



generations of hope®

# THE HOPE HERALD

## Change Is in the Air at Hope

This spring our interim director, Karla Peterson, handed over the reins of leadership to the newly appointed director, Hank Gamel. Hank is a Rantoul resident who had been on the police force for a number of years. He comes to Hope following time spent on the Hope board, so he knows our community as well as the greater Rantoul community.

The seniors who came with 5 adopted children still have these children, and a few more, living at home. Diana and Terry Hinshaw are working to

help these young people develop life skills as they teach them about budgeting and time management.

With Ashley Wittenauer leaving the staff in January the senior volunteers who had been helping with the after-school program have taken on leadership of this part of Hope's work. Several of the seniors recently completed training in working with children from "hard places" and they are looking forward to implementing this training as they continue to work with the children in the

fall. In addition the parents will have opportunity to receive this training, so we can all be working from a position of shared knowledge.

What other changes might be in store as we move into our 21st year? We may no longer be an agency for adoption. This doesn't mean that there will no longer be adopting families, but that there will be an outside adoption agency in charge of the adoptions. We also may help other populations that need support in daily living.

Spring 2014

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## Senior Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

The recently completed Hope House was the venue for this spring's volunteer appreciation dinner. The twenty seniors in attendance were recognized for the service they perform for the Hope community. The meal was prepared by the chef for Java Connection, consisting of broccoli cheese soup,

salads, and a variety of sandwiches. Small cupcakes were available for dessert. Live music was provided by Mike Burke and Matt Holderby.

At the beginning of the meal, a presentation was made by Joan Dixon from the Community Foundation on behalf of the Marajan Stevick

Foundation. The donation for \$13,000 was made toward completing the back area of Hope House with a patio and a walkway to the playground so that these seniors can continue to be an active part of the community.



Presentation of check for Hope House

## Our New Director

We'd like to introduce our new director, Henry (Hank) Gamel. Henry is a Village of Rantoul Trustee and also serves as Mayor Pro Tem. He had been stationed at the former Chanute Air Force Base before joining the Rantoul Police Department, where he served for 30 years until retiring at the rank of Deputy Chief of Police.

He is a graduate of Northwestern University's Center for Public Safety and the Illinois Law Enforcement Executive Institute,

and holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration. He has extensive experience in establishing community and neighborhood organizations as well as collaborative partnerships with social service providers.

He is also a part-time faculty member teaching at Parkland College, and vice chairman of the board of directors of Community Plus Federal Credit Union, one of the first federally-designated Community

Development Financial Institutions in downstate Illinois. We welcome Hank with all of his public service experience as he guides Hope into the next phase of our existence.



Director Hank Gamel

## Gardening News

Radishes! Lettuce!! Spinach!!! Hope's community early garden crops were planted on schedule in our raised beds (Winter 2013 -14) and have provided us with healthy salads and other spring dishes. (Omelets filled with spinach sautéed with garlic and feta cheese—yummy!) Those cool weather crops have now gone to seed, and our gardeners are tending green beans, yellow and zucchini squash, carrots, onions, cucumbers, cabbage (all from seed), and tomato plants that we bought locally.

Several of the members of the gardening committee spent a Saturday afternoon reworking our "flat bed" garden into raised mounds which will provide better drainage and allow easier maintenance by hand. We have enriched these beds with mushroom compost, and we have planted winter squash and

pumpkins. In fall children from our after-school program will have fun making jack-o-lanterns with the larger variety of pumpkins. We are all looking forward to the pies and tasty dishes that our talented cooks will produce from the smaller pumpkins and the winter squash.



John Adkins putting in a tomato cage at the garden

### Omelet Recipe

2 eggs, beaten  
1 clove of garlic, minced  
2 cups of fresh baby spinach, washed with stems removed  
Feta Cheese to taste

In 1 Tbs of olive oil, cook garlic until it is translucent. Add the spinach, cooking it until it is soft. You may need to do this in batches.

In an omelet pan with rounded sides, melt a Tbs of butter to coat the pan. Pour in the eggs, lifting up the edges of the eggs as they cook to let the runny part run underneath. Cook until the eggs are glistening. Add the spinach and feta cheese on one side of the omelet. Fold the eggs over and slide it out onto your plate.

Enjoy!

## Graduating Seniors

Three Hope seniors graduated from Rantoul Township High School on May 23, 2014. One senior, Darion Calhoun, is the son of the first family to come to Hope. He is planning to attend Parkland College in the future. This summer he is working for Bell industries.

The other two graduates are members of the Hinshaw household (Seniors with a Difference, Winter 2013-14). Both of the Hinshaw seniors were given awards following ACT testing. Meme received the silver award and Nic the bronze. Meme also received the Super English Award.



Darion Calhoun



Meme Hinshaw



Nic Hinshaw

At the Hinshaw graduation party the quilting grandmas presented Meme and Nic Hinshaw with the quilts that had just been completed for them. Nick's emphasized his love of running and Meme's quilt shared her love of

animals.

Meme is planning to pursue a career as a vet tech while Nic is looking toward a career in fire fighting. Nic is currently working at Lincoln's Challenge.

## Spring Fling

This year's Spring Fling, formerly called National Night Out, was finally held on June 5. May 14 was not a good day for outdoor activities, due to rain and cold weather, but June 5 brought sunny skies and mild temperatures for a very pleasant late afternoon progressive meal.

The Hope Community gathered at several of the homes on Symington to share food, fun

and conversation.

The Rantoul Public Library had a table that provided books for the children, as well as balloon animal making, and face painting.



Mary and Anita staffing the Library table

The residents of Hope Meadows spent a relaxing, enjoyable evening visiting with their neighbors.



The gathering at Calhouns



Andrew with his painted face & his balloon creation



The Mayor and Hank visit a while.



1530 Fairway Drive  
Rantoul, IL 61866  
[www.generationsofhope.org](http://www.generationsofhope.org)  
Tel: 217-893-4673  
Fax: 217-893-3126  
[contact@generationsofhope.org](mailto:contact@generationsofhope.org)

**We are the Village it Takes!**



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## Twentieth Anniversary Year!

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### SAVE THE DATE!

Generations of Hope has reached the 20 year mark,  
and we invite you to come celebrate with us!

Please join us for an Open House at  
Hope Meadows on Saturday,  
September 27, 2014  
from 2 o'clock until 4 o'clock  
in the afternoon.

**Our Journey Continues**



Contact the Generations of Hope Office at 217-893-4673 if you have any questions.

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Generations of Hope is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We rely on your support to help us serve our families, children and senior residents. Through our partnership with PayPal, you can now make a tax-deductible donation to Generations of Hope via a secure on-line transaction at our website, [www.generationsofhope.org](http://www.generationsofhope.org).

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