

# insideout

THE NEWSLETTER OF H.O.P.E. - HOMELESS OUTREACH PROVIDING ENCOURAGEMENT, LONGMONT, CO

I would say, "I want to share wonderful information about Dave Jordan," and you would think a minute, while you conjured up who he might be. Being a volunteer for HOPE, you know a few Daves or Davids, but this one is not ringing a bell. I would then say, "What about Caveman Dave, do you remember him?" And then the light would go on. Yes, Caveman Dave has been around for a while. Dave says that he was given this name by a past HOPE employee, referring to a cartoon character, Captain Caveman. Dave was not too happy about it. But after a while the name grew on him, and everyone else. Dave admits that the longest he went without a shower was one month, and maybe that helped seal the deal on his nickname. Some reasons people remember Dave is that he is soft spoken, kind, and extremely helpful. Dave has been known to take vulnerable friends under his wing, making sure that they get to where they are going; he makes sure that women friends on the street get to the Evening Drop-In Center and back at night to a safe place to sleep.

Dave wasn't always without a home. He grew up in Cedar Rapids, Iowa where he married and had a daughter. In 1986 he moved to Colorado after a divorce and worked at a hydro-operation company measuring oil and liquids. 2009 was the last time Dave had a full time job working at Celestial Seasonings, where the future of Dave's job would be done by a machine.



panies and restaurants became more and more difficult for Dave, so the opportunities became fewer and fewer.

When the unemployment ran out, jobs were scarce, and Dave's health was suffering; then he became homeless. Dave says that he slept on the banks of the St. Vrain River, behind grocery stores, and in parks. He would wake up in the morning during the winters with frozen feet and would have to walk around for quite a while to warm up and get the feeling back in his feet. Dave looked to organizations in Longmont for assistance with food, counseling, and medical needs.

Dave was glad to find HOPE and used HOPE services often, arriving at the Justice Center for an evening meal, catching a ride up to the Evening Drop In Center twice a week for laundry and a shower, as well as using HOPE's transportation to sheltering sites on very cold nights.

This year, 2015, was Dave Jordan's year. He wanted a chance at housing placement and asked HOPE to help. We filled out the necessary paperwork, the Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) and turned it in to the 25 Cities Metro Denver Initiative.

...continued on page 2

## He Doesn't Live in a Cave

Alice Sueltenfuss, Program Manager

Between 2009 and 2013 Dave found himself experiencing homelessness off and on, trying to hold on to cheap apartments; and that is when he truly became Caveman Dave. He found himself on unemployment for a while, but could not get a job. Learning new procedures in fast paced com-

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Dave Jordan *continued from page 1*

Dave also wanted help getting a driver's license or ID and while we were at the DMV, we learned that Dave's eyesight was too bad to pass the vision screening. HOPE made an appointment with an eye doctor, after waiting three months for a local clinic to give him a referral. And we bought him a pair of glasses. Dave is tickled that he can see the funny papers in the newspaper and can hunt for a job, given that he has an ID and can see! With

new eyes and an ID we next headed to the barber shop for a haircut and shave.

A positive change was in the air for Dave, and while he is still seeking employment, this positive demeanor has led to good things. Dave met Judith early this year and they are quite smitten with each other. Dave reports that he never misses an appointment with his counselor and he just found out that he is going to be a grandpa for the

second time. And the Pièce de résistance is that in July, Dave was interviewed and accepted to Boulder Housing Partner's Lee Hill Housing First community, where he now lives. Dave has everything he has ever wanted...well except a crockpot. I am sure we can do something about that!

**Author's note:** Dave and Judith plan on attending Celebrate HOPE on September 18th to show Dave's gratitude towards HOPE.

# Save the Dates

**September 18  
6-9pm**

**Celebrate HOPE Annual  
Harvest Fundraiser**

Shupe Homestead

For tickets call 720-494-4673  
or visit [hopeforlongmont.org](http://hopeforlongmont.org).

**October 14, 5-9pm**

**Homeless Awareness  
Symposium**

Heart of Longmont Church

**December 8**

**Colorado Gives Day**

24 Hours to Give Where You

Live! Donate through our  
website: [hopeforlongmont.org](http://hopeforlongmont.org).

**December 24 - 25**  
**Room at the Inn**



## Donation Opportunities

**HOPE is a supported AmazonSmile organization.**

This means that if you shop on Amazon.com, your purchases can benefit HOPE. To learn more and to set up your Amazon account to benefit HOPE, visit our website and find the link under the "Donate" tab. Thank you!



### Matching Programs

Many employers and corporations offer matching gift programs. It's an easy way to maximize your donation! Some companies also recognize volunteer time as a match-able donation. Please contact your human resources department.

### Our Donation Acceptance Policy

Our greatest need is for men's outdoor-type clothing. We cannot accept donations of children's clothing, appliances, or furniture. Thank you for your understanding.

