



## CHAIR'S REPORT—2016



*Dear Friends of St. John House of Hope,*

*On April 2, 2016, the doors to St. John House of Hope (HOH) – Outreach Ministry officially opened. We became incorporated and established as a 501c3 non-profit human services corporation with a 10 member Board of Directors, Executive Director, Operations Manager and two staff. HOH was established to develop new and inclusive programming and services for those in the 63106-63017 zip codes, to assist in helping families sustain stable living conditions.*

*These first eight months of our operating have been productive and sometimes challenging, but we were able to have positive outcomes and give God all the glory. Our first venture was a community garden. We were able to have 23 garden beds and we grew corn, cabbage, sunflowers, okra, sweet potatoes and more. It did my heart good to drive by or look out from the church and see neighbors in the garden picking their own vegetables. We had 100% participation which led us to expand the garden for the upcoming season in 2017.*

*Truly, our most significant impact in our first eight months of existence is the HOH Food Pantry. We began in June with food that was gifted to us by another pantry, Fishes & Loaves. After applying to Operation Food Search initially we were told that we were number 200 on the wait list. After visiting our operations at St. John MB Church, speaking with our Board Member and Food Pantry Coordinator, we moved to number one. We serve an awesome God. We became an Operation Food Search site on June 11, 2016. We have provided food for over 3000 individuals in this past 8 months.*

*Lastly, we began our Prison Ministry Outreach in October at the City of St. Louis Medium Security Institution. Looking back on 2016, we are grateful for all the opportunities that we have been afforded.*

*House of Hope is blessed and fortunate to have a Board of Directors and staff who are committed to the success of HOH; all who are giving unselfishly of their time, talent and treasure. HOH is remaining focused on our community being “**Restored and Renewed Through Hope**” and being a beacon of light in our community.*

**Your Servant Leader,**

**Fredrick Lemons, II**

**Chair, Board of Directors/Executive Director**

# St. John House of Hope Board of Directors



*Seated: Freda Clemons, Angela Carver-Treasurer, Fredrick Lemons, II,-Chair, Cathryn Lemons-Secretary and Bill Anderson. Standing: James Willis-Ass't Treasurer, Jeffrey Carson-Vice Chair, Grady Richards, James Smith and Willie Boykin.*

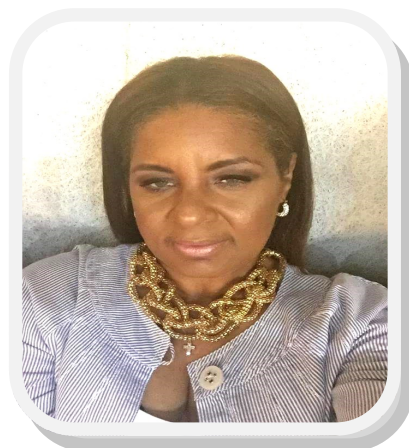
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## Staff



**Andrea Carson-Operations  
Manager**

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**Cameese White- Ex. Assistant**

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**Bernice Robinson- Adm. Assistant/  
Food Pantry Coordinator**

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***Vision Statement: To impact the community through a holistic approach while empowering families and improving the community.***

***Mission Statement: HOH will foster partnerships, resources, programming and services which will aid in the empowerment of the people in the surrounding communities; through services aimed at providing a holistic approach targeting the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of those involved.***

**BOARD MEMBERS ASSIGNED AREA OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

Fredrick Lemons, II - Executive Director/General Oversight

Jeffrey Carson - Social Services/Food Pantry

Cathryn Lemons - Women's Outreach

Angela Carver - Benevolence

James Willis - Community /Legislative Liaison

Grady Richards - Fiscal Development

Minister Bill Anderson - Education/Prison Outreach

Freda Clemons - Youth/Young Adult Outreach

Willie Boykin - Community Manager/Special Projects

James Smith - Special Projects

# 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH—

- ◆ St. John House of Hope (HOH) conducted its first community event on April 2, while conducting their ribbon cutting for HOH. There were over 200 persons in attendance for the ribbon cutting, street renaming ceremony and groundbreaking for the Community Garden. Legislators, community partners, faith and religious leaders, neighbors and St. John church family members were in attendance. House of hope distributed over 200 hams to the community that day.



- ◆ 25 bed community garden plots were assigned and planting began on May 6. Seeds were donated by The Midwest Veterans Service Alliance and several board members. Lumber was also donated by three board members. We saw immeasurable growth and participation in the community garden. Vegetables and fruits, even sunflowers were grown and later harvested. The garden didn't become dormant until mid November.
- ◆ HOH had two gardeners who were selected as Gardner's of the Year and one gardener who was recognized for donating most of their food to the pantry or others.

# 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ We became a certified Food Pantry through Operation Food Search on June 4, 2016. Our partner through Operation Food Search is Whole Foods. The Pantry Coordinator, Ms. Robinson received her food pantry management certification through the state of Missouri.
  
