

# insideout

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



## DONOR PROFILE

### Lucille Cannella

Although Lucille Cannella is now an integral part of several HOPE efforts, she ended up at HOPE by a happenstance. Lucille moved to Erie from New Jersey 10 years ago and began volunteering for the St. John the Baptist Food Bank next door more than nine years ago. Her two youngest children were in sixth grade at St. John the Baptist Catholic School at the time and she wanted to help the philanthropic arm of the school.

A friend at St. John's invited Lucille to Celebrate HOPE and the rest is history.

"I went and I listened to people's stories and they just touched my heart," she said. "I am so blessed and I wanted to share with others who aren't as fortunate."

Lucille's friend and longtime HOPE volunteer, Joyce Molenaar, suggested that she help with the silent auction for Celebrate HOPE and she has been doing it ever since. The work that Lucille and Joyce put into their pieces of Celebrate HOPE are invaluable to our organization's major annual fundraising event.

The proceeds from the 2018 silent auction they labored over made up 7 percent of the night's total fundraising. The work that Lucille and Joyce did on the drawing baskets and Spin to Win portions made up an additional 4 percent of revenues from that extraordinary night. The two women packaged and displayed all of the goods beautifully with a high attention to detail and we are forever grateful for their efforts.

Besides that, Lucille prepares meals for HOPE clients through the Soup Angel program, but she started by assembling the non-perishable sack lunches that HOPE hands out to people in need.

"My grandkids would help draw on the bags and we did an assembly line for the bags, so it was a family thing," she said. "I think it's important for kids to know that there are people out there who need help, that everything doesn't come so easy for everyone."

Lucille said that she wants to give a special shout-out to her husband Steve, without whose support she wouldn't be able to do the volunteer and donor work she does for HOPE and St. John's. "We both feel that everything we have is a gift from God and meant to be shared with those less fortunate. Giving to others and seeing how it makes an impact on them gives me a full heart."

During the more than nine years of donating to HOPE and volunteering her time, Lucille said she has met an abundance of compassionate people in the Longmont community. She added that her work with HOPE has taught her that homelessness can happen to anyone. "No one is exempt from it and that's a part that a lot of people don't understand. Some of the people do work and they do try, but it's not easy," she said. "HOPE is a wonderful group of people who all come together to get things done."

## HOPE is Part of the Solution

HOPE has been involved in Homeless Solutions for Boulder County for the past year working with individuals experiencing homelessness, who have been referred to our navigation services through a coordinated entry assessment. Information and location of the assessment is spread by our organization daily through street outreach staff, search and save volunteers, and our shelter staff. With 2,661 individuals assessed to date, the overall number of folks needing assistance in Boulder County is staggering.

HOPE has provided navigation clients with case management towards self-sufficiency, sheltering from November through April, soup angel meals, a summer program, laundry, showers, storage, and resource information. To date, 34 individuals were assisted with finding housing and 17 were reunified with family and resources in other communities.

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# Letter from the Board President

A good analogy for much of the work that goes on at HOPE is akin to sports preparation. We strategize, welcome new players, say goodbye to others, practice, try new approaches, review what has worked, learn from what didn't, practice, analyze new players, new league rules and adjust, adapt, accommodate and modify are deeply embedded skills.

We now have a year of experience with the new Homeless Solutions for Boulder County/Coordinated Entry system and a great partnership with the City of Longmont delivering this service. Now starts season #2 and the plans are reviewed and new strategies are in place. Our roster and lineup have changed as well this year. A significant change is the addition of a new HOPE Executive Director Joseph Zanovitch. Lisa Searchinger and Rhonda Curran are moving across town to lead a new organization, Recovery Café Longmont, which we are looking forward to closely partnering with. Many thanks to Lisa and Rhonda for leading and developing HOPE into what it is today!

A new adjustment to our strategy is also the change from our street outreach model where meals were provided at several locations across Longmont to moving this service into the Coordinated Entry program. Now that shelter is open each night until the end of April, we can provide meals, case management, shelter and other essential items to serve our fellow citizens who are struggling in many different ways.

Efforts and plans are starting to pay off and show more promise each month. More clients are keeping up with case management and are reaping the rewards of new-found jobs and housing. This is essential to building confidence and momentum in the system. There are many setbacks but the successes are extremely gratifying and re-energize us.

One of the best ways you can cheer on our team and community is to continue to have hope in people and our goals. We all know that progress is tough and wins are hard-fought but we can overcome obstacles together. We are establishing more community efforts across Longmont to build on these successes and positively affect more people. Please reach out and join us - our community can use more help! It is absolutely a community effort and in the end our community will be the biggest beneficiary when the cycle of homeless can be reduced.

