

The HOPE Organization 2011 Annual Report

The HOPE Organization is a non-profit group dedicated to assisting survivors of abuse within polygamous relationships on their courageous journey to personal freedom.

In 2011, HOPE assisted 65 victims through the General Assistance Fund, 1 victim through the Education Fund, 3 victims through the Transportation Fund, and 8 children through the Jump Start Life Skills for Kids project.

Other Special Activities accomplished in 2011 were:

January 2011

The Attorney General of British Columbia, Canada invited Brenda Jensen to testify on January 17th in the Polygamy Reference Case held in the British Columbia Supreme Court. This court case was conducted to determine whether the anti-polygamy section of Canada's Criminal Code was constitutional or whether it was a violation of Canada's Charter of Rights. Brenda's father founded the British Columbia polygamous community which has come to be called Bountiful. British Columbia's Supreme Court Chief Justice ruled on November 23, 2011 that Canada's ban on polygamy will be upheld.

February 2011

On February 28th Elaine was interviewed by the Investigative Team for KLAS TV (Channel 8) in Las Vegas, Nevada regarding the growth of the FLDS polygamous group in the Las Vegas area and their impact on the local construction industry.

March 2011

Marla Gledhill participated in United Way Dixie's "Mini Indy Race" fundraiser sponsored by SkyWest Airlines on March 14th.

April 2011

HOPE volunteers were the featured speakers for the program presented during the April 14th meeting of the Ladies Club Association of the Bloomington Country Club.

June 2011

On June 15th, Elaine Tyler made a presentation to the Red Rock Rotary Club about The HOPE Organization. HOPE was awarded a funding grant during this meeting.

August 2011

Elaine Tyler attended the San Angelo, Texas trial of FLDS polygamist leader Warren Jeffs, who was charged with having sex with two underage girls (one was 14 years old and the other only 12 years old) whom he had taken as “plural wives”. The San Angelo jury convicted the 55-year-old of two counts of sexual assault of a child on August 4th and later sentenced him to serve life in prison plus 20 years on August 9th.

October 2011

On October 20th, Hairitage Hair Academy in St. George donated services for 8 of our victims to receive free hair cuts, styles, facials, manicures and makeup applications during our “Day of HOPE” beauty makeovers for the annual United Way Dixie Day of Caring project. Afterwards, a volunteer photographer with Wal-Mart took fabulous pictures of each of the beautiful ladies in our program who got to enjoy a day of pampering and building up their self-esteem.

November 2011

Elaine Tyler participated in the Santa’s Workshop Electronics Sale Fundraiser by staffing the United Way Dixie booth at the Dixie Convention Center on November 26th.

The HOPE Organization Board of Directors

The 4-member Board of Directors is demographically representative of the people we serve; three of our members were born and raised in polygamous families. Each member of our team conforms to a "Code of Ethics Policy", "Confidentiality Policy" and "Conflict of Interest Policy", in addition to providing two character references and agreeing to a background check. Corporate Bylaws stipulate that no salary or other benefits are to be provided for the Board of Directors.

Elaine Tyler, President -- Elaine is a native of Atlanta, Georgia. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Georgia and 2 Associate Degrees in Computer Science from Arapahoe Community College. After working in the Pharmaceutical industry for 22 years, she moved to St. George, Utah and became a volunteer with The HOPE Organization. Other non-profit volunteer activities in which she has participated includes Treasurer for Quota Club International (an organization helping the deaf and hard-of-hearing), Girl Scout Leader, Big Sister and a member of the Big Sisters' Activity Committee, Junior League of Denver, D.O.V.E. Center Victim Advocate, and a current CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate for abused and neglected children) Volunteer and Washington County Historical Society board member.

