

## Hope Growth

### Article three of a four-part series

Hope is a pretty rewarding place to work and volunteer these days. We see God's fingerprints all the time, and we're growing in so many ways. An ever-increasing number of women are getting the help they need, making positive life decisions, being connected to partnering ministries and, in general, getting their lives back together.

Hope's work is always focused primarily on women who are unprepared for pregnancy. To better meet these women's real and felt needs, we added an important component to our services a couple of years ago. That, of course, is the **Parenting Initiative**.

It gives us great joy to see the light come on when we're talking with a patient who "gets it" about our parenting classes. The conversation in the counseling rooms goes something like this:

Patient: "I don't think I can have this baby. I don't know the first thing about being a parent."

Volunteer: "We can help you with that! We offer parenting classes with an informative curriculum, a wise mentor, and you can earn a lot of valuable items for your baby, including a car seat or Pack 'n Play."

Patient: "Oh, wow, that sounds great. Yes, that would be very helpful. Okay, maybe I *can* do this!"

The parenting classes—with a growing number of mentors and mentees—continue to fill the space at the Hope Annex. We're on pace to have over 140 women (and at least 70 dads) participating this year. Multiply that by the many weekly visits for each one and it is a lot of people in the building almost every day.



Way beyond the volume though are the many life changes we're seeing at the Annex. **There are lives being completely turned around:** new dads diving in right alongside the moms; women and couples choosing to do our Bible study and having deep conversations about Christ; and the amazing trust, love, and appreciation we receive back from so many women.

The growth at Hope is about way more than the number of women and babies. It's also about their hearts, and we celebrate each one of them!

## 2023 Fall Dessert

Every fall we celebrate what God is doing through Hope. Powerful patient testimonies and staff stories illustrate the impact our ministry makes in the lives of women and families in the Salem area. Funds raised during this event help provide our free services to the women who need us. **Please join us on Saturday, October 21 for this night of celebration.**



## Employment Opportunity

Hope is looking to hire a second **part-time Bilingual Receptionist (15-25 hours/week)**. She sets the tone for everyone who comes into the clinic and performs a variety of administrative tasks.

If you're interested, please take a look at the full position description on the "Get Involved" tab at **[hopeforsalem.org](http://hopeforsalem.org)**, or forward it to someone you think may be a good fit. The employment application can be found on the same page.

**Please send completed application and resume to Mike Reid at [mike@hopeforsalem.org](mailto:mike@hopeforsalem.org)**

## "It's Twins!" Lots of Twins

At a time when Hope is growing in just about every way imaginable, we can add twins to the report! We've seen five twin ultrasounds in three weeks. It can be challenging to tell a patient she's carrying twins. For some, one baby on the way is stressful enough, and two might seem impossible. Fortunately, each of these five couples took the news (mostly) in stride. As one of our nurses put it, "Well, at least nobody broke down in tears." Actually, they've all warmed up to the unexpected adventure fairly well, and we're looking forward to helping twice as much as usual!

## A Grant of Loving Support

We are very thankful for community partners such as the **Huddart Family Foundation**, that recently awarded Hope with an \$8,000 grant. This funding allows us to provide prenatal vitamins and maternity clothes for our patients, as well as car seats for those completing at least six weeks in the Parenting Initiative. This grant additionally helped to purchase a computer station for our growing staff. **Thank you, Huddart Family, for partnering with Hope and providing much needed support to our patients.**

## A Gift of Language

Communicating clearly is so important here at Hope, and we need to do it in a lot of different languages. We have staff who are bilingual and can communicate well with our Spanish speaking patients. However, we have quite a few patients who speak other languages.

As you may know, we began using an online translation service last year, called "Jeenie," to serve patients in their own language. Jeenie has been a great addition, but does come with added expense. We recently received a grant from the **Salem Foundation** to fund the Jeenie translation service for a full year. **We are so grateful for this support and look forward to being able to help all who come to Hope.**

## Partner Spotlight

An enormous thank you to **Peoples Church** who held a donation drive for Hope in May and June! Items like diapers, wipes, baby clothes, blankets, stuffed animals, diaper bags and toys are all essentials that help our patients feel more prepared for parenting.



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