



HOPE Newsletter and Annual Report

From the Executive Director

Our plate is full! When an idea is ripe and ready for implementing, with good people available to do the implementation, then **why not pursue something that's going to improve the quality of life** for some disadvantaged household or target population.

Of course, programs don't grow just because there's staff or volunteers to run them—it takes donations, capital, investments, grants and even loans to provide the critical nurturing. In order to implement our expanding food security and housing affordability programs, **our current budget calls for \$120,000 in donations from individuals, businesses and faith-based organizations.** That is in addition to foundation funding from multiple sources of over a half million! With your help and generosity, **we can do this**, and continue delivering the kind of impacts outlined in the accompanying HOPE Snapshots graphic in this report.

That's the beauty of working under HOPE's year-old mission: **providing tools to build community sustainability and independence.** We've been working in food security and housing affordability now for many years, recognizing that these twin basic needs make all the difference in the world, in order for families to lift themselves out of poverty. Beyond those basics, we're also continuing our Building Financial Capacity project--bookkeeping for seven sister non-profits in the area and giving board financial governance training. We're also linking up with some accomplished university researchers to help with a new Center for Community Research, to assist other non-profits with needs assessments, data analysis, capacity and network building.

We took note this summer, during the renewal application for funding our weekly backpack program—HOPE Packs, when the Wythe School Board said **some credit for the 5-15% increase in elementary standardized testing scores this spring could be attributed to the HOPE packs** going to the 585 students in Wythe or Bland counties. With the start of the new school year, we're expanding that number by 35%, to probably over 800 students. And the other

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HOPE serves the counties of Wythe, Bland, Carroll, Grayson and Smyth and the city of Galax.



Please remember to support the United Way of Wythe County!

Board of Directors

Rachel Jones, Chair
Harvey Atkinson, Vice-chair
Treva Adams, Secretary
Misty Pack, Treasurer
Kimeco Addison
Bob Ballard
Chris DiYorio
Jamie Edwards
Jean Farley
Lewis LaFon
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Staff

Andy Kegley, Executive Director
Jodie Huff, Deputy Director
Amanda Romans, Homeownership Director
Beth Horton, Lead Housing Counselor
Juli Martin-Wymer, Case Manager
Carter Bauman, Housing Counselor
Gary Slempp, Housing Solutions Coordinator
Mike Pugh, HOPE Packs Coordinator
Jes Stilwell, Food Security AmeriCorps VISTA
Zona Jones, Administrative Assistant
William Cook, Maintenance Goodwill SCSEP

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FY 2015-2016 HOPE Snapshot by the numbers . . .



Working to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring

251 households received direct housing assistance
27 households served in HOPE rental properties
453 households NOT eligible or assistance NOT available ****unmet needs****



Weekly food supplement program for students in Wythe and Bland schools

20,758 packs distributed over **36** school weeks averaging **577** students per week at **\$3.90** average cost per pack
1,452 packs distributed over **11** summer weeks averaging **132** students per week at **\$3.18** average cost per pack
550 unduplicated ****volunteers**** giving **1,605** volunteer hours



Community Collaboration

\$1,021,156 community impact
7 local non-profits receiving financial capacity-building/bookkeeping services
1 AmeriCorps VISTA participant—food security
5 service partners at HOPE Ministry Center
\$250,000 capital campaign underway to replace roof/HVAC system at HOPE Ministry Center ****\$100,500 raised to date****

HOPE provides tools to build community sustainability and independence.



Development of affordable, energy-efficient homes and educating homebuyers

20 single family home lots available for development
62 households received pre-purchase counseling
8 households received default or delinquency counseling

Every home tells a story, let yours begin with HOPE!