As board president I look forward to embarking on this effort with all of you! Look out and anticipate announcements coming up in our newsletters this year as there are some exciting new initiatives coming in 2019.

With Deep Gratitude,

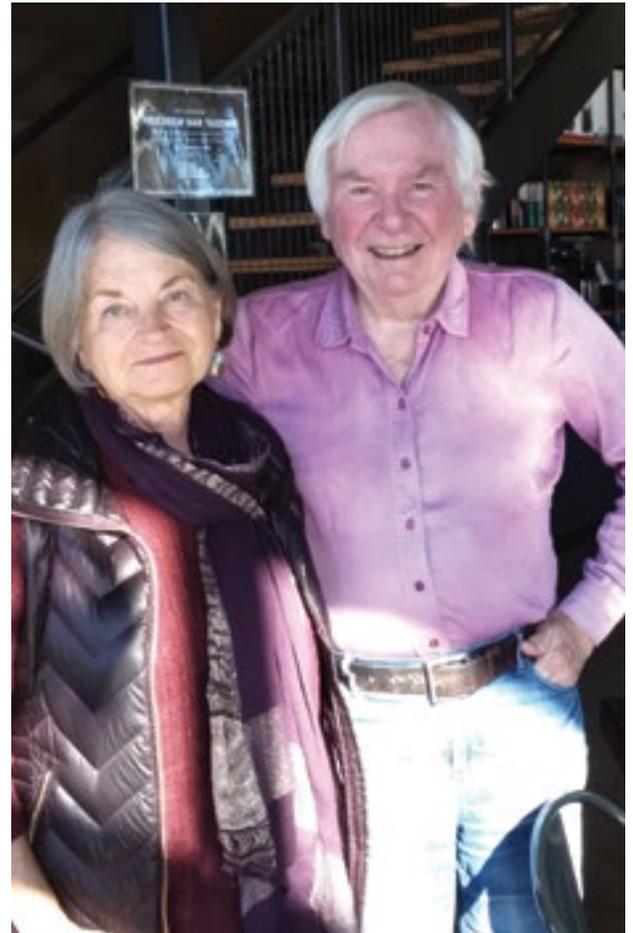


Eric Jepsen

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE

# Mary Anne and Merrill Lesley

Mary Anne first heard about HOPE from a newspaper article. After steadily donating clothing for five years she decided to join HOPE as a soup angel. That was six years ago and she has taken on multiple roles since then. Mary Anne spent three years volunteering at our shelter until health-related issues got in the way and she had to stop. She has also recruited her husband, Merrill, into contributing as a soup angel. According to Mary Anne, being a soup angel "has been fun for us to plan our meals and shop together, which we never do otherwise, and Merrill is a supportive assistant and food critic!" In addition to that, they go to Starbucks twice a week to collect food donations for HOPE, which we use as part of our meal service.



Their initial role as soup angels was cooking and bringing food into the community as street outreach volunteers. The important part of this work for them was getting to talk to people. The Lessleys have a son that suffers from a head injury and has made the choice to live on the streets. Working at the shelter provided an opportunity for them to talk to others and get a better understanding of what their son is going through. They say "there is no shame in homelessness," and they work to fight the stigmas that are often associated with it.

Merrill retired from a career in academia and continues to spend his time and knowledge in that field. He is currently developing a faculty and student exchange program between CU Boulder and universities in London and Toronto. Even though this is a volunteer role it is close to a full-time endeavor. When pressed for a quote they said think about Obama - Hope is everything. We couldn't agree more.

## STAFFING CHANGES

# Welcome Karen

Please join us in welcoming Karen Antonacci as program manager focusing on sheltering. Karen worked for the Longmont Times-Call newspaper since 2014 and learned about HOPE and the larger nonprofit community that aims to help people experiencing homelessness through her work as a reporter. Karen is excited to use her skills in a new way in the nonprofit sphere.



## CLIENT PROFILE

# Babies in the Midst of Homelessness

It sounds unheard of, almost. HOPE staff quickly recalculated and met the needs of two young women who were experiencing homelessness in our community while pregnant. Some volunteers added themselves to the concerned group. Then there were all the soup angels who did not realize the impact their amazing nutritional meals had on sustaining new life.

One woman was pregnant with twins and living in a car with her husband, both shy, with a sweetness about them. They came to our summer program for showers, meals, and laundry services, looking for a better life for themselves and their soon to be new family in the high cost of non-existent affordable housing. The second mother was known to HOPE staff and though life on the streets was difficult, she made a pact with herself that her baby would come first and the nightly HOPE meals would keep her nutrition intact.

