

Heart of Hope -  
A Sanctuary  
for Women

Spring  
Newsletter  
2020

# Give for Good!

## SHE NEEDS US AND WE NEED YOU!

Give for Good was created by Community Foundation of North Louisiana and established in 2014. Since then, it has raised over \$10 million for our community and is the largest day of giving in North Louisiana!

Heart of Hope has participated for the past seven years and since 2014, our Give For Good campaign has raised \$48,917! Each passing year, we are so blessed by the support of our community as you partner in our mission and commitment to walk along side young women who **need hope to give life**.

This year we have great surprises planned, including a fun, instructional video from a current resident, a dance video, and more as we humbly declare that **we are in this together!** And, not only that, we are BETTER together!

If you are interested in giving, you can start now! The minimum gift amount is \$10.

Just click on the picture, "I Gave!" to go straight to Heart of Hope's giving page!

Thank you!



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Ride with us! Lifecycle Bike Benefit VIRTUAL Tour, June 6 , 2020
- Give 4 Good is May 5!

# HANDS OF HOPE



June Robinson has been volunteering at HofH since August of 2019. She was inspired by her pastor 18 years ago to serve in her community and began by befriending a dear lady, then volunteered at the Care Parenting Center. We have been blessed to have her serving us for the past 9 months! Through volunteering, God has shown her that the purpose of serving is to bless God and the ministry itself. She feels “blessed to have experienced the love of so many wonderful Christian people in the Ark-la-tex”.

During this COVID –19 stay-at-home order she shares that God has been teaching her patience. As so many in today’s world, June also feels the need to go, go, go! But the Lord has slowed her down and shown her how to rest in Him!

She has also become even more thankful for her wonderful life partner, her husband Tim, of almost 42 years! Together, they have two children, Melissa (and her husband Eric), who have gifted them with 3 grandchildren, and their son Matt and his wife Rebekah.

June is passionate about pro-life and shared Psalm 139:13, “For you created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother’s womb”. God’s life is indeed precious and a gift straight from Above, especially June’s as she continues be hands of hope.

## COMMUNITY CARES

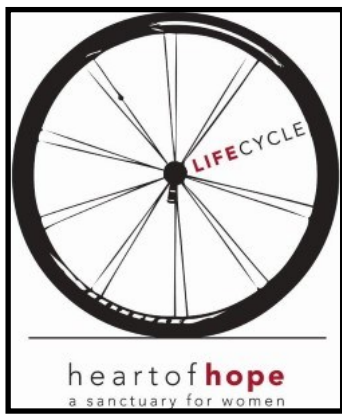
**We are a proud recipient of the 2019-2020 Civic Grant!**

[Rotary Club of Shreveport](#) supports the community through funding of select projects that benefit local area residents. Priorities for civic projects supported by the club include education, social services and community development.

Our grant, in the amount of \$4,000, will be used to purchase baby furniture and accessories for our renovated Aftercare Apartment (opening in August). This apartment will be home to two adult moms and their newborns as they continue their plan for a better and brighter future – for themselves and their children. Our aftercare program is goal driven and is approximately a 9mo-18mo transitional



living program. We currently have one Aftercare Apartment that can accommodate one adult mom/baby and over the last 4 years, we have transitioned 4 moms into independent living. Each have sustained employment, have their own cars, and their children are thriving. One of these brave mommas chose to gift her daughter in adoption. We are so proud of all our mommas!



## LIFECYCLE IS GOING **VIRTUAL!**

The cycle of life has not ended in this global pandemic! We are still accepting new residents, and value our riders' continued support!

We want to give you a time to connect with your cycle community, nationwide! So, now all you need to do is register for the

mileage you want to commit to on June 6th. We want to start all your rides in your own time zone. See below:



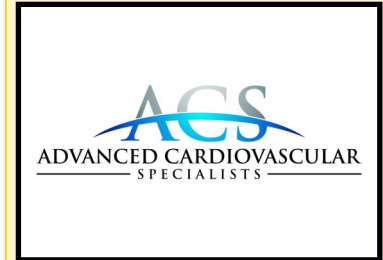
- 14, 26, 48, 62 mile rides begin at 7:30am
- 5 mile ride begins at 9:00am

### **BENEFITS OF REGISTERING/FUNDRAISING**

- You get a t-shirt (ours is the softest and coolest you will get this year!)
- Youth (3-12) get a LifeCycle medallion and t-shirt!
- If you refer 5 of your friends OUTSIDE the ArkLaTeX area to ride LifeCycle, you get a free registration NEXT YEAR!
- The cyclist who invites a friend the longest distance away from Shreveport, La, gets you and your friend a SWAG bag – Drawstring Backpack, Camelbak (21oz podium chill), Cooling Towel, and 2020 Event T-shirt.
- If you raise \$150.00 through your pledgereg.com page you will receive a 2020 Event Jersey
- If you raise \$300 through your pledgereg.com page you will receive a 2020 Kit (Jersey/Shorts or Bibs)
- And, more importantly, your Registration helps provide hope and a future for young teens experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. Heart of Hope is a home for these young women and their



## 2020 SPONSORS



*Event*



*Short / Bibs*



*Fundraising/SAG*



*Friend*



# Where is She **Now?**



**Miss Rhonda Martin  
(Resident, 2012)**

**Q: *What are you doing now?***

**A:** Upon leaving HofH, I went to Centenary and played basketball, ran track, and earned my B.A. in English within 3 years. Upon graduating, I began coaching basketball as well as volleyball at Calvary, my alma mater. I was there two years and decided to pursue a master degree. I focused on school for the first year without working and completed my Master of Sport Administration in June of 2019. I am currently working at Central School in Grand Cane, LA. I am the Athletic Director, teacher, and coach. I teach K3-12th P.E. and I coach all girls and boy sports—VG softball, 2-6th girls/boys basketball, JV & VG basketball, baseball and track/ Saying my schedule is full is an understatement. However, I couldn't be happier. I still manage to find time to spend with my puppies, my family, and my friends.