Free, well-balanced lunch served Mondays and Thursdays

5,600+ meals served over **52** weeks averaging **54** meals per day at **\$1.59** average cost per meal
50 unduplicated ****volunteers****



Heroes of HOPE Volunteer Appreciation

- Bland United Methodist Church Circuit
- Sunny Hills Church
- Rural Retreat United Methodist Church
- Wytheville Presbyterian Church
- Wytheville Baptist Church Youth Group
- St. Paul United Methodist Church Youth Group
- Old Dominion Freight Line

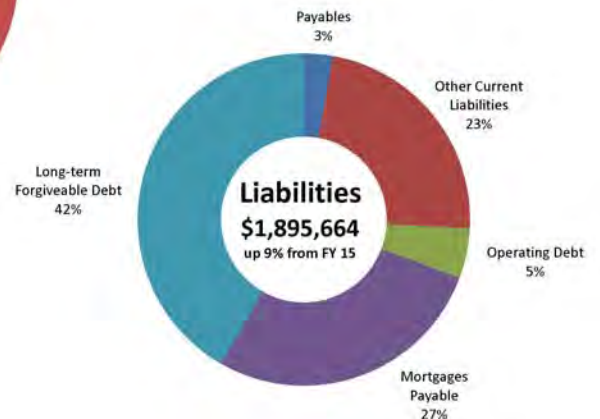


Big Pencil to Big Walker Charity Ride annual fundraising event

71 participants
\$9,000+ monetary support
6/17/17 save the date—visit www.bigwalkercharityride.com

****indicates where your help is needed the most through unrestricted cash donations or valuable time****

FY 2015-2016 Financials (unaudited)



From the Executive Director *(continued from page 1)*

beautiful part of this program has been the community volunteer response—over 550 unduplicated volunteers helped out last year with the packing over 36 weeks! We celebrated this response last month with our second annual **Heroes of HOPE** awards, given to seven different church and private organizations who made a difference in the first year of HOPE Packs!

Other recent highlights:

- ◆ We are saying goodbye here at the end of August to our two-year AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer Jes Stilwell. Jes has been **instrumental in two major capacity building accomplishments** during her service with HOPE working on Food Security issues. During her first year, she successfully built the case to consolidate five or six separate school backpack programs into one major foundation application which was funded with \$122,000 to serve all interested elementary students in both Bland and Wythe counties. Finishing her second year, Jes completed a feasibility study for the future of the Community Food Kitchen, which was accepted in June, 2016, and became the foundation for new grant applications to move the twice a week soup kitchen program into the new farmers' market building, with a commercial kitchen, in a 'pay what you can' restaurant model, using healthy local food.
- ◆ HOPE has its roots dating back to the early 1990s working with **Mt. Rogers Community Services Board**. Our longest running housing project has been a 4-BR group home for individuals with developmental disabilities. Now, as the result of a settlement with the Department of Justice, CSB agencies in Virginia are working to find the least restrictive residential accommodations for thousands of disabled individuals. This means **developing accessible and affordable homes** for MRCSB, as a new piece of work that falls within our strategic plan objectives.
- ◆ Our homeownership program hit a few bumps in the road, so to speak, this past year. But HOPE has over 20 lots available for first time, **working income households interested in affordable and energy efficient homes**.
- ◆ We're just entering our 25th year, which won't go without a celebration and challenge or two between now and the end of 2017. You'll hear more about this, for now, imagine the number 25 as part of what we want to observe and celebrate. Included in this wish list is **growing our balance sheet with new, unrestricted net assets**, and reducing some of our debt!

Back to our mission statement—one of the more prominent words in it is **'sustainable.'** There's been a huge push on behalf of funders and boards to move their non-profit towards sustainability. And rightly so—if our financial bottom line (as well as our social and environmental bottom lines) are sustainable, then we'll be around a long while, to have on-going impact, right? But always being a bit of a contrarian, I recently came across a piece which said that rather than sustainability, we should be pushing **adaptability**. That would take the burden off an expectation that we'll achieve something we realistically probably never can, and instead, we're going to be flexible, adaptable, responsive, to changing needs and influences and opportunities. I think HOPE is adaptive already – just look at our full plate of services. **We can't do it without you!**

If you have an interest in our work, or want more information on how you can help us make more impact, drop us a line or pay a visit. We're on the corner of Main and 12th, in a **place called HOPE**.

AmeriCorps VISTA Food Security

In August of 2014, I became an AmeriCorps VISTA working on food security with HOPE. Right before I became a VISTA I was taking a college course called *Non-Profit Fundraising in Human Services*. The entire time I took this class I thought it was a waste of time learning about non-profit organizations with grant writing, fundraising, recruiting volunteers, etc. because I wouldn't need to use or know any of this information in the career that I wanted to pursue.



