraiser. Information was left along with forms letting the homeowner know how they could get rid of the flock or even flock one of their friends or family.*



Steps to HOPE had to get creative in our fundraising efforts this year. In an effort to protect our supporters as well as our staff we decided to do a fundraiser where we didn't have to come into physical contact with anyone! Flocking someone consisted in staff taking a "flock" of purple flamingos to the desired location and placing them around the lawn. We flocked businesses as well as homes in our area.

Everyone really enjoyed this fundraiser and we hope to continue this unique fundraiser for years to come. All proceeds raised from "Flocking" went into our operating budget to support our shelter. Keep your eyes open for our spring flock in 2022!

Our purpose for this Flamingo Flocking Fundraiser was to raise money for our mission "to create a community free from the violence of domestic and sexual abuse through education, advocacy and victim assistance", but the smiles we were able to put on people's faces from something as silly as putting purple flamingos in their yards were priceless!

## WE COULDN'T DO THIS WITHOUT OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS



*Pictured above are volunteers Carolyn Cobb (left) and MarJean Dahlgren (right) getting the store ready for the Fall Changeover!*

Steps to HOPE would like to say THANK YOU to all of our volunteers. Second Chance Thrift Store would not be open if it weren't for them.

These past two years have been tough, scary, and confusing, but our volunteers have stuck it out with us and because of them we are able to help our clients who are in domestic violence and/or sexual assault situations.

**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK PARSEC FINANCIAL FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATION ALLOWING US TO PROVIDE GIFTS FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS YEAR!**

*Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.*

*- Sherry Anderson*

If you would like to join our team of stellar volunteers contact Jessica by phone at 828-894-2340 or email at [office@stepstohope.org](mailto:office@stepstohope.org). By visiting our website you can fill out a quick form letting us know your information and what area you would be interesting in volunteering.

**We need YOU to STEP UP and become a volunteer today!**

For more information contact Jessica at 828-894-2340 or [office@stepstohope.org](mailto:office@stepstohope.org)



The HOPE Golf Classic will return to Links O'Tryon November 5th. Again this year we will be offering the \$30 all-in-one wristband that gives you many chances to win prizes, including a NEW CAR! You can also win big by competing in our Most Accurate Drive, Closest-to-the-Pin, or the Putting Contest. Walk away with \$5,000 like Bill Miller did

last year after winning the Putting Contest!

Breakfast and lunch are included as well as refreshments and snacks throughout the day!

The HOPE Golf Classic is our biggest fundraiser held annually. Without the support of our sponsors and players, Steps to HOPE's work and mission of providing a safe space for victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault would not be possible. As the demand for shelter and resources increases we need and appreciate your support more than ever.

### BE A PART OF MAKING OUR 18TH ANNUAL HOPE GOLF CLASSIC THE BEST EVER BY:

- Donate a luxury prize to be given away
- Sponsor the tournament with monetary donations
- Volunteer at the HOPE Golf Classic
- Register to play in our tournament for a fee of \$125 player/\$500 team

## Join us November 5th!

## GEARING UP FOR THE 18TH ANNUAL HOPE GOLF CLASSIC



If you would like to register to play in our 18th Annual Golf Tournament call Jessica at 828-894-2340 or scan this QR code with your smart phone's camera!

## HELP US SHARE THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS!



Christmastime means a lot of things to different people. For most, the holiday season is a time for kids to see the magic of HOPE, everything shines bright, cheerful, full of family, presents and food. But for a lot of the families that we serve this is not always the case. The Holiday season brings stress, anxiety and pressure to figure out how to provide for their families, without the fear of falling further behind or having to make a choice between paying for their power or making their kids happy.

Each year Steps to HOPE partners with community members to bring the joy of the holidays to the families we have served throughout the year, with our Adopt-A-Family program.

**BEGINNING OCTOBER 1ST, WE WILL BEGIN SIGNING UP FAMILIES TO ASSIST DURING THE HOLIDAYS.**

**INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS AND BUSINESSES ARE INVITED TO ADOPT A FAMILY OR INDIVIDUAL TO PROVIDE HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS.**

If you would like to participate in any way this holiday season, please email Libby Chavez at [outreach@stepstohope.org](mailto:outreach@stepstohope.org) or call 828-894-2340.

# APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

This year Steps to HOPE partnered with local businesses to bring awareness to Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Openroad Coffee Roastery adorned their coffees with sleeves urging customers "Don't stand by, stand up". Polk Nutrition named a shake and tea flavor in honor of Sexual Awareness Month, "Empower-MINT Shake and Mega Safe-Tea".

