



generations of hope[®]
at hope meadows

THE HOPE HERALD



Hope Meadows

where Generations of Hope began

Readers who follow us on social media or our website have surely noticed our name change to **Hope Meadows**. The start of a New Year seems the best time to announce and explain this unfolding name change. As many know, we began in 1994 as the nonprofit known as **Hope for the Children**.

When we learned that this name could not be trade-



1996 Sign

marked, the name **Generations of Hope** was chosen for the nonprofit (see the Timeline on our website) while the neighborhood remained **Hope Meadows**.

A 2006 Kellogg Foundation grant led to the creation of a second nonprofit focusing

exclusively on the development of other communities like Hope Meadows throughout the country. This new non-profit was named the Generations of Hope Development Corporation. Now, with multiple sites around the country applying the Generations of Hope model to their respective missions, and even more seeking to do so, confusion among and between the names has been growing.

Since the replication sites around the country all have distinctive names (Bridge Meadows, New Life Village, Bastion and Genesis), we are going to follow suit to provide clarity. This is so that we are all seen as part of the larger Generations of Hope family serving various vulnerable populations through our unique brand of intergenerational neighboring and communitywide support.



Current Sign

The name of our nonprofit is, therefore, changing to **Hope Meadows**. Our address and phone numbers will stay the same, but our website has been changed to HopeMeadows.org.

Traces of the old name will still be seen throughout the year as the paperwork makes its way through the federal system. We'll be updating those for some time. Meanwhile the Development Corporation will begin using the name **Generations of Hope** to refer not to a place, but rather to the model we all use in fulfilling our missions through intergenerational living, an approach that has worked for a full generation now.

(See Brenda's Reflections - page 4)

Winter 2015-2016

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Gossett-Brutcher Wedding, Labor Day, 2015

Updated!



Be Social!

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www.twitter.com/hopemeadows



From the Director

The last issue of the *Hope Herald* included an article called *Trees in Distress* written by our resident Betty Segal detailing how the [Emerald Ash Borer](#) has left us with about 30 deceased ash trees throughout Hope Meadows. These very mature and now deceased trees, which routinely drop huge branches and limbs on people's roofs, yards and sidewalks, as well as the playground, have become a source of considerable and chronic anxiety for everyone; worried not only for their own safety but for that of the children who spend so much time outdoors. It was encouraging to receive a few early and sizeable donations in response to the plea for tree felling funds. Unfortunately, those first few saintly donors were not fol-



lowed, and we have not yet been able to remove even one.

So, not wanting to see our "Ms Betty," (below left) who was writing on behalf of everyone who lives in Hope Meadows, wear a hardhat every time she takes her little dog Cali out for a walk, I approached the [Orange Krush Foundation](#), a charity begun by the cheering section of the University of Illinois Fighting Illini men's basketball team, and part of the student organization Illini Pride. I asked for "seed money" to be used as a stimulus to get started on this monumental challenge, and they graciously awarded us \$1500, with which we can take down the first tree. If we do that though, we'll still have 29 to go, so I've secured agreements with area tree removal contractors for a two-for-one approach, in which for every tree we must pay to take down, they will take down a second tree as an in-kind contribution to our nonprofit. This means that there are only 15 "action steps" to taking down the 30 trees which means that every donation to our tree felling fund will effectively be doubled

in its impact!

I continue to apply to every potential source I can find, even including



Hank Gamel
Executive Director

chainsaw tree artists willing to donate their talent. I'm talking with one organization about the possibility of a donor matching arrangement, which would effectively quadruple the impact of each donation! So please, contribute to our tree felling fund—I assure you I will do everything I can think of to leverage your donation to the maximum extent. So many of our seniors, like Ms Betty, plan to spend the rest of their days here, and they deserve to spend them in the safe and healthy environment that brought them here.

Fostering Connections

Throughout the last year, one of our best friends and advocates has been Lauren Major, president of the award-winning independent film production company Major Multimedia. Lauren and her crew have made multiple visits to Hope Meadows, attended many of our events and even joined some of our folks on field trips and other

travels, as part of her documentary [Fostering Connections](#), which is expected to be released this spring. It is truly an honor for Hope Meadows to be featured in such a powerful and professional documentary, and we invite everyone to support Lauren in her project by visiting [FosteringConnections-Film.com](#)



Caleb and Mario -
now connected as brothers



Hope Happenings

Left: Catholic Heart Worker painting the picnic tables in the pavilion



Right: Catholic Heart Workers painting a sign for Hope Meadows



Left: National Night Out



Right: Some of the kids at the Halloween Party



Left: Miah and Mario decorating cookies when the Unity Junior High students came to lead this activity.



Right: Some of the cookies the children made and enjoyed.



Left: Diana Hinshaw with some of her family at the Holiday Party



Right: Top - Quilt presentation to Mario

Lower - Quilt made for Angel (far right)



Reflections from Brenda

Dear Friends of Hope Meadows,

It is with pleasure that I write to give you a brief update on our work at Generations of Hope, previously Generations of Hope Development Corporation. As many of you may remember, our work began with a simple idea: to enfold extremely vulnerable children who had become trapped in the foster care system into permanent, nurturing families and neighborhoods.