Little did I know at the time that this course would be one of the more influential classes I would take during college to accomplish career and personal goals. When I first entered the world of being an AmeriCorps VISTA I thought I was way out of my element. I had been working a full-time job in the food industry, was a young, single parent, and was taking college classes online full-time, and might I mention I had absolutely no experience with non-profit organizations.

But I jumped head first into this opportunity because I wanted to learn and work to better my community. For the past two years I have worked closely with the Community Food Kitchen and HOPE Packs to assess the impact and satisfaction of local food security programming, raise awareness and align community efforts to reduce local food insecurities, and conduct fundraising, to name a few.

Being an AmeriCorps VISTA on food security has been one of the best and most valuable learning experiences that I could have ever received. I've been fortunate enough to have had Andy Kegley as a supervisor who has guided me through the ups and downs of the non-profit world, Esther Hider as a friend and mentor who has helped me strive towards my goals, and being able to work alongside amazing volunteers and co-workers.

I must say that the best part of my experience as a VISTA was being able to stand beside those within the community that strive to make a difference for the better. These individuals don't do it for recognition or glory, but because they believe in giving a hand-up to those within their community that need it. I admire these individuals and the time and heart they put into everything they do. Through my service with AmeriCorps VISTA, I've gained knowledge and experiences that have become the stepping stones of finding my passion within human services to be able to better and strengthen the lives of others.

By Jes Stilwell

Donor Recognition (January-June 2016)

Individuals

Anonymous (HOPE)(HOPE Packs)(CFK)
 Arnold, Robert and Debbie (HOPE) (CFK)
 Arundale, Lisa Umberger (HOPE)
 Aymer, Albert and Anita (CFK)
 Barton, Dr. Walter and Frances (HOPE)
 Britt, Marty and Carol (HOPE)
 Brogden, Bill and Linda (HOPE)
 Broom, Ryan (HOPE)
 Burns, Pat and Anna (HOPE Packs)
 Bybee, Carole (HOPE)
 Campbell, Janet (HOPE)
 Campbell, Curtis and Wenda (HOPE Packs)
 Cassell, Samuel and Mary "Sis" (HOPE)
 (HOPE Packs)
 Chitwood, Ruth Anne (HOPE) (HOPE Packs
 in memory of C.D. Tarter)
 Clyburn, Jr., Ed and Kelly (HOPE Packs)
 Coeburn, Ann (HOPE Packs in memory of
 C.D. Tarter)
 Cottrell, Jr., Kenneth and Sousin (HOPE)
 Cox, Shirley (HOPE)(HOPE Packs)
 Cregger, Timothy and Judy (HOPE) (CFK in
 memory of James T. "Junior" Wilson, Jr.)
 Crowgey, III, John and Nancy (HOPE Packs
 in memory of C.D. Tarter)
 Davis, Nancy (HOPE)
 Dellinger, Paul and Maxine (HOPE Packs in
 memory of C.D. Tarter)
 Dix, Donna (CFK)
 Dunn, Joan (HOPE)
 Elvetic, Nancy (HOPE Packs)
 Farthing, George and Clara (HOPE Packs)
 Ferguson, Don (HOPE)
 Feucht, Nicholas (HOPE Packs)
 Ford, Jacqueline (HOPE in memory of
 Doug Ford and in honor of Jim Ford)
 Grimes, Margaret (HOPE Packs)(CFK)
 Haesler, Edna (CFK)
 Henslee, Mary (HOPE)
 Huff, Jodie (HOPE)
 Humphreys, Nancy and Linda Jesse (HOPE
 Packs for Patricia Smiley in memory of
 Jean Walsh)
 Irvin, Nell (HOPE)
 James, Robert and Martha (HOPE)
 Jenkins, Hoyt and Sylvia (HOPE)(CFK)
 Johnson, Walter (HOPE)
 Johnson, John (HOPE)
 Kegley, Chuck and Debra (HOPE)
 Kegley, Mary "Sissy" (HOPE)
 Kesner-Bailey, Judy (CFK)
 Kincer, Faye (CFK)
 Knack, Fredrick and Shirley (CFK)
 Lazo, Robert and Theresa (HOPE)
 Lester, Steve and Lisa (HOPE Packs in
 memory of C.D. Tarter)
 Lewis, Teresa (HOPE Packs)
 Manley, David (HOPE)
 McCormick, Shirley (CFK)
 Miller, Frances (HOPE)(CFK)
 Minton, Robbie and Stacey (HOPE Packs)
 Monroe, Grabe and Robin (HOPE)
 Moore, Steve and Lisa (HOPE Packs in
 memory of C.D. Tarter)
 Moses, Daniel (HOPE)
 Nagle, Jessica (HOPE)