Our hope for this awareness campaign is for anyone who may have experienced sexual assault to know that we are here for them, they are not alone, and that we are ready when they are to take the necessary STEPS for healing.



## ASK PROGRAM

Adolescent Skill-building and Karate

ASK Program is for at-risk youth ages 6-12. Classes are held downstairs at Steps to HOPE every Tuesday 4:00 - 5:00.

## EM-POW-R PROGRAM

EM-POW-R Program is for at-risk youth ages 13-18. Classes are held downstairs at Steps to HOPE every Wednesday 4:00 - 5:30.

Classes are free and offer much more than a standard karate class. Participants are encouraged to develop friendships, good social skills, positive behavior, self-defense, a positive body image, better impulse control and more.

Follow us on Facebook for updates on all programs that we offer. You can also visit our website at [www.stepstohope.org](http://www.stepstohope.org) to see a calendar of events that we are offering. If you click the program it will take you to a page with more information, a number to call and any forms that you will need to fill out for the programs!

## WOMEN EMPOWERING WOMEN

Women's Support Group

This support group is for ANY woman who is looking for support, encouragement, or just some fellowship with other local women! Child care is also provided for attendees, please call ahead if you are bringing children.

Group will be held upstairs at Steps to HOPE every Tuesday at 6:00 pm.

Call 828-894-2340 to register for this group!

## WE ALSO OFFER FREE IN HOUSE COUNSELING!

Call to schedule an appointment!

## TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS

During the month of February everyone is seemingly obsessed with relationships and love, it is ironic that we also observe “Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month” during the same month.

February 9th is wear orange day for Teen Dating Violence Awareness and the staff at Steps to HOPE did their part!

**We want every teen to know that a partner who exhibits emotional abuse, intimidation, coercion, threats, isolation, or minimizing is not okay.**

For the month of February, Steps to HOPE was able to have a display case located at the Landrum Library informing patrons about Teen Dating Violence and letting them know that Steps to HOPE is here as a resource for the community.

We tied the “There is HOPE” Heart Fundraiser in with Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month with the theme of Hearts for Valentine’s Day. Community members were able to make a donation and receive a heart to write their name on and put it in the window of Second Chance Thrift Store. This was a daily reminder that “There is HOPE” and each person’s donation went to provide continued education and programs for victims of violence.

If you, a friend, or even your child is experiencing these types of manipulation in a relationship call Steps to HOPE at 828-894-2340 to get help or more information.

*Pictured (top) is Steps to HOPE staff wearing orange for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.*

*Pictured (bottom left) is the February Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month display at the Landrum Library in Landrum, SC.*

*Pictured (bottom right) is the “There is HOPE” Heart fundraiser that was held at the Second Chance Thrift Store for the month of February.*



## SAFE DATES

An Adolescent Dating Abuse Prevention Curriculum



## STEPS TO HOPE IS PARTNERING WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE SAFE DATE CURRICULUM

Safe Dates is a dating abuse prevention program that consists of a nine-session dating abuse curriculum.

### Goals of the Safe Dates Program:

- Raise students’ awareness of what constitutes healthy and abusive dating relationships.
- Raise students’ awareness of dating abuse and its causes and consequences.
- Equip students with the skills and resources to help themselves or friends in abusive dating relationships.
- Equip students with the skills to develop healthy dating relationships, including positive communication, anger management and conflict resolution.

Steps to HOPE is excited to begin providing the Safe Dates program to local organizations. Our Outreach Educator and Program Coordinator, Libby Chavez, will be facilitating the program designed to educate adolescents on the signs of dating abuse and what a healthy dating relationship consists of.

We hope that by educating adolescents in our area of the dangers of dating violence we can then equip them with the tools to either get out of an abusive relationship, help a friend who may be in an abusive relationship, or avoid those types of relationships all together.

Understanding the foundation of a healthy relationship will not only help those adolescents who are in dating relationships, but also in any type of relationship they may have in the future. Positive communication, anger management and conflict resolution are skills that we all need in our work environments and friendships.

**Any organization interested in having this program presented please contact Libby at 828-894-2340 or [outreach@stepstohope.org](mailto:outreach@stepstohope.org).**

## PURPLE PERIOD PROJECT

Steps to HOPE knows how difficult it can be to navigate a domestic violence or sexual abuse situation. We also know that life doesn't stop or become less stressful during those tough situations. Because of this we wanted to have a way for us to provide hygiene necessities for women and young ladies in our community.