### Donations accepted at:

HOPE, 804 S. Lincoln St., Longmont, CO

To arrange a donation time, please call HOPE at: 720-494-4673  
or email us at: [info@hopeforlongmont.org](mailto:info@hopeforlongmont.org)



Third quarter at the Heart of Longmont Church is a time to focus on Homeless Awareness for the United Methodist Women. Each quarter, the group chooses a social action topic and plans activities for their members, the church, and the community related to that topic. For third quarter, the group has chosen homelessness and they asked HOPE to be their partner for many of the activities planned during the three months.

The president of the group, Catherine Murphy, says that this mission focus is important to them because the mission for the Heart of Longmont Church is to “work tirelessly by entering into intentional acts of compassion and social justice, to make our community a place where God’s love is known by all, where poverty and deprivation are unknown by any, and where respect for the worth and dignity of each person is the norm.”

Some of the events they have already completed include a massive PB&J sandwich build where church members made 823 sandwiches in four

## United Methodist Women Team Up with HOPE at Heart of Longmont

hours, passing out the sandwiches they made alongside our street outreach teams (the rest were frozen for future use by street outreach), providing soup angel meals and a meal at Common Cathedral.

On August 22, the group hosted an evening of services at the Heart of Longmont for people experiencing homelessness. The event took place on a Saturday evening and women from the group prepared a meal featuring a taco bar and an ice cream bar. They invited service providers to donate haircuts and medical checkups, and they set up a foot spa outside in the church’s courtyard. Staff and students from our local IBMC College provided the haircuts and Longmont’s

free clinic, Hopelight, provided the medical checkups. In total, 80 people experiencing homelessness attended the event and many expressed their appreciation for the dinner and the opportunity to access services.

Additionally, the United Methodist Women are

planning an awareness event for the community to be held on October 14. This event aims to increase community awareness of homelessness, provide hands-on opportunities to assist our fellow community members who find themselves without a home, and empower members of the church and greater community to know how to help after the event.

Referring to all the activities throughout the quarter, Murphy says that the group hopes, “that the information presented and the opportunities provided, have inspired our congregation and our community to recognize our homeless population and its supporters, and to identify ways for each of us to help.”

**Sign Up For  
E-NEWS**  
lisa@hopeforlongmont.org

Would you like to be on our email distribution list to receive periodic “E-News”? If so, please send an email to: [lisa@hopeforlongmont.org](mailto:lisa@hopeforlongmont.org).

This is a great way to keep up-to-date on our needs, news, and events. We do not share our mailing list with other organizations.





# Volunteer Profile: AJ Ferraro

*Christina Kay, Street Outreach Coordinator*

AJ is a long-time HOPE volunteer. He originally became interested in HOPE through his involvement with St. John's Food Bank where he was in charge of a turkey drive around the holidays. He says one year, "there was an incident with a young man while we were handing out turkeys. ... he brought me back the turkey and it took me time to realize that he had no oven to reheat it, no microwave, no neighbors; he lived in his car." After that, he was introduced to HOPE's then-executive director, Bray Patrick-Lake, and he began volunteering on street outreach.

The turkey drive that he organized each year to benefit St. John's Food Bank grew to include a water drive, and when AJ became involved with street outreach, he started donating the water he collected to HOPE. Now, the semi-annual water drive is an important cornerstone that helps keep our street outreach services going. Each summer and winter, AJ and his friends collect and deliver several hundred cases of water, which is typically enough to last through three to four months of street outreach.

After many years of faithfully organizing and executing the water and turkey drives, AJ is passing the torch to another HOPE outreach volunteer, Scott Sullivan. AJ and his wife are selling their Longmont home and plan to move to Delaware to be closer to their family.



Asked what motivated him to keep organizing the donation drives year after year, he said, "I guess it was just, if I didn't do it, it might not happen." He is confident that his project is transitioning into good hands with Scott and others who have offered to help. He adds that he will continue to help as long as he is in the area.

*If you'd like to help Scott with this year's drive, please contact him at: [scottandruthann@msn.com](mailto:scottandruthann@msn.com).*



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# Affordable Housing Update

*Lisa Searchinger, Executive Director*

Lots of talk, little action - that about sums up progress in addressing the current housing crisis. With the exception of one 60-unit complex for seniors 55+ under construction, inadequate plans exist to meet the estimated shortage of 2,500 units. Further compounding the problem are the criteria used to determine 'affordability'—for most of the people we serve, these units are still out of reach, even though many are working more than one job. The average apartment rent rate in Longmont is \$1,169 per month, and rent increases this year of 10.8% are among the highest in the state.

