Dear Friends,

2018 was a success for Hope Acts; we assisted over 150 asylum seekers. While the Federal government is increasingly hostile towards immigrants, we at Hope Acts are unwavering in our commitment to welcome newcomers. In 2018 we challenged ourselves to do even more for the newest arrivals to Portland so they can have a better chance of a successful life in our community.

In Fall 2018 we launched the “Asylum Seeker Assistance Program” (ASAP) in partnership with Gateway Community Services. ASAP interns help asylum seekers with numerous challenges such as finding housing, filling out applications, even reading and interpreting confusing mail.

None of our programs would be possible without you—our teachers, mentors, language interpreters, other volunteers and financial supporters. Thanks to you, Hope House is much more than an apartment building. It is a home; a place where new asylum seekers know they are welcome; where they can live, learn and seek assistance.

Our Mission
Hope Acts’ mission is to provide housing, English classes and other resources that support immigrants in transitioning to life in Greater Portland and in achieving their goals for a successful future.

Our Vision
Our vision is for a community where immigrants are welcomed, and empowered socially, emotionally, physically and economically.

“Thanks for all American who have accepted and adopted us. Hope House leaders are very kind and they assist us to prepare for a better future. All the conditions at Hope House are good for immigrants’ lives.”
- Noel, Hope House resident

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Our Programs

Hope House Apartments for Asylum Seekers provide the first American home for up to 13 adult asylum seekers. Hope House residents are encouraged to engage with Portland’s people and places and take advantage of the many resources offered both in-house and by others. We provide one-on-one support and cultural and educational activities in a warm, family-like environment.

ASAP (Asylum Seeker Assistance Program) offers one-on-one support to asylum seekers who are working to reestablish their lives. Available as a walk-in service, ASAP social work interns assist with accessing and navigating resources such as housing, jobs and other critical needs. With assistance from French and Portuguese speaking translators, ASAP interns troubleshoot, advocate for and provide emotional support for clients.

HELP (Hope House English Language Program) offers English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes for beginner and intermediate adult learners. Our small classes focus on practical communication skills and conversation as well as reading, writing and comprehension.

2018 Highlights

- ASAP interns conducted over 60 client meetings, problem-solving for asylum seeking individuals and families in 4Q 2018.
- HHELP taught over 100 beginner and intermediate students to communicate more confidently in English.
- 20 Hope House residents and students completed a career training workshop series last summer, gaining an understanding of the American workplace and practicing personal networking.
- We signed our second 5-year lease for Hope House. To date, 65 asylum seekers have called Hope House their “first American Home.”
- “Celebrating Home,” our October 2018 fundraiser, brought long-time and new friends together to enjoy food & drink and celebrate our immigrant community. We recognized Bethany Keidel Smart as Outstanding Volunteer, and Julia Trujillo Luengo, Portland’s Director of Economic Opportunity, for efforts to expand employment opportunities for New Mainers.

“I didn’t know what to expect, but I really enjoy meeting people from other places. I am amazed at the resiliency of the asylum seekers. They have been through so much, but they are determined to make things work here.” - Islam

“It was wonderful to find a furnished and equipped apartment at Hope House. The free English classes help us learn English faster. A lot of activities are offered so immigrants can integrate into Portland and Maine society. I will always thank Hope House.” - Sarah, Hope House resident

“I’m passionate about teaching in the Hope House English Language Program. My mission is to send our students out into the world of work or school with high levels of speaking and listening comprehension. Using our language well is the single most important skill immigrants need in order to be successful in the U.S.” - Sally Connolly, Volunteer Teacher and Donor

2018 Financials

Hope Acts ended 2018 with nearly $23K net profit. A significant portion of our expenses (62%) directly support Hope House and programming.

2018 Balance Sheet

Assets

- Cash in Bank $131,475
- Fixed Assets $18,046

Total Assets $149,521

Liability and Equity

- Accounts Payable $4,106
- Hope House Reserve $5,147
- Zero interest Loan $45,000

Total Liabilities $54,253

Equity

- Unrestricted Net Assets $51,950
- Furniture/Fixtures $18,046
- Temp. Restricted Funds $2,282
- Net Income $22,991

Total Liabilities and Equities $149,521