As we begin to see the light at the end of the COVID tunnel and reflect on the past two years, one thing remains certain; we are living within a highly supportive community, where the needs of those who struggle are not forgotten or ignored. Hope House has been no different. The selfless staff, the unwavering volunteers and the generous financial supporters have not left out our children and families. Hope House has continued to serve those affected by HIV and poverty using some very creative delivery models.

Great things are happening within all the walls of our buildings. The smiling faces of the children and look of relief on the adults’ faces (many times through a computer screen) are indicative of the wonderful work our social workers, teachers and staff are doing, even in these difficult, anxiety ridden times.

We are saddened by Betty’s departure yet really excited for her as she ventures into retirement. Betty has been much of the reason Hope House has succeeded for so many years. Her commitment and tenacity in serving those in need has helped shape what Hope House is today. We will certainly miss her but wish her the best in her well deserved retirement years!

This is going to be an exciting year ahead for Hope House! We have some exciting new things happening which will be monumental for the organization for those it serves. We will share these as the year progresses. Once again, we want to thank all of our supporters for their generosity, and we are grateful that you have trusted Hope House to help take care of those in need.

Doug Wright
Board President

“The mission of Hope House is to improve the quality of life for individuals and families affected by HIV and poverty.”
Dear Friends,

Safe At Home is the theme of this annual report. With COVID, this has been true for the safety of the physical health of our clients. The mental health, however, has been a different story.

Isolation due to HIV always has been an issue for our clients. COVID exacerbated that isolation. Our Social Services team has reached out with group and individual counseling through Zoom as well as limited home visits for our most stressed clients. We were able to supply outdated laptops so that Zoom could take place in their homes with other clients using our laptops on our Hope House porches to be able to participate in groups and “see” their friends.

Thank you for helping keep our clients and staff safe through the technology and support you have given to Hope House over the years. You have improved the lives of so many in our community and made it a better place for all of us.

With my upcoming retirement in June of 2022, this will be my last letter to you in an annual report. Thank you also for allowing me the opportunity to work with some of the most beautiful people in the world. It has been a true joy that has made such a difference in my life.

With hope in our hearts,

Elizabeth Montegut Dupont, Ed.D.
Executive Director
After having two boys, Ina was hoping her third pregnancy would bring her the daughter she had always wanted. “There was an intern doing my ultrasound at first and he told me it was a boy. Then the technician came in and said no, it’s a girl! I was so excited!” Unexpectedly at 20 weeks pregnant, Ina went into labor. The doctors did what they could to delay her birth for seven more weeks, but at 27 weeks, Ciara entered the world at a whopping 2.1 pounds. After fighting for her life for three months, Ciara was finally able to go home with her mom and two older brothers. She was still in preemie clothes when she started attending Hope House at four months old!

Two years later, Ciara may still be the smallest in her class, but no one can tell her that! She is a fiery, but compassionate little girl who loves to use the playground as her own gymnastics’ gym. Her favorite part of coming to Hope House is singing songs and playing with her friends.

“She is our little mom. She is the first to go over to another kid who may be crying and tell them it’s okay!” - Angel, Ciara’s teacher

Ina is thankful that she and her daughter have been connected to Hope House since before Ciara was born. In addition to the love and care Ciara receives each day from her teachers, she and her family also receive housing support and access the food pantry. Her mom also works with social workers for individual counseling.

“Hope House has been an amazing part of our lives. The teachers are so nice and helpful. The social workers always make sure she has diapers and that my family has food. They take care of everything. I don’t have to struggle.”
"You have HIV and meningococcal meningitis. I need you to be here within 15 minutes or you will die. If you cannot get here, I will come get you."

This one, short phone call in 2000 from her doctor would change Shenita’s life. Her co-worker rushed her to the hospital where a different doctor would tell her she would die in the next week. Her response was, “You have no right to tell me when I am going to die.” So, she fought.

After making a miraculous recovery, Shenita immediately became an HIV counselor at a local hospital. “I wanted to give people hope that was not given to me.”

In 2012, she was living away from Memphis and received a call that her 23-year-old son was in a tragic accident. After his passing, Shenita was in a very dark place. She went from wanting to help everyone to being shut down.

Shenita knew about Hope House from her work as a counselor so when she moved back to Memphis, it was one of her first stops. She began receiving services from the food pantry, support groups and the housing program. She never realized that she could also receive grief counseling here, but the group impacted her life in so many ways. “I realized grief was so much more than someone passing. It can be losing a friend, a job, things that change who you are. I was dealing with things I didn’t even realize. This changed my dynamic and brought me back to what I love - helping others.”