**THE CAUSE.** Consultants recently hired by the city identified two major gaps: "The largest gap (2,500 units) is burdened on households earning less than 30 percent of AMI (average median income). The second is a lack of units for renter households earning above 80 percent of AMI. There is large need for both market rate and affordable rental units within Longmont. The lack of rental options for higher incomes is putting pressure on rental rates and vacancy for units affordable to lower income renters. The lack of supply is driving rents up and vacancy to nearly zero. The increasing rents are reaching levels that are more expensive than homeownership."

**THE RESULT.** More and more people are losing their housing and ending up homeless. The January 2015 Point-in-Time snapshot survey of homeless individuals reveals that 36% of Boulder County respondents were newly homeless (defined as a first episode of homelessness the

duration of which has been less than one year), and the number one contributing factor cited was inability to pay rent or mortgage. We receive multiple requests daily from people searching for housing, or emergency shelter, and many of them are indeed newly homeless.

**THE SOLUTION.** HOPE recognizes housing as the long-term solution to homelessness; the Board of Directors issued the following advocacy statement earlier this year:

As ambassadors for the homeless population in Longmont we believe that all residents of our community deserve a stable and affordable place to live. Today, there is less affordable housing than ever, and HOPE is serving a record number of people experiencing homelessness. To address homelessness, one imperative is to increase the supply of affordable housing. A comprehensive housing solution requires joint planning and investments from public, private and nonprofit sectors.

This must include multiple forms of housing such as: affordable housing for low and moderate wage earners, physically accessible housing for seniors and those with disabilities, and permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP.

There are many opportunities to become involved: speak to City Council; attend monthly Coffee with Council sessions, write a letter to the Times Call; educate your neighbors, community and church groups. Longtime soup angel Joan Peck recently spoke at a Council study session on affordable housing and shares her inspiration, "It is an honor to be a volunteer for HOPE. In the eight years that I've been providing meals for the people who have no homes I've been humbled by their thankfulness. It is my hope that in the near future, the city will do the right thing and provide a shelter and low income housing so people won't have to eat meals or sleep in the elements. Keep up the good work and keep standing up for HOPE."

# Letter from the Board President

As I sit here pondering what to say about HOPE and our tremendous programs for helping our friends who live on the streets, I think about how none of this would be possible without all of our precious volunteers who give of their time in making delicious meals, who go out on street outreach to distribute the meals and clothing, and most of all their compassionate care for our homeless right where they are in life 365 days a year. When I go out on outreach almost all of them say thank you, they wouldn't know what to do if HOPE didn't exist. I thank our wonderful financial donors who keep our programs going.

THANK YOU ALL for making a difference serving the homeless in Longmont, Colorado.

In May the Board of Directors elected new officers; Susie Sisson, President; Tim Olsen, Vice President; Susie Hajek, Treasurer; Laverne Reynolds, Secretary. We said farewell to retiring members Ann Jennings and Joyce Molenaar. Ann and Joyce have been such a vital part of HOPE and I am so excited that they will continue volunteering for street outreach and on the fundraising committee. Thank you both for your strong support of HOPE. The board welcomed three new members in June: Carlos Descalzo, Nancy Hyde and Doug Kraus. They each come with a wide range of knowledge and the desire to make a difference for HOPE.

As summer comes to an end the board and staff are working hard to ensure that we have adequate sheltering in place for the winter months. This is our top priority. Winter is the hardest time of year for those who are unsheltered. Since HOPE was founded Longmont has not lost a single person to exposure and that continues to be our priority.

I would like to invite you to attend HOPE's upcoming Annual Harvest Fundraiser event on Friday, September 18, 2015 at Shupe Homestead! It is a beautiful location and those who attended last year found it to be a very fun-filled evening. We have great food, fabulous music and amazing Live and Silent Auction items on the program. You can purchase tickets on HOPE's website.

Thank you all for touching my life through HOPE and for touching the lives of our homeless community.

As always,  
*Susie Sisson*  
Board President

## Our Mission Statement

To provide life-sustaining support and encouragement to the homeless in Longmont and be their ambassador to the greater community.



P.O. Box 756  
Longmont, CO 80502  
720-494-4673 (Office)  
www.hopeforlongmont.org

Join Us Friday, September 18th



## Celebrate HOPE Annual Harvest Fundraiser

**When:** Friday, September 18 ▪ 6 pm - 9 pm

**Where:** Shupe Homestead ▪ Longmont, CO

**Tickets:** \$65 each or \$600 for table for 10

Please join us for a very special evening at the fabulous Shupe Homestead. Festivities include fantastic silent and live auction items, games of chance, genuine 'soul-tuggin' bluegrass music from *Willie Bean Bluegrass*, and a scrumptious seasonal menu featuring locally grown produce, wine and beer.

Purchase online at [hopeforlongmont.org](http://hopeforlongmont.org) or call 720-494-4673

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