



# SIGNS of HOPE

## 2009 ANNUAL APPEAL

*“Coming to HOPE is like coming home”*

—A HOPE for Women participant

Dear Neighbor,

### *What makes HOPE so unique?*

Like other worthy organizations, we serve those who need us most; those who have lived in an economic and emotional recession long before the rest of us felt the pinch. Through good times and bad we are forced to operate within the constraints of a shoestring budget—touching the lives of hundreds of women, kids and parents with a mere \$330,000 a year.

Our warm, welcoming venue in a residential neighborhood sets us apart from more institutional settings. There is more, something less tangible. The true essence of what makes HOPE so unique is the *unwavering support and embrace we provide to every person who walks through our doors*. Sayings such as “Once a HOPE woman always a HOPE woman,” are more than slogans, they are rooted into the culture of HOPE.

*At HOPE, service is more than a good deed or a helping hand.* Our work is exceedingly personal. We are a family, providing support that leads to self-sufficiency. And, like any large, growing family it takes a tremendous amount of resources to succeed.

Please make a donation to HOPE today. When you do, you will be making an investment in the future of HOPE’s family.

Sincerely,

Tina Sbrega, president  
HOPE Board of Directors



HOPE mentor and former Teen HOPE member, Maryann Ernst, with HOPE for Kids PALS program attendees after a circle time discussion.

### *One HOPEful Family, One Story of Success*

Leah is a fifth grader who has been participating in HOPE’s programs since she started in the PALS program five years ago. She currently gets weekly help with her homework. At first, her teachers reported that Leah’s participation in class was minimal. Recently, as a result of being chosen to speak to a large audience at HOPE’s 2008 Annual Meeting, her confidence was boosted and her school now reports her positive improvement and enthusiastic approach to class discussions.

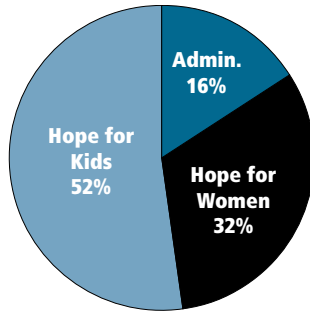
Other members of Leah’s family are also involved in HOPE programs. Her younger brother participates in HOPE’s PALS program. Leah’s grandmother, with whom she and her brother live, has participated in the HOPEful Families program since it began. She finds that regular attendance at the parent’s group is most beneficial to her as she faces the challenges of raising her grandchildren.

The support HOPE provides has positive effects on the grandchildren, who view HOPE as another one of their homes. ■

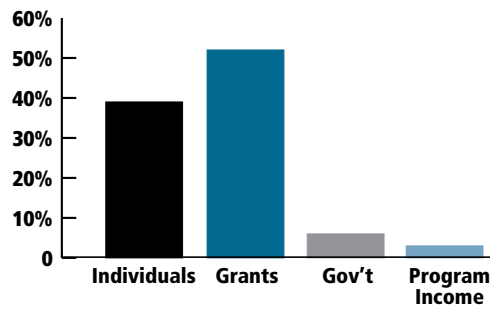
You can make your gift online by visiting our website at [www.hopegardner.org](http://www.hopegardner.org) and clicking on **Donate**.

*The House of Peace & Education, Inc. (HOPE) is a nonprofit interfaith organization committed to counteracting violence and promoting peace. In a safe, welcoming and nurturing environment, HOPE offers academic support, leadership development, empowering relationships, and spiritual values to people in need, especially to women and children at risk.*

### How Are HOPE Funds Allocated?



### Where Do HOPE Funds Come From?



HOPEful families' expenses are allocated across both HOPE for Kids and HOPE for Women.

## HOPEful Thoughts Expressed

*"We feel privileged to have our children attend the HOPE program. The staff at HOPE is a credit to our community."*

—Parents of two HOPE for Kids participants

*"She is starting to recognize what makes her angry and using her words to tell people when they are making her angry"*

—Parent of a child in the HOPE for Kids PALS mentoring program

A HOPE tutor asks, *"What is your favorite part of the day?"*

HOPE for Kids participant replies, *"Coming to HOPE... it's what keeps me going."*

*"Our family is so fortunate to have such a wonderful organization as HOPE, as a resource within our community."*

—a note from a HOPEful Families participant

### What is HOPE All About?

The **House of Peace & Education** (HOPE) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1996 by four Sisters of St Joseph in response to growing violence and poverty in the Greater Gardner area. To counter these trends, HOPE offers education, mentoring and leadership opportunities to at risk women, children and families from the Greater Gardner area through three primary programs:

- **HOPE for Women** serves 65-72 women each year through job training and job skills support.
- **HOPE for Kids** serves nearly 200 kids in grades K-12 with academic tutoring, mentoring and leadership development opportunities.
- **HOPEful Families** offers education and support services to anyone who is part of the HOPE family, including one-on-one problem solving, parent support groups, and educational enrichment workshops.

HOPE is run by a board of directors who are representative of the Greater Gardner community.



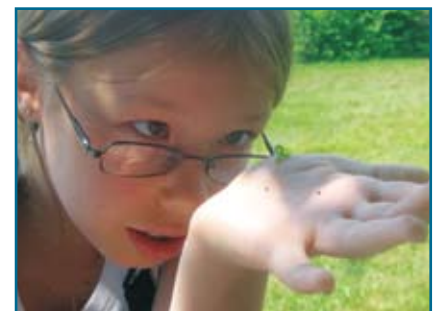
HOPE for Women Graduates share their experiences, hopes, and dreams in a tearful celebration.



Rocking out . . . Teen HOPE member Adam, has some fun mentoring HOPE for Kids afterschool student, Travis.



Teen HOPE students share a light moment with Board Member, Attorney George Corey.



HOPE for Kids student enjoys a week of learning at summer nature and science camp at the Village School in Royalston.