  - ◆ HOH has also received food from McArthur's Deli, Schnucks, Aldi's and Fishes & Loaves. Board Members Willis, Smith, Carson, Boykin and pantry volunteer Bailey have been responsible for all food pickups. St. John MB Church donated their old church van to HOH to utilize for food pickup.
1. Since June, 2016, HOH Pantry has received applications and registered 268 households.
  2. 1231 families have received food from the pantry since 6/11/16
  3. 3409 individuals have received food since 6/11/16
  4. Total pantries held at church 25
  5. Total pantries held off-site 3
  6. Largest age group served: 55- above
- ◆ Thanksgiving Holiday Bags were given to 200 households the week prior to Thanksgiving. St. John Church family received 70 of the bags.
  
  - ◆ An application is currently being worked on to submit to St. Louis Food Bank so we can have a greater supply of food and other resources.



## 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ St. John MB Church /HOH Health Fair was held in June. Medical staff and clinicians from SSM Health, Barnes Jewish and SLU hospitals participated. Diabetes, cholesterol, blood pressure and prostate screenings were available for all attendees. Marketing needs to be increased and partnerships with medical or pharmaceutical organizations is being reviewed for a greater impact to and on the community.
- ◆ Board Member Carver oversaw the Back to School Giveaway held on August 25th for the youth and young adults of St. John MB Church. HOH passed out 50 stuffed back packs to the youth. Another 45 stuffed backpacks were given to children coming through the food pantry or living in the neighborhood. HOH received donation from Target and Walmart to help secure school supplies and backpacks.
- ◆ Holiday fruit and cookie bags will be presented to the residents of the Metropolitan Senior Apartments the week of Christmas.
- ◆ Prison to Praise Ministry started on 10/24/16. House of Hope adopted a family whose loved one is incarcerated in local jail facility. Sponsoring family for Christmas and working to create linkage between HOH prison ministry and inmates once released to help facilitate reentry process.
  1. Preparing training for volunteers
  2. Researching potential reentry/parents of incarcerated children grants
  3. May start Bible Study group at Medium Security Facility soon.
- ◆ Partnerships were created after networking occurred at our gala. Several business person approached HOH and asked to adopt two families for Christmas. One family of 6 was selected from church and a family of 6 from the community. They will be blessed with gifts valued at \$1000 for Christmas. HOH is also donating \$100 Walmart card to each family
- ◆ Fit Food a local nonprofit approached us after gala to begin a partnership. They prepare meals for disabled persons who cant afford meals on wheels and provide in home delivery. We have donated our leftover food to them twice.

## GRANTS

- ◆ House of Hope submitted several grants in our inaugural year of operations. Each time HOH was not selected the reasons were due to us only being in operation for a few months. Lack of sustainability. HOH has been keeping meticulous records of our programs, service endeavors and all giveaways so we have established a much needed portfolio. This will give us more leverage in applications we submit in 2017.
- ◆ Grants Applied for:
  1. Walmart Community Grant (\$500-5000) denied on 9/28/16
  2. Sam's Community Grant (\$250-2500) denied on 5/2/16
  3. Small Change/ Big Impact Grant (\$5000) denied on 10/2/16
  4. Walmart Local (\$250) **awarded** August 2016
  5. Target Local (\$250) **awarded** August 2016
  6. AmeriCorps Vista Grant (state/national) **pending** 2017
  7. Wilshire Foundation (\$250) awarded May 2016 ( used for outdoor movie night)
- ◆ House of Hope is currently registered with US Department of Justice, Grants.Gov. and United Way and to receive grant information and we have a contact with City of St. Louis to advise of any potential grants, foundations funding or other resources.

## FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

- ◆ House of Hope opened its door officially on April 2, 2016. Currently the Board of Directors have three volunteer staff who waived their salaries working for HOH. The Operations Manager, averages 20-25 hours a week working managing the outreach operations. She also works on securing funding, programs, partner's and other HOH business. The Operations Manager attends community meetings and interfaces with other agencies to see where HOH can partner, take the lead or be of assistance.

# HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

- ◆ The Executive Assistant averages 20 hours monthly working on special projects and coordinating volunteer efforts and training.
  - ◆ Food Pantry Coordinator/Administrative Assistant averages 10-15 hours a week preparing and coordinating food pantry operations and documentation.
  - ◆ HOH 10– member board and staff have all made monetary donations and sponsorships to assist with all events. Some members donated office furniture, pantry equipment, office supplies and other miscellaneous items to get HOH up and operating.
  - ◆ Currently House of Hope is engaged in the final stages of acquiring the building located at 901 N. Garrison which houses the U.S. Post Office. Board members and staff donated monies to provide the funds for the earnest money.
  - ◆ House of Hope 1st annual Fundraiser– Celebration of Hope Gala was held on 10/2/16. Purpose of the event was to bring about awareness of who HOH is and to secure funds.
1. 203 persons in attendance
  2. Total income: \$7035– total expenses \$3914
  3. \$5985 raised from 171 tickets sold; 13 tables sold and 41 individual tickets
  4. 25 ads raised \$1050
  5. 6 tables with community, professional and business partners
  6. Pledge cards introduced at Gals raised \$432 on site with addition \$550 pledged
  7. Networking with guests has already resulted in two positive collaborations and partnerships.
  8. Vendors did well, next year we will charge minimum fee to be a vendor
  9. Paid Church \$1500 for white church van