Nichols, James and Mary (HOPE Packs)
 Orr, Charlotte and Peter, Sue, Lydia and
 Amelia Sprano (HOPE Packs in memory
 of C.D. Tarter)
 Otallah, Scott (CFK in memory of James T.
 "Junior" Wilson, Jr.)
 Peel, Margaret (HOPE Packs in memory of
 C.D. Tarter)
 Peery, Annie (HOPE in memory of George
 Keck)
 Pennington, Joshua and Chesnut (HOPE)
 Phillippi, John and Patricia (HOPE Packs)
 Phillips, Leigh Anne (HOPE)
 Reynolds, Dennis and Hope (HOPE)
 Ritter, Genevieve (HOPE Packs in memory
 of C.D. Tarter)
 Roberts, Velma (CFK)
 Robinette, Sr., Daniel and Betty (CFK)
 Robinson, Donald (HOPE)
 Shaeffer, James and MaryLou (CFK)
 Sharrock, Ronald (HOPE)
 Sheargold, Steve, Jenny, Dustin and
 Brittany and Jean Ware (HOPE in
 memory of George Keck)
 Smiley, Ronald and Patricia (HOPE Packs in
 memory of C.D. Tarter)
 Snapp, Phylip and Patricia (HOPE Packs in
 memory of Joe Stanley, Bob and Byrdie
 McCoy and C.D. Tarter)
 Snavelly, Michael and Teresa (HOPE Packs
 in memory of C.D. Tarter)(CFK in
 memory of James T. "Junior" Wilson, Jr.)
 Stewart, Francis and Carroll (CFK)
 Tarter, Katherine (HOPE in memory of
 Susan Zammit)
 Timoney, Maria (HOPE)
 Udell, Lori (HOPE Packs in memory of
 Mark Udell)
 Umberger, Dayne (HOPE)
 Wagner, Mark and Anita (HOPE)
 Washburn, William and Annette (HOPE)
 Wessinger, Gloria (HOPE)
 Whitlow, Sr., Aubrey and Julana (HOPE
 Packs)
 Wilhite, Lawrence (HOPE)
 Wilson, Otis and Joanne (HOPE Packs)
 (CFK)
 Wire, Stephen and Kathleen (HOPE)
 Wysor, Mary (HOPE)

Businesses/Corporate

Black Bear Harley-Davidson (CFK)
 David Martin Insurance Agency, Inc.
 (HOPE)(HOPE Packs)
 First Century Bank (HOPE Packs)
 Goody's (HOPE)
 Hundley Insurance and Financial Services,
 Inc. (HOPE Packs)
 Kathryn K. Hagwood, Attorney at Law, PC
 (CFK)
 Klockner Pentaplast of America, Inc.
 (HOPE Packs)
 Leonard's Accounting & Tax Service (HOPE
 Packs)
 Nathan S. Houchins, D.D.S. (HOPE)
 Pillar, Inc., (HOPE Packs)
 Southern Pharmacy Services (HOPE Packs)



HOMELESSNESS
 and **HUNGER**
 costs everyone.

**Be part of the solution and
 donate to HOPE today!**

Walmart Community Grant (HOPE Packs)
 Willis Chiropractic (HOPE)
 Wythe County Community Hospital (HOPE
 Packs)
 Wythe Sheet Metal, Inc. (CFK in memory
 of James T. "Junior" Wilson, Jr.)