**Q: *Can you remember a favorite moment when you were in the home?***

**A:** My favorite moment at HofH was really more than just a moment—it was the relationships I formed through HofH. The opportunity of love from basically strangers is something that is hard to put into words. I am forever grateful for Jerod and Stephanie Jessup (our houseparents), for Ms. Barbara (our teacher), for Mrs. Kay Asher (our counselor), for Mrs. Jodi Burns (our everything), Mrs. Shannon Leone, and the relationship I made with some of the other girls. I am so thankful that the Lord put each of these special people in my life at a time when I needed them the most.

**Q: *Can you remember how you may have seen your life in 5 years from then?***

**A:** At the beginning of my pregnancy, it would be a completely different answer than if you would have asked me at the end of my pregnancy. Initially I saw a life as a single mother. I had no idea how or if I would go to college or if I would have the opportunity to play basketball again. I didn't know how I could balance both of those things and still be the best mother I knew my child needed me to be. For that reason, I most likely would have put school and basketball on the back burner and would have been working in order to financially provide for me and my child. Asking me the same questions at the end of my pregnancy, I would have said that I saw myself going to college, and pursuing my dream of playing college basketball, and would be working in education as a teacher and a coach.

**Q: *What are you most proud of?***

**A:** I am most proud of how much I grew at HofH. I learned more than I ever thought possible about pregnancy, myself, and just life in general. I was taught that it wasn't just me I had to think about—I had a child forming in my womb that I had to think about as well. That was something I never considered. I was always focused on my dreams and goals before becoming pregnant so shifting to the mindset of thinking of the best interests of my child was a new concept. HofH helped me work through the decision making process and because of that, I know<sup>4</sup> I ultimately made the best decision for my child—and that is what I am most proud of.

**Q: *What is your favorite scripture and why?***

**A:** My favorite scripture is Jeremiah 29:11 - . Throughout my time at HofH, the first 7.5 months, I thought I had it all figured out. Little did I know that the plans the Lord had in store for me and my child was leaps and bounds above what I thought was best. I had come to the realization that my plan was just that—MY plan. It wasn't the Lord's plan. The same verse still applies for my every day life—I put my trust and faith in the plans the Lord



**Q: *What was your parenting decision?***

**A:** With less than two months left in my pregnancy, I made the hardest decision I have ever had to make. I came to the realization that what was driving my desire to parent and raise my child was selfishness. I wanted to prove to everyone that I could be a single mom, go to school and work, and play basketball if I wanted to, and provide for my child—all while being mom of the year. I was purely thinking of me. I wasn't considering how any of that would effect my child. I knew what it meant of be mom of the year, because I have that in my own mother. I knew what it



meant to be dad of the year, because I have that in my own father. A father was something I wasn't going to be able to give my child and it was something I wanted for my little boy. I wanted him to have the best life possible, and at 18, if I was being honest, that wasn't going to be something I could have given him. I was blessed to find an amazing family through HofH that could provide all the things I wanted my little boy to have. So with my pregnancy coming to an end, I decided that this family was what was best for my son. I know without a doubt that I made the best decision for my child. I also know that my decision to gift my son through adoption isn't what is best for every pregnant girl. Some of my best friends are single moms today and

they're families are thriving. Giving life is something to celebrate and however young women decide to that is a blessing it itself.

**Q: *Would you recommend HofH and why?***

**A:** I would without a doubt recommend HofH. Heart of Hope gives young women the opportunity to be in a Christian environment with Godly influences surround you daily. The wisdom and knowledge provided at HofH gives girls the ability to fully grasp and understand the situation they have found themselves in. The classes and sessions with a counselor provided help you work through your decision making process and help guide you to start off on the right foot when you leave, regardless of what parenting decision you choose. You are able to help better yourself as an individual.



# Hiring: House Assistant

(a live-in position, including salary, room & board)

Maybe you have been called to the mission field? Truth is, residential ministry is a mission field. You serve where you live. Since we opened in December 2010, we have served over 70 young women. In 1st John 4:19, it says, We love because HE first loved us.

Are you called to love these brave young mommas? She needs us, she needs you.

The House Assistant shall be called of God; committed to serve under the direction of the Houseparents to create a Godly Christian home atmosphere and be firm but empathetic in relationships, realizing many women will come with problems associated with authority figures, and deep hurts.

Please contact Sara Smith, Administrative Assistant at [saras@heartofhopeministry.com](mailto:saras@heartofhopeministry.com) if interested in applying for this position.



Housemom, Laura Crain, with Adeline

**SHARE THE GIFT OF HOPE**

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a sanctuary for women

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