



Luminations

A Newsletter for "Hope Lights Lives" Partners

Summer 2007

Dear Friends:

The important funding you raised last winter through the sale of "Hope Lights Lives" luminary kits has helped over 1,000 individuals receive illness or bereavement counseling through one or more programs offered at the Center for HOPE.

Because of your efforts, we were able to maintain and expand these established programs and still have the flexibility to successfully undertake new initiatives. Some of these include a forum on legal and financial issues when dealing with illness; an HPV vaccination roundtable discussion; a program at Norwalk Hospital to help couples dealing with cancer discuss relationship issues; a monthly support group in Fairfield for widow and widowers; and the Morning of Hope and Light breast cancer support group.

And this year your efforts will also bolster The Den for Grieving Kids, our peer support group program for children and their families who have lost a loved one.

Without you and the amazing amount of work you have done through luminaries, all this would not be possible.

We look forward to seeing the light of hope throughout southern Fairfield County on Sunday, December 16th when we remind the community that we are here, ready to help our neighbors in their times of need, and to truly celebrate the hope inherent in all of us -- the hope that the Center for HOPE has nurtured over these past 25 years.

Thank you so much for being a part of this wonderful program!

Sincerely,

Deirdre Lewin, M.A., Director
Center for HOPE
The Den for Grieving Kids

Behind the Scenes: Mike Hoffman

Mike Hoffman, owner of Hoffman Landscapes, first became involved with "Hope Lights Lives" 10 years ago when he was asked if volunteers could assemble luminary kits in his company's garage. Thanks to Mike's leadership and passion, the project's presence in Wilton has grown by leaps and bounds.



"I love working on 'Hope Lights Lives' during Christmastime, and firmly believe that everyone - no matter how busy they are - should pick at least one charity to support," he said. "Our company works with many charities, but the Center for HOPE is our favorite and the one that we devote the most energy and resources toward. I have met some of the nicest people I know through the luminary project."

Established in 1987, Hoffman Landscapes manages landscaping projects from the idea/planning stage through the final planting and ongoing maintenance. Last year, the company opened an office in Stamford at 57 Viaduct Road, which served as the distribution site for Darien block captains.

Mike would like to partner with a Wilton volunteer who is "plugged into" the town and can help him find additional block captains. If you would like to help, contact him at mike@hoffmanlandscapes.com.

2007 "Hope Lights Life" Luminary Committee

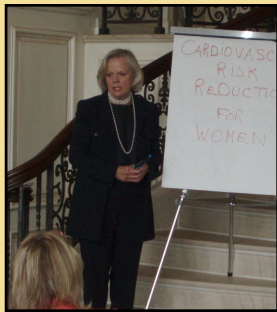
Gloria Veeder, Development Director
Christine Lacerenza, Advisor
Maureen Buckley-O'Hora
Susan Dunlap
Jeanne Gillespie
Kari Kotulsky
Suzanne Megrue
Toni Parlanti
Martha Todd
Joseph Viesta

Jennifer Flatow, Volunteer Manager
Peggy Bartold
Karen Casey
Joan Felicella
Peggy Kaminski
Elizabeth Mahoney
Jean Miller
Allison Rubeli
Anne Troxell

Taking the Show on the Road

To educate and help members of the community dealing with loss, grief and illness, the Center for HOPE and The Den For Grieving Kids is available for lectures, workshops and presentations.

Our professionals can speak on a variety of topics, or can customize a presentation to meet your group's needs. If you are on a board or planning committee for an organization, civic group or social club, please keep us in mind for future events.



For more information, contact Marisol Carde at 203-655-4693 or mcarde@familycenters.org.

2007 "Hope Lights Lives" Luminaries Wish List

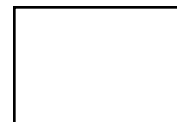
As we look to expand the "Hope Lights Lives" Luminary project for 2007, the following items are on this year's wish list:

- Sponsors to help underwrite the cost of manufacturing luminary kits.
- Moving professionals to deliver luminary kits to pick-up sites.
- Retail Coordinator to manage relationships with current and potential businesses that sell luminary kits.
- Volunteers to repackaging last year's luminaries at the Center forHOPE.
- Shipping Coordinator to track inventory at production and pick-up sites.

If you know of individuals or companies that might like to help, please contact Gloria Veeder, Director of Development, at 203-869-4848 or gveedercenters.org.



590 Post Road
Darien, CT 06820



Luminations

A Newsletter for "Hope Lights Lives" Partners

Summer 2007

"Hope Lights Lives" Shine for The Den

"Hope Lights Lives" will shine even brighter this year, as the annual luminary project extends its reach to support **The Den for Grieving Kids** - the Center for HOPE's bereavement outreach program for children and their families.

Through the guidance of trained volunteer facilitators, The Den helps families learn to cope with their loss and begin the healing process in a safe, caring environment. In addition to bi-monthly evening support groups for children between the ages of 3-18, The Den offers a mentoring program for at-risk teens. Services are also available in several schools throughout Fairfield County. While the Den does not offer therapy or counseling, referrals are made to the Center for HOPE's professional clinicians when necessary.



The Den for Grieving Kids serves nearly 1,300 clients each year, and addresses the delicate needs of children and families in grief. The Center for HOPE is thrilled to offer this resource to the community.