In 1994 we realized this idea by creating the first intentional intergenerational neighborhood of its kind, *Hope Meadows*. Interest in our work has never stopped, and in 2006, with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, we began to provide guidance in the development of new communities based on the Hope Meadows innovation. These communities include *Bridge Meadows* in Oregon, *New Hope Village* in Florida, and *Genesis* in the District of Columbia, among others. Many more are emerging. All have in common elements of a social program where the focus is on benefits to not only children from the foster care system, but also returning veterans with physical and/or mental health issues, adults living with developmental disabilities, and older adults with dementia and their caregivers.

But, unlike traditional social programs, at the heart of these communities is a concept we call **intentional neighboring**, *i.e.*, the coming together of people from all walks of life to live intentionally as caring neighbors—surrounding each other with a culture of friendliness, kindness, helpfulness, and consideration. There is a profound belief in the power of caring relationships. All are putting into action the belief that, through caring relationships, ordinary people of all ages and abilities can be assets in addressing the difficult challenges far too many people are facing. These communities also are reframing the way society views vulnerability. Those who are vulnerable are not viewed as problems to be managed, where the focus is on what needs to be fixed, but are seen as caring, contributing community members and as friends, neighbors, and family.

More than two decades of experience has taught us that when communities are implementing intentional neighboring, what may seem impossible (especially in these troubled times) becomes not only possible, it becomes a way of life. Just imagine living in a community where:

- caring neighbors come together to address some of our nation's most complex social challenges,
- those who are vulnerable are valued community members who participate and contribute, and
- older adults find meaning and purpose in their daily lives, even at the end of life, through caring relationships and continuing engagement.

I cannot thank the people of *Hope Meadows* enough for leading the way. They, and all the wonderful people living and working in other Hope-inspired communities are showing us that kindness and compassion can become a way of life where the true meaning of this recent holiday season is reflected daily.

Best wishes for a wonderful New Year.

Brenda Krause Eheart

Collective Impact Grant



We at Hope Meadows, High School and Habitat for

along with the Rantoul Township Humanity of Champaign County,

are enormously honored to have been selected by the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois as the first-ever recipient of their new Collective Impact Grant! Funded by the Community Foundation's W. Barclay and Frederick C. Brasch Endowment, the Collective Impact Grant seeks to use community resources more efficiently and to serve as an innovative model for nonprofits working together to create greater good for the community through collaborations and the resulting creativity engendered.

This grant will allow for energy-efficiency and safety and security improvements, as well as age-friendly modifications, to the nearly 60-year-old housing that our seniors call home! The work will be performed by local high school students taking vocational courses on construction, home repair and remodeling, working in concert with Habitat for Humanity and gaining practical hands-on experience in residential repairs and renovations that will greatly improve the quality of life of our seniors. Together we will be preparing today's youth for gainful employment as adults in the very intergenerational way that defines us!

Collective Impact Grant Partners

A concept paper to collaboratively develop a model that would improve energy- efficiency and safety for low-income seniors was submitted by **Hope Meadows, Habitat for Humanity of Champaign County** and **Rantoul Township High School**. Their proposal was selected as the Foundation's first Collective Impact Grant project.

- **Hope Meadows** is a multi-generational 22-acre community of homes built on the former Chanute Air Force Base grounds. Many of the senior-occupied homes were built 50 to 60 years ago. The homes are poorly insulated, resulting in high utility bills for its economically vulnerable population.
- **Rantoul Township High School**, with 740 total students, offers construction/repair, woodworking, electrical and other vocational classes that prepare students for building and construction related work. The students will work with Habitat for Humanity staff to go into the homes to do the agreed-upon work.
- **Habitat for Humanity of Champaign County** works with all willing partners to improve the lives of families needing safe, affordable, decent housing. Habitat staff is highly experienced and skilled in evaluation, materials acquisition and construction and will supervise and instruct students.

The project is a win, win, win for the Hope Meadows seniors whose homes are enhanced and the students who will learn and work on real projects that will offer them the satisfaction of knowing that their work has helped the seniors in whose homes they worked. Habitat will have made another step toward its mission of improving the lives of seniors needing safe, affordable and decent housing. This project, we believe, can be replicated in other areas throughout our region by working with organizations or municipalities and with any high schools that offer construction programs. Collective Impact Grants are intended to combine community resources efficiently and serve as models for nonprofits working together to create greater value and good for the community. The Community Foundation's W. Barclay and Frederick C. Brasch Endowment will provide \$150,000.

-Excerpt from December 2015 newsletter of the [Community Foundation of East Central Illinois](#)



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We are the Village it Takes



Adapting to Change

Because we now have more older children than younger, Anita Hochberger, Carol Veit and Katy Kavanagh discussed starting a monthly program for our middle school students.

In September we had a pizza party with the students in 5th grade and above to see what they wanted to do. Our middle school students decided they wanted to have a spaghetti dinner. In October, with our supervision, they made delicious spaghetti and gar-

lic bread. We also had a movie night and during the evening the kids decided they wanted to make cookies in December. That turned out to be a huge success.

In January we had a game night. We played Clue and Patrick was the winner. He'll make a good detective. We then



Cookie Baking

started playing Aggravation but due to the time we weren't able to finish the game. When we quit Patrick was winning. Yea, Patrick!

Our next big event will be in February when we take a train trip to the Field Museum in Chicago.

Anita Hochberger

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. You can make a tax-deductible donation to Generations of Hope via a secure on-line transaction at our website, HopeMeadows.org or the Facebook page at facebook.com/hopemeadowsrantoul

If you prefer, you may send a check in the enclosed envelope to:
Hope Meadows, 1530 Fairway Drive, Rantoul, IL 61866