We have been placing small bags with tampons, pads, panty liners, a card explaining what this project is, and a door card listing characteristics of an abusive partner, tips for a safety plan to escape domestic violence situations, along with our information to contact us for help.

Generous donations from the community have made this Purple Period Project possible and we hope to continue this project for as long as possible.

**If you would like to donate items to put inside of our Purple Period Project bags or even to donate the bags for this project call Libby at 828-894-2340 or email at [outreach@stepstohope.org](mailto:outreach@stepstohope.org).**



*Pictured above is the front of one of the cards that are placed inside of each Purple Period Project bag. We hope that each person who gets a bag will keep this card and remember that we are here for them anytime that they need us!*

## PAYING IT FORWARD WITH FASHION

Michelle Parisou, owner and creative genius of her Rutherfordton, NC based fashion company, has a flair for making gorgeous, flattering, and easy-care designer garments. She also has a heart of gold and a passion for contributing to local charities. Thanks to her generosity, many upcoming Steps to HOPE clientele are going to receive a piece of her designer clothing.

It all started when Connie & Stuart Cook, owners of Wild Petunias Gift Shop and Boutique in Tryon reached out to Michelle to do a trunk show in the store. Wild Petunias carries a curated Michelle Parisou collection and Connie wanted to give her customers an opportunity to see more of her work. Michelle was more than willing to be the featured July 23<sup>rd</sup> guest. She then offered to donate one garment for every one that sold during the trunk show.

Next up was to find the right organization that could use the garments where they could have the most local impact. Connie reached out to Beth Rounds, a local SCORE mentor for small

businesses ([westernnc.score.org](http://westernnc.score.org)). Beth immediately recommended Steps to HOPE, and the event plan was set.

With a little bit of social media, newspaper and word of mouth promotion, the event drew a great crowd and resulted in donations of 13 garments, with a retail value of nearly \$2,000. Five Steps to HOPE clients have already received one of Michelle Parisou's donated garments. Connie said, "It is my hope that even in what must feel like the darkest days of their lives, by receiving a beautiful Michelle Parisou garment each woman's spirits will be lifted to give her a sense of hope, confidence and self-worth. We are so grateful to our customers, Michelle Parisou and our surrounding community for helping to support this worthy cause."

We all can make a difference. Thanks to all who contributed to a very successful event. Visit their websites to learn more about Steps to Hope ([stepstohope.org](http://stepstohope.org)) and Michelle Parisou ([michelleparisou.com](http://michelleparisou.com)).



**WILD PETUNIAS**  
GIFT SHOP & BOUTIQUE

*Submitted by Connie Cook*

## SHELTER WISHLIST

Our emergency shelter is always open to those seeking refuge from domestic violence and/or sexual assault. Oftentimes, victims arrive at the shelter with little more than the clothes they are wearing. Because of the generous donations provided by our community, Steps to HOPE is able to provide them not only with a safe place to stay, but also all their basic necessities.

- Laundry Detergent
- Dish Detergent
- Canned Goods
- Hygiene Products
- Toilet Paper
- Pajamas (adult & kid)
- socks (adult & kid)
- Paper Towels
- Ethnic Hair Products
- Deodorant

## HOW CAN YOU PARTNER WITH US?

### MONETARY DONATION



This type of donation goes to support the daily operations of our organization.

### VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers are the heart of our organization!

For more information contact Jessica at [office@stepstohope.org](mailto:office@stepstohope.org)

### ENDOWMENTS

When you contribute to our endowment fund, you are giving to something that will continue in perpetuity and, in turn, you will gain a sense of satisfaction knowing that you have made a lasting impact.



### BEQUESTS

The easiest way to include Steps to HOPE in your financial/estate planning is through your will. If you already have a will you can make an addition to it called a codicil without rewriting your will.

### SHOP AT SECOND CHANCE THRIFT STORE

### DONATE TO SECOND CHANCE THRIFT STORE

Donations of gently used items are greatly appreciated.



## STEPS TO HOPE WELCOMES LIBBY CHAVEZ AS OUR NEW OUTREACH EDUCATOR & PROGRAM COORDINATOR



Libby Chavez is Steps to HOPE's new Outreach Educator & Program Coordinator. Ms. Chavez previously worked for Steps to HOPE in our shelter serving our clients as needed.

Our new full time employee has enjoyed the fulfilling duties of her new promotion and the people she works alongside with. Libby manages the DVIP (Domestic Violence Intervention Program), the ASK Program and EM-POW-R Program, she organizes the Coffee Cake Fundraisers, and the Purple Period Project and HOPE Boxes throughout the county!