The twins, a boy and a girl, were born early, as twins often are, and stayed at the hospital for a period of time until their weight was sufficient enough to live with their mother at their grandmother's home. The little girl of number two mom was healthy as can be and was able to go live with her aunt with constant visitations from her mom.

but knows it will be soon. Heith has stayed in contact with Marty, a volunteer for HOPE and a parishioner at Heart of Longmont Church. That's how he found out about the shelter and that he could pick up presents as the twin's mom finds that need. And she did. As a couple they came to the church and collected needed clothing items for the twins, that happened to also be adorable! Heith cannot stay with his family, but someday hopes to, as he works daily to make that wish a reality in this difficult and high rising housing market. His minimum wage job will prove it difficult to find a place to rent, but he is hopeful. Heith has looked up and down the front range. When the time is right, the navigation program can assist him with a deposit or first month's rent.

The moms with their exhaustion and ever growing bellies of new life attracted HOPE staff and volunteers to action. But it was these three quiet, unassuming men, who became daddies in difficult times, finding a love and a strength they did not know they possessed, that made a lasting impact on us all!

## Celebrate HOPE 2018



Sending huge gratitude to everyone who supported Celebrate HOPE 2018! It was a magical evening which raised much-needed funds for our life-sustaining and supportive services. Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, businesses, volunteers and donors, a record \$100,000 will go directly to serving the most vulnerable members of our community. Endless gratitude to The St. Vrain for hosting us and to our event sponsors for making this special night possible: Stapp Interstate Toyota, Guaranty Bank & Trust, ANB Bank, Sunflower Bank, Avocet Communications and Sun Construction & Facility Services.

## Our Mission Statement

HOPE provides life-sustaining and supportive services for homeless and at-risk individuals to encourage stability and self-sufficiency.

But it's the dads, actually three of them, that this story is about. Heith has the twins, Roger, the little girl, and Thomas is advocating that he stay at our HOPE shelter in Longmont instead of the Boulder Shelter where his coordinated entry assessment through the Homeless Solutions for Boulder County sent him. If Thomas goes to the Boulder Shelter, he would most likely miss the visitation with his new little son at a given time and days in Longmont. After losing his step-dad and now a relationship, the

twice a week visits with his son are the only

reason for hope. Roger goes to every one of his visitations and will soon meet with HOPE's navigation specialist and case manager, Sarah, to work on getting back on his feet. With a disability getting in the way of some employment, Roger will need all the assistance he can attain to get the help he needs to become self-sufficient.

Roger knew that the women at Heart of Longmont United Methodist Church were having a baby shower for his little girl and Heith's twins at the church. He also knew that his girlfriend was not going to the party, which was held on the last day of HOPE's summer meal program. So he went alone. And he approached the women all by himself, thanked them and had cake with them, realizing that he was the only one of the two families representing the babies and their families. For Roger, a shy, quiet person, doing this one thing of going to a baby shower, was the biggest thing that he had accomplished in a long time. He found out that the beautifully wrapped gifts would stay at the church until each gift was needed and that he could call the organizers to pick items up.

Heith is staying at the HOPE shelter and proudly, if asked, shows pictures of the twins that are on his phone. He doesn't know when he will get to see them next,



P.O. Box 756  
Longmont, CO 80502  
720-494-4673 (Office)  
[www.hopeforlongmont.org](http://www.hopeforlongmont.org)

## On December 4th Your Donation Goes Further!

We hope you will think of us on Colorado Gives Day. This 24-hour movement happens on December 4, 2018, and is a chance to increase the value of your donation, thanks to the \$1 Million Incentive Fund.



## Summer Program

October 31st marked the close of HOPE's 2018 spring and summer evening navigation service. Here, participants shared a nightly warm meal, experienced the positive benefits of being part of a community, and partnered with staff and a client advocate to achieve goals toward attaining increased stability and self-sufficiency. They could also do laundry and take showers at The Journey Church, and use our storage shed at Heart of Longmont Church. Although we were unable to offer overnight shelter during these months, some important work was accomplished by our clients. Without the protein-rich meals, which soup angels generously contributed each and every night, this forward movement in our clients' lives would not have been possible.

### Between May 1st and October 31st, 2018...

- 70 percent of active program participants were employed as of 10/31/18
- 280 clients attended evening navigation
- 188 clients assisted via daytime street outreach
- 153 clients received HOPE emergency assistance
- 14 clients were housed through Longmont Navigation