

## Hometown Banking Based on Community Service

TowneBank supports many local and national nonprofit associations, organizations, and events. We are honored to support the vital role these organizations play in our community.

### COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## “AN ORDINARY LIFE IS AN EXTRAORDINARY GIFT”

That's the motto of Hope House Foundation, an organization dedicated to helping adults with

developmental disabilities gain independence. “Hope House was founded in 1964 by a group of parents who believed that what Virginia systems offered at that time—institutions—was not good enough,” said Lynne Seagle, executive director. “So they created the first group home in the state. We have a proud history from that standpoint, but in the '80s we closed all of our group homes because people with disabilities said it still wasn't good enough. They wanted to live in their own homes.”

Today, Hope House is the only organization in Virginia that provides support to adults with developmental disabilities exclusively in their own homes and apartments. The organization serves more than 130 people in Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, and Virginia Beach. Hope House provides a variety of services that are designed to help people live as fully and independently as possible. “Most people think that the biggest barrier regarding community living is about the disability,” says Lynne. “It is not—it's opportunity.”

One popular event that helps raise awareness of Hope House is the Stockley Gardens Art Festival. The festival began 25 years ago with 30 artists and raised about \$50. Today, it is held twice a year and draws 50,000 visitors. “It isn't your typical charity

fundraiser,” Lynne said. “The festival represents what Hope House is all about—building a community that includes everyone, while providing people with disabilities a chance to help coordinate the event and contribute to our community.”

Lynne has been at Hope House for 30 years, serving as executive director for the last 20. “While I was in college, I took a job at a group home in Norfolk where I lived with eight women with disabilities. I was profoundly changed by that experience.” Lynne taught school for two years, and then in 1978 was hired by Hope House.

She is one of the country's leading consultants in organizational development and supported living services. In 1999, she was awarded a Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation Leadership Award for her work on behalf of people with disabilities. In 2008, the Hope House Foundation received a national award from the American Association for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities for their work in full community inclusion.

Lynne is grateful for TowneBank's support. “What TowneBank has done for Hope House is phenomenal. They were the first to step up with a generous gift in support of our drive for affordable housing. More important and extremely moving to me is Bob Aston's sincere and authentic belief in our mission.” To lend your support to the great work of Hope House Foundation, visit [www.hope-house.org](http://www.hope-house.org). ♦