Brenda Jensen, Vice President/Treasurer – Brenda was born in Lister, British Columbia, Canada to Harold Blackmore and his second wife, Florence, whose sister was Harold’s first wife. Their family farm later became what is known today as the Canadian FLDS polygamous community, Bountiful. Brenda’s father was directed by the Priesthood Council leaders to move his family from Canada to Colorado City, Arizona in the 1960s to help build houses and develop farming in that community. At the age of 15, she was to be placed in marriage with one of the Priesthood leaders, Marion Hammon (Sara’s father). Brenda had an older sister who was already

his 11th plural wife and she did not want to become, at 15-years-old, another one of the many plural wives of this man who was in his 60's. Fortunately, Brenda's father honored her wishes and they moved from Colorado City to LaVerkin, Utah. Brenda later married a young man who had grown up in the LeBaron polygamous group in Mexico and today they have 3 daughters. Brenda is a strong advocate for Human Rights and protecting women and children from abuses that occur in polygamy.

Marla Gledhill, Secretary – Marla was also born in the small polygamous town of Lister, B.C., Canada and lived there until she turned eight, when her family moved to Hildale, Utah. Marla was home schooled in Canada, but started public school in Hildale in the 3rd grade. Due to a disagreement with the leaders of the community, her family moved away from Hildale when she was twelve. After graduating from high school, she attended Dixie College and received an Associates Degree in Secretarial Studies. Marla then attended Southern Utah State College (SUU) in Cedar City and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with Minors in P.E. and Fine Arts. She currently works in shipping and receiving at the Boulevard Home Furnishings in St. George. Marla's family is very important to her and she enjoys spending time with her 20 grandchildren and one great granddaughter. Marla and her husband recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary. She loves to read, travel, play the piano and sing, garden, create scrapbooks, and research her family history and genealogy. Marla finds her involvement with The HOPE Organization to be very rewarding, as many of the victims coming to HOPE for help are related to her.

Sara Hammon (Non-voting member) – Sara was born in Hildale, Utah and raised in Colorado City, Arizona. With more than 90 people in her immediate family - 19 mothers, 74 siblings and one father - she comes from one of the largest families in America. She is the 62nd child and her mother was the 10th wife. Growing up in an isolated polygamous culture proved to be unbearable for Sara. She watched her mother emotionally disintegrate under the pressure of being a polygamous wife, unable to grasp her own self-worth and unable to protect her children from rampant abuse. Her mother suffered nearly two dozen nervous breakdowns during Sara's childhood. Sara's father, Marion Hammon, could never remember her name or which wife had given birth to her, due to his vast number of children. While growing up, Sara witnessed arranged marriages of underage girls to adult men who were as much as three times older than these child brides. She became terrified that staying in this group would lead to a fate identical to that of her mother's and she dreamed of a different way of life. Today, after years of recovery and re-education, Sara volunteers with The HOPE Organization to raise awareness about the polygamous cult she was raised in and to help those who have left this group integrate into mainstream society.

2011 Financial Data

Total Revenue (cash, in-kind, investment income, and sale of books and DVD's) - \$32,513

Total Expenses - \$32,409

Victim Assistance - \$25,416

General Assistance Fund - \$20,991 (65 victims)

Education Fund - \$2,000 (1 victim)

Transportation Fund - \$679 (3 victims)

Jump Start Life Skills For Kids Project - \$1,746 (8 children)

Office rent - \$3,970
Printing - \$0.09
Postage - \$66
Bank service fees - \$9
Education and training - \$84
Office supplies - \$364
Corporate licenses - \$10
Telephone - \$882
Meetings and travel - \$127
Post Office Box - \$44
Fundraising - \$405
Accountant - \$900
Cost of Goods Sold - \$25
Office In-kind used - \$107

Change in Net Assets - \$104

Assets on hand at end of year - \$67,141
Cash, savings and investments - \$55,228
Other Assets at end of year - \$11,913
 Inventory (books and DVD's for sale) - \$3,095
 Undeposited Funds \$40
 In-Kind Inventory - \$8778

Liabilities - \$72
 Accounts Payable - \$72