Libby is a go-getter who is eager to lend a helping hand to any of her co-workers.

She is a Polk County native and although she loves traveling near and far she has expressed that there is just no other place like the Carolinas (Home).

***If you have any questions regarding any of the programs that we offer at Steps to HOPE feel free to call 828-894-2340 and ask for Libby or email at [outreach@stepstohope.org](mailto:outreach@stepstohope.org)!***

## STEPS TO HOPE ANNUAL STATISTICS FOR JAN-JUNE 2021

Shelter was provided to 30 clients consisting of 22 women and 8 children totaling 491 shelter nights.

Steps to HOPE provided support to 376 callers on the crisis line.

There were 190 outreach opportunities.

2,572 volunteer hours were worked at *Second Chance Thrift Store*.

Steps to HOPE provided 2,052 services for 30 shelter clients and 79 non-shelter clients including court accompaniment, advocacy, transportation, information and referral.

## A REFLECTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are extremely grateful to our volunteers and communities for your support, your dedication and your confidence in Steps to HOPE. It is because of people like you that we are able to assist families in crisis and provide safe shelter for victims of domestic and sexual abuse.

When Steps to HOPE was created 36 years ago it was in a small windowless office space filled with the HOPE of becoming a force against violence. With your assistance and support we have continued to grow and expand into a multi-faceted organizations that serves Polk County and Upstate SC. We are excited and humbled by the support that we have received and continue to receive that allows us to not only provide shelter, but services like counseling, support groups, karate, 24-hour hotline, free legal aid, transportation, court advocacy and many other needed programs designed to stop violence.

Since I was given the opportunity as director two years ago I have witnessed amazing courage and strength from the families utilizing our services. The amount of will power and courage it must take to leave everything behind for the safety and well-being of themselves and their children amazes me.

This past year brought with it a lot of challenges, but it also brought with it a sense of commitment and strength. Our volunteers endured the changes brought on by COVID-19, and made Steps to HOPE a priority. On behalf of myself and the victims we serve, THANK YOU!

We look towards the future with HOPE, knowing that with our wonderful team of volunteers, dedicated caring staff and the strong support of community partners, together we can help families begin rebuilding their lives without the threat of violence.



*Pictured above: Carol Browning presenting BJ Bayne with client birthday bags sponsored by the Tryon Rotary Club. Each bag has a gift, decorations, and supplies to make a birthday special for someone staying in our shelter.*

**BJ BAYNE**



Support Steps to HOPE when you shop! **amazon**smile  
You Shop. Amazon Gives.



Look for us on social media!

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Columbus, NC  
Permit No. 25

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Shelter and Advocacy Program Serving Polk County, NC and Upstate SC for over 35 years!

For victims of domestic violence or sexual assault in this community, there is:

## Help Order Protection Encouragement

*"The mission of Steps to HOPE is to create a community free from the violence of domestic and sexual abuse through education, advocacy and victim assistance."*

## OUR SERVICES

- **Adolescent Skill-building Karate Program (ASK)** - character building for adolescent girls and boys.
- **Annual Assistance Programs** – such as Adopt-a-Family and on going case management.
- **Basic Need Resources** - such as food, clothing and hygiene.
- **Case Management** – ongoing guidance through resources and referrals.
- **Community Outreach** – working with schools, organizations and civic groups to educate and bring awareness to domestic violence and sexual assault.
- **Confidentiality** - all services are guaranteed confidential.
- **Court Advocacy** – trained volunteers accompany and support clients through the judicial process.
- **Crisis Intervention** - immediate emergency assistance to identify, assess and intervene to lessen the impact of the crisis.
- **Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP)** – 26-week program facilitated by a trained professional.
- **Public Awareness** – providing informational programs when requested by the public.
- **Referrals** – hospital: staff will transport and assist; court: free legal aid may be provided through Pisgah Legal Services; counseling: for individual counseling services.
- **Resource Library** – we have resources available such as videos, pamphlets, books and brochures.
- **Supportive Services** – directional guidance for medical, job and judiciary processes.
- **Shelter** – emergency safe shelter for victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault.
- **Women's Self Defense Classes** – facilitated by a trained professional.

**Steps to HOPE, Inc.**  
Ward Street · PO Box 518  
Columbus, NC 28722  
info@stepstohope.org  
**828-894-2340**

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**HOPE Works!**  
A Semi-annual Newsletter of  
Steps to HOPE, Inc.  
Heather Cash, Editor



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