Being in the housing program also helped Shenita’s mental health drastically. Before the program, she only had $245 left for the month to buy groceries, pay utilities and live on after she paid rent. “Housing made life bearable. It took away so much stress. I can buy the groceries I need, have money to put into savings for things like car repairs. It is such a blessing.”

“Hope House has been a blessing because it encourages, nurtures and educates the clients. It gives us the ability to learn how to control the virus instead of the virus controlling us. I have so much family because of Hope House. Everyone on staff makes us feel so special. I know they are always there for me.”
3. Open Test Stick

- Open a new Test stick from the outer package. 
- Place the Test stick on a flat surface and hold it firmly by the handle.
- Insert the Test stick into the Test Site and remove it immediately.
- Do not touch the pad with your fingers.
- Test stick is made of a stiff plastic and can break if mishandled.

4. Surface Clean

- Disinfect the Test site using a 70% isopropanol wipes.
- Clean the surface of the Test site with the provided wipes.
- Let the surface dry before testing.

NOTE: You must follow the test directions carefully to get an accurate result.
Jessica, an aspiring nurse, interned with Hope House in college and within weeks of starting her internship she changed her major to social work. “I loved that social work gave me the opportunity to work with clients long term. I wanted to address barriers I knew I couldn’t as a nurse.”

In 2015, Jessica was hired as a full-time social worker at Hope House. A few years in, she began recognizing the community’s need for HIV outreach and education resources. She went to her director and together they created a new program to test individuals for HIV in high-risk zip codes and population groups.

Jessica’s clinical skills and experience allow her to do more than just offer free HIV tests. “I have the opportunity to educate and provide resources in places where they are lacking.”

To Jessica, the most rewarding part of her new title as Clinical Community Outreach Coordinator is reaching those who have fallen out of care. “A lot of people fall out of care because they are treated poorly by not only healthcare providers but others in their community. I can use empathy skills and let them know someone does cares about them. When they open up, it is a totally different experience. I can actually change their mindset. It’s such a blessing to hear things like; ‘Hope House is the only place that cares about me so now I actually care about myself’ Our work is hard, and we don’t always see the benefit but when we do it is so impactful.”

Though the work is rewarding, it is also challenging. The negative stigmas around HIV make being in the community very difficult. Often at public health fairs, people do not want to be associated with the Hope House table because they don’t want to be seen talking about HIV. Jessica has had to get creative with educating the community and uses YouTube videos and gift card incentives to create an opportunity to break down barriers.

In recent weeks, Jessica has begun conducting HIV tests at the Hospitality Hub - an organization for those facing homelessness. “I had to tell a man he tested positive. He broke down in tears and tried to leave. He had no contact information, and I knew if he left, I would never find him again. It took a lot of my therapy skills to keep him there and educate him on his status. I had to work on building trust in a short time. I was able to convince him to come to Hope House. He went from living under a bridge and having suicidal thoughts, to living in a safe, long term shelter and working on getting the virus under control.”

Jessica’s work is reaching those who would never be reached otherwise, providing hope and changing lives forever.
Thank you to all of our donors
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

**Hope House Heroes**
$10,000 +
- AIDS United
- Anonymous
- City of Memphis
- Department of Health & Human Services - CFAR Grant Emerson Automation Solutions
- Gilead Sciences
- Homer Skelton Charitable Foundation
- International Paper
- J. Strickland & Co.
- John & Marine van Vlissingen Foundation
- Mr. & Mrs. Ben Livingston
- Methodist Le Bonheur Community Health & Well-Being
- Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church
- Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors
- Shelby County Schools
- Slingshot Memphis, Inc.
- State of Tennessee - Department of Human Services
- State of Tennessee - Shelby County Government
- Tennessee Titans Foundation
- Thomas W. Briggs Foundation, Inc.
- TN Department of Justice - Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)
- Mr. & Mrs. Stan Turk
- United Way of the Mid-South USDA Food in Schools Program
- Valero Memphis Refinery
- Douglas B. Wright

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- Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Buckman Laboratories
- Dillard's Store Services, Inc.
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**HOPE HOUSE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**
Fiscal Year: July 1, 2020– June 30, 2021

*These financials are unaudited. The audited financial report will be available January 2022.*

**REVENUE**
- Donations $586,586
- Net Revenue from Special Events 23,671
- Private Grants 129,104
- Public Grants 2,878,166
- Change in Market Value of Investments 181,593
- Interest & Dividend Income 21,851
- Miscellaneous Income 2,555
- Net Assets Released from Restrictions 0.00
- **TOTAL REVENUE** $3,823,530

**EXPENSES**
- Programming $3,223,057
- Management & General 143,541
- Fundraising 140,548
- **TOTAL EXPENSES** $3,507,147
Special thanks to photojournalist Greg Campbell for donating his talent and services.