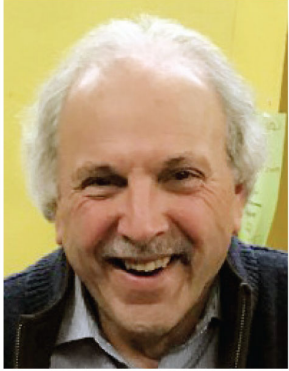




40th Anniversary Initiative UPDATE



Charles Russo
HHM Board Chair

Dear Friends & Family of Hope House Ministries,

It is with tremendous gratitude that I write to you as the fall season begins. I am grateful to God for being a part of this great ministry for 41 years now. I am grateful for all the lives of those who have come to our programs and who have left with an experience of life changing healing and empowerment. I am grateful for the fact that you have made a personal commitment to support our important work in the community. I am especially grateful to report that we successfully met our matching gift opportunity this summer and raised \$2,106,243. All of this during a worldwide pandemic that has challenged us in every way.

What started as a campaign to raise strategic dollars for the future of the agency quickly became a struggle to survive the pandemic. We asked you for major gifts, we asked you for re-occurring gifts; we sent you special appeals and we took to social media to reach you; and why? Because we needed your help to fill the gap created by lost revenue from our cancelled and postponed events. Your response was overwhelming light in the darkness.

As a result of our 40th Anniversary Initiative, the Board of Directors avoided closing programs. Our dedicated staff were able to continue to meet with those we serve either in person (while socially distancing), or by way of DOXY ME video calls. This guaranteed that ongoing professional therapy and counseling could continue at a time of great turmoil and confusion. In addition, for the first time in the agency's history, our plan for a mortgage payoff is now realized. Amazing!

Although it seems like the worst is over, the impact of the pandemic continues and has taught us valuable lessons, which is why the Board of Directors have decided to create a HHM Relief Fund. It is our hope that we can continue to rely on you during this unusual time in our history; that you will consider going beyond your routine giving to help us do more. The fund will last as long as the pandemic continues to threaten our traditional sources of revenue. So, once more I invite you to be part of a special plan to secure our programs. This time for the immediate future.

For those of you who have already made major gifts in the past 18 months as part of our 40th Anniversary Initiative, we implore you to continue that trend in 2021 and early 2022.

For those of you who signed up for monthly contributions, we ask that you please consider increasing the amount that you give.

For those who took advantage of our social media platforms in order to make a contribution, we ask that you continue to utilize these important and easy fundraising vehicles now at our disposal.

In the meantime, the Board of Directors will continue to scrutinize expenditures and look for creative ways to raise more revenue to sustain the ongoing costs of running eleven unique programs that serve thousands of people desperately in need each year.

I leave you with a reflection from a young man who graduated from Hope Academy during the pandemic. We are very proud of him; he is proud of himself and rightly so. I hope this excerpt from his life plan underscores for you the real reason we go to the trouble of all the fundraising, events and mailings we do each year. I can assure you that he graduated because of you.

Goal #1

"..to be the best son, brother, community, and family member I can be daily. I will do this by living the principals I have learned such as honesty and compassion. Being a more active member of my family is important to me because of the years of indifference I had toward my family during my use. I was not regularly active and supportive to those I loved."

Goal #2

"..to maintain a gratitude list. Gratitude has been a paramount principal for my success here. Even though I fall short someday I am profoundly grateful for all that I have achieved and the people and things I have in my life."

Goal #3

"..to maintain spiritual growth through many avenues. Those being spiritual direction, AA, counseling, and peer discussions with those I look up to. I have achieved a lot of clarity and emotional stability due to my spiritual and mental health counseling at Hope House."

In the spirit and wisdom of Meister Eckhart, and on behalf of all those seeking healing and restoration at Hope House Ministries, thank you.

Charles Russo
HHM Board Chair

"If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is 'thank you,' that will be enough."

~Meister Eckhart

