

## House of Hope Solves Homelessness



The courtyard of New Hope Apartments developed by House of Hope Shelter

At one time Tina, a single mother of four beautiful daughters lived at House of Hope Shelter. Tina lived at the shelter for close to two years. When she first arrived, she heard that House of Hope was going to build an apartment building in the back yard. At first, she did not believe it. Tina knew that building

a brand new apartment house would cost a lot of money – she wondered, how could the shelter ever find that much money?

However, within a few months, in April of 2004, there was a big celebration to begin the construction. Tina watched the progress, from the foundation to the steel to the framing

## Emerson Hospital holds 5K Run-Walk for Cancer on June 11, 2006

CONCORD, Mass., - Emerson Hospital will hold its 5K Run-Walk for Cancer on June 11 starting at the Concord Health Care Center at the corner of Route 2 across from Emerson at 10:00 a.m. The event is sponsored by the Emerson Hospital Auxiliary and proceeds benefit the Bethke Cancer Center at Emerson.

Community members are encouraged to participate. "It is a lot of fun to walk or run as a team and feel the spirit of the group," said Lori Noonan, manager of cancer services at Emerson Hospital. "I enjoy bringing my family with me so that they may experience the wonderful sense of community at this event. Last year more than 300 runners and walkers participated. We hope for an even larger turnout this year."

Some participants' reasons for contributing to the Run-Walk are deeply personal. The quality of care Concord resident Suzanne Nemeč received at the Bethke Cancer Center prompted her to join the committee planning this year's event. "A close family friend and Emerson Hospital physician was integral in helping me choose my doctors, and promoted Emerson and the Bethke Center as the place to do my treatments," said Nemeč. "Everyone with whom I spoke to in the community, including many doctors, recommended the Bethke Center."

Nemeč's ties and proximity to the hospital also influenced her decision to receive care at the Bethke Cancer Center. "I live a short half mile from the hospital," said Nemeč. "I was born here, and so was my second son, Teddy. The biggest thing for me was the incredible convenience of having such amazing care so

close to home. I feel so lucky that I could go a half mile, be treated and then be back with my kids within half an hour. Some people have to drive or even relocate to receive the type and caliber of treatment that I received at Bethke. This is why I wanted to get involved with the walk this year. I wanted to give something back and show my immense appreciation for what all of the doctors did for me."

Nemeč, who met with a nutritional counselor as part of her complementary therapy, hopes that through fundraising events like the Run-Walk, the Bethke Cancer Center can continue providing excellent care close to home. "As the Center becomes better and better, the more people with varying types of treatment needs can be helped right here in Concord," she said.

The Bethke Cancer Center was founded at Emerson Hospital in 1997, offering expert, state-of-the-art treatment and cancer care in a comfortable setting. By partnering with Massachusetts General Hospital, and collaborating with Dana-Farber/Partners Cancer Care, the Center provides high-quality treatment and technology. The Bethke Cancer Center offers outpatient services in hematology, medical oncology and radiation oncology.

The Emerson Hospital Auxiliary supports the hospital through community awareness, health-related education and fundraising activities.

Registration forms for the walk can be found on the Emerson Hospital web site or by contacting the Emerson Hospital Auxiliary at 978-287-3084.

and the exterior walls and all the cement trucks coming and going. As she watched she often prayed, asking God if one day she and her children might call the pretty yellow building that she was watching being built, home. In April of 2005, Tina's prayers were answered as she and her four lovely daughters moved into New Hope Apartment.

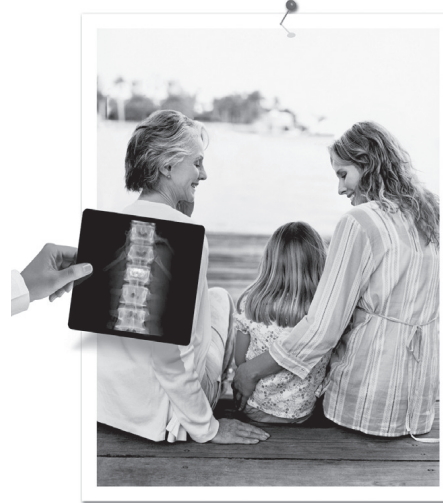
The House of Hope is a shelter serving families from throughout the greater Lowell area. Since the early 1980's, it has grown from a small, grassroots organization providing the very basics of food, shelter and clothing to one of the largest and most comprehensive congregate shelters in the Commonwealth. Today, House of Hope serves eighteen families and in addition to the above mentioned basic services, the shelter also provides case management, early childhood support, health and employment assistance as well as on site mental health and addiction recovery counseling.

As the shelter has grown, the courageous staff and board of directors has realized that as hard as we work to help currently homeless families we also need to be a part of solving this serious social crisis and demonstrate that there is a better way to help homeless families. To that end, we have created ten units of permanent supportive housing serving families from our shelter who, in addition to living in poverty, have mental health or substance abuse challenges in their lives. Achieving this goal has required a creative and collaborative partnership between many organizations

including the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the City of Lowell, Lowell Housing Authority, local business leaders including Belanger and Foley Engineering, Gavin and Sullivan Architects, and JBM General Contractors.

Right now, House of Hope is celebrating a major milestone, the one-year anniversary of New Hope Apartments. Located in the backyard of the shelter, New Hope is serving the original ten formerly homeless families by providing them both a home and an extended community of caring individuals and organizations. The entire project cost just over 2 million dollars to develop and the monthly subsidy to support these fortunate families is less than one third of what it costs to shelter them. House of Hope is convinced, that by all standards, permanent housing is a better policy response to family homelessness than shelters ever could be. The success of House of Hope is due to many reasons; strong board leadership, a committed and loving staff, great public sector support but mostly our achievements are because we have been supported and embraced by the community at large. Individuals, churches, schools, businesses and clubs have supported our mission by donating from our published needs list, giving always needed financial support, and prayerfully supporting our mission. If you would like to learn more about House of Hope or our current needs, you can view our newsletter on line at [hopelowell.org](http://hopelowell.org) or call the Executive Director, Deb Chausse at 978-458-2870.

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<sup>1</sup>McGraw JK, et al. Prospective evaluation of pain relief in 100 patients undergoing percutaneous vertebroplasty results and follow-up. *JVIR*. 2002; 13:883-886.  
<sup>2</sup>Gangi A, Kastler BA, Diemann JL. Percutaneous vertebroplasty guided by a combination of CT and fluoroscopy. *Am J Neuroradiol*. 1994;15(1):83-86.