

Hope House, Our History

1971: In the summer of 1971 Litton Industries offered to donate to the Diocese of Paterson a former public school building which it owned. Bishop Lawrence B. Casey accepted the donation and directed that the property be used to provide individual, couples, and family counseling services for those in need in Morris County, appointing Rev. John O'Brien as director. Fr. O'Brien utilized the talents of volunteers to renovate the building which accepted its first counseling clients in the fall of that same year as the Morris-Sussex Social Services Center.

1976: In 1976, the Diocese entered into an agreement with the Dope Open, Inc., whereby the agency's name was changed to Hope House and its first Board of Trustees was appointed. Mary Mulholland, the flame that started Hope House and founder of the Dope Open Golf Tournament was instrumental in the support and development of our programs and services to provide drug & alcohol counseling and treating substance and alcohol additions. Since then services such as Adult and Adolescent Substance Abuse programs, an education drug group, an IDRC (Intoxicated Drivers Resource Center) program and anger management groups have been provided.

Late 1970s: With financial support from the County of Morris Hope House expanded its services to include programs for senior citizens and younger individuals with disabilities. Operation Fix-It provides individuals with minor safety and health repairs, keeping them safe in their homes while our Chore program offers light housekeeping, laundry and shopping services. These two programs have prevented the premature institutionalized of so many who would otherwise be unable to remain in the comfort of their own homes. A third program, the Hope Connection, offers a 24 hour personal response system to those individuals needing peace of mind should an emergency arise while they are alone.

1987: In 1987, the State Department of Health approached Hope House to establish an outpatient drug program to serve the needs of the HIV population. It was then that Hope House established The AIDS Center. Current HIV/AIDS services include pastoral care, substance abuse & mental health counseling, medical case management, housing assistance and transportation. In addition, Hope House provides community education and outreach through our Speakers Bureau and at community events.

1982: Mary Olson, Assistant Director of Hope House succeeds Fr. John O'Brien as Executive Director on November 15.

1983: Hope House finance staff member Diane Kwiatkowski was promoted to the position of Executive Director of Hope House succeeding Mary Olson.

1990: Starting in 1990 and every year since, Hope House has provided needy clients with a little holiday cheer. At Thanksgiving, we provide baskets of non-perishable foods to our clients. At Christmas, our Hope for the Holidays program provides hundreds of gifts to our clients and their families. For our clients' children, we offer a Back to School program providing them with new and much needed school supplies. This allows over 80

of our children to return to classes with a fully stocked backpacks helping them excel in their studies.

1996: On October 11, 1996, an expansion to the original building was dedicated to a wonderful benefactor, Dean A. Gallo. This expansion provided additional and much needed space for The AIDS Center employees and clients.

1998: Following the retirement of Diane Kwiatkowski, Philomena D'Sa was appointed as Executive Director of Hope House.

2004: When Philomena D'Sa resigned and relocated to Florida Hope House staff member George Lucey was appointed as Executive Director.

2005: Following the resignation of George Lucey as Executive Director of Hope House, Hope House Board president assumed the position of Acting Executive Director.

2005: Two months later, Diane Silbernagel was appointed as the fifth Executive Director of Hope House.

2007: In June 2007, Hope House was accredited with commendation by the Council on Accreditation (COA). The successful achievement of COA accreditation by Hope House demonstrates an adherence to nationally accepted standards of care. The Council on Accreditation attests that Hope House meets the highest national standards of professional performance.

2007: Hope House opened its Food Pantry to the entire community in the spring. We depend solely on donations to keep our shelves stocked, and the food pantry is run entirely by volunteers. Like many food pantries, we have seen an increase in the working poor and younger families needing food. On average, our food pantry is now giving out approximately 12,000 lbs. of food per month. The HH Food Pantry is a peoples' Choice pantry, that is, clients using a point system get to choose from our shelves what food products they want and need.

2008: "La Cocina de Mami" (Mother's Kitchen) was opened as a drop-in center and as a support group for low income Hispanic women. Hope House opened an Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) in 2011. Also in 2011, the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program (SSVF) began. It is a housing assistance program for veterans.

2010: On July 1, Diane Silbernagel was appointed as Executive Director of Catholic Family and Community Services while remaining Executive Director of Hope House.

2011: Hope House was re-accredited in June 2011.

2012: On July 1, 2012 Hope House was acquired through a merger by Catholic Family and Community Services (CFCS). CFCS acquired the Hispanic Information Center and the Father English Community Center by merger at the same time.