Churches/Faith-Based Organizations

Anchor of Hope Presbyterian Church
 (HOPE Packs)
 Bethel African Methodist Church (HOPE
 Packs)(CFK)
 Central United Methodist Church (HOPE
 Packs)
 Crockett Chapel Methodist Church (HOPE
 Packs)
 Dayspring Fellowship Missions (CFK)
 First Christian Church (HOPE Packs)
 Huddle Memorial Church (HOPE Packs)
 Jubilee Baptist Church (HOPE Packs)
 Lebanon Lutheran Church (HOPE Packs)
 Marvin United Methodist Women (CFK)
 Mount Mitchell United Methodist Women
 (HOPE Packs)
 Mt Ephraim United Methodist Church
 (HOPE Packs)
 Pleasant Hill Lutheran Church (HOPE
 Packs)
 Rural Retreat Lutheran Parish Grace and
 St. Paul (HOPE Packs)
 Rural Retreat United Methodist Church
 (HOPE Packs)
 Rural Retreat United Methodist Church
 Vacation Bible School (HOPE Packs)
 Southwest Virginia Chapter of Thrivent
 Financial (HOPE)(HMC)
 St. Paul United Methodist Church (HOPE
 Packs)(CFK)
 St. Paul United Methodist Church District
 Fund Grant (HOPE Packs)
 Sunny Hills Church (HOPE Packs in
 memory of C.D. Tarter)
 West End United Methodist Church (CFK)
 Wytheville Baptist Church (CFK)
 Wytheville Baptist Church Kathryn Issacs
 and Mable Crabtree Circle (HOPE Packs)
 Wytheville First Church of God (HOPE
 Packs)
 Wytheville Presbyterian Church (HOPE
 Packs)(CFK)
 Wytheville Presbyterian Church 3rd-4th
 grade Sunday School class (HOPE Packs)
 Wytheville Presbyterian Church Don
 Wysor Sunday School Class (Fresh Start)
 Wytheville Seventh-Day Adventist Church
 (HOPE Packs)

Morgan Trust (HMC)
 Wythe-Bland Foundation (HOPE Packs)
 (VISTA)(Financial Capacity)

Non-Profit Organizations

Alpha Delta Kappa (HOPE Packs)
 Asbury Service Project (CFK in memory of
 Junior and Alma Wilson)
 Federation of Appalachian Housing (HOPE)
 Kiwanis Club of Wythe County (HOPE
 Packs)
 Max Meadows Ruritan Club (CFK)
 United Way of Wythe County, Inc. (HOPE)
 Wytheville Moose Lodge #394 (HOPE
 Packs)
 Wytheville Ruritan Club, LLC (CFK)

Governments/Agencies

United States Department of Housing and
 Urban Development (HOPE)
 Virginia Housing Development Authority
 (HOPE)
 Virginia Department of Housing and
 Community Development (HOPE)

In-kind

Smokey's BBQ (HOPE Packs)

Sponsorships/Fundraisers

Bankers Insurance, LLC (BWCR)
 Black Bear Harley Davidson (BWCR)(CFK)
 Blue Ridge Bike Shop, LLC (BWCR)
 Bland County Economic Development
 Authority (BWCR)
 Sabika Jewelry (HOPE Packs)
 Sally Run Farm (BWCR)
 Starlight Custom Cycling Apparel (BWCR)
 Virginia Housing Development Authority
 (BWCR)
 Wythe County Community Hospital
 (BWCR)
 Wytheville Office Supply (BWCR)

BWCR—Big Pencil to Big Walker Charity
 Ride
 CFK—Community Food Kitchen
 HMC—HOPE Ministry Center
 HOPE—general operating/unrestricted
 HOPE Packs—backpack program
 VISTA—AmeriCorps VISTA

THANK YOU also to over 750 volunteers
 and dozens of donors of food, clothing and
 household items for our clients!



Foundations/Trusts

AmazonSmile Foundation (HOPE)
 Bronntanus Trust (HOPE)
 John Crosland, III Charitable Foundation
 (HOPE)



Where else can you get a 65% return on your investment? Contact us soon about our limited availability of state Neighborhood Assistance Program tax credits, where for a minimum donation of \$500, you receive a \$325 state tax credit to offset any state taxes owed.