

HOPE, Inc.
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Rev. Chuck Starks, Vice-chair
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Bruce Stephens, Treasurer

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Russell Catron, Homeownership Program Coordinator
Michelle Eller, Volunteer Service Program Coordinator
Charline Hardin, Intake
Trina Miller, Assistance Counselor
Jane Richardson, Disability Counselor
Amanda Romans, Housing Counselor and HCIS Coordinator

HOPE serves the counties of Bland, Carroll, Grayson, Smyth and Wythe and the City of Galax.



Summer 2008

Newsletter

Volunteer Service Program Wraps Up Second Summer Season

With summer coming to an end, HOPE's Volunteer Service Program (VSP) wraps up another successful season with **119 volunteers** participating from as far away as Pennsylvania and New York. The Summer 2008 program completed **14 projects** and logged **3,730 volunteer hours of service**, which is equivalent to **\$51,623 in wages**. **Materials totaling over \$8,000** were purchased from local suppliers.

Rehabilitation projects completed for area residents included wheelchair ramps, floor and roof repairs, vinyl siding, painting, door replacements and bathroom remodels.

HOPE expresses a sincere "THANK YOU" to all the volunteers for their hard work and support. Each and every volunteer helped make a difference in the lives of the individuals and families who received much-needed home repairs and improvements.



This group of volunteers from Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church were one of seven groups that participated in HOPE's Summer 2008 program.

Volunteer groups interested in participating in HOPE's Summer 2009 program may contact Michelle Eller, VSP Coordinator, at (276) 228-6280, Ext. 212, or meller@wythehope.org.

5th Annual Big Walker Century Ride Raises \$5K

HOPE's annual charity event was held on Saturday, July 5, 2008 with **92 cyclists** participating in the Big Walker Century Ride (BWCR) that **raised \$5,000** to support HOPE's mission. Despite the dampened conditions due to heavy rain the night before and periodic rain during the event, participants enjoyed the cooler, scenic ride with plentiful rest stops and home-made refreshments.

"Our hats are off to those riders and to the dozen business sponsors for

making this another successful fundraiser for us," said Andy Kegley, Executive Director of HOPE.

Sponsors included Gatorade, Willis Chiropractic, Wythe County Community Hospital, Road ID, Adventures Bike Shop, West Ridge Orthopedic & Surgical Specialists, Bankers Insurance, David Martin Insurance Agency, Horizon Medical Equipment, Heartland Rehabilitation Services, Southwest Podiatry and Big Walker Lookout.

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Other News and Upcoming Events

Visit www.wythehope.org or call (276) 228-6280 for more information

Strategic Planning

This fall the Board of Directors of HOPE will be engaging in a strategic planning process to position HOPE to better serve our communities. Through a grant awarded by the Wythe-Bland Community Foundation, HOPE has conducted a community needs assessment, held focus group discussions and hosted public forums—all too guide the Board in designing new programs to fill current and anticipated gaps in human services. Stay tuned for more updates on our progress.

Farmers Market



The Wytheville Farmers Market is now open through October on Saturdays from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Tuesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the former R.P.

Johnson Building on East Main Street. The market offers produce, crafts and baked goods originating in or near southwest Virginia. This year's market is a result of the collaboration between the following agencies and initiatives: Wythe-

Bland Community Foundation; Wytheville Community College Healthy Living Project; Bland County Board of Supervisors; Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; and HOPE as managing agency.

Homes For Sale

The Homeownership Program has single family homes and lots for sale in HOPE's Deerfield community with affordable financing programs available. HOPE also offers a full range of mortgage options for homebuyers on other properties of their choice.

Big Walker Century Ride (continued from page 1)

New for this year's ride, HOPE partnered with former Gerolsteiner professional cyclist Fred Morini from Italy, who conducted a five-day training camp the week prior to BWCR. Fifteen cyclists participated in Morini's camp and joined HOPE for the ride.

HOPE expresses a sincere "THANK YOU" to Morini and the BWCR participants as well as the volunteers, who contributed so much the day of the ride. Your support makes all the difference!



Ninety-two cyclists from as far away as Florida and Pennsylvania participated in the 5th Annual Big Walker Century Ride on Saturday, July 5, 2008. Visit www.bigwalkercenturyride.com for ride results and photos.



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Working Mission

HOPE is a human services organization facilitating initiatives and coordinating services aimed at improving the overall well-being of individuals and families by providing the tools necessary to increase self-sufficiency, promote healthy lifestyles, and enhance quality of life.