On Monday, May 23rd, a beautiful sunny morning greeted the 153 enthusiastic golfers who supported Hope House Ministries’ 14th Annual Golf Classic at the beautiful Port Jefferson Country Club. These dedicated players began the day with a delightful breakfast and ended it with a sumptuous cocktail hour and dinner provided by the professional staff of the magnificent Villa Lombardi’s on the Sound. At mid-day the golfers were treated to a lavish lunch compliments of Pace’s Steak House (Hauppauge and Port Jefferson), including sliced filet mignon sandwiches.

The proceeds of the event were enhanced by the kindness of the golfers who generously purchased prize raffle tickets and participated in the exciting auction bidding for celebrity memorabilia and assorted gift items. The McCarthy Foundation once again graciously inspired these most generous golfers with their benevolent donation of $50,000!

The Hope House Golf Classic Committee would like to thank our wonderful volunteers, the entire staff of the Port Jefferson Country Club, Villa Lombardi’s on the Sound, Pace’s Steak House, James Cress Florists for the tee and event signage, the tee sign sponsors, as well as our corporate and other event sponsors: Adjo Contracting, Advanced Health Management Services Inc., Albrecht, Viggiano, Zureck & Co., Augusiewicz Contracting Inc., Baldassano Architectural Group, the Barker Family, Bay Shore Moving & Storage, Stephen Bohlen, Bluff Point

con’d. on pg. 3
A Message from Fr. Frank

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

On April 22, 2005 at the Chapel of Infant Jesus, over 750 people gathered to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Hope House Ministries. It is hard to believe that twenty-five years have passed.

It seems just like yesterday we were fixing up the Guest House at Little Portion Friary as the first Hope House. We had 10 beds then. I did not have a clue of where we were going or what ultimately we would be doing.

What I did know is God was asking me to think and act outside the box – and assuring me that he would not abandon us. He didn't! Our twenty-five year history of service and ministry is a powerful testament that God did not abandon us. To the contrary, he empowered us to become a dynamic voice for the voiceless and to be a powerful sign of hope for those on the edge of despair. The rest is history!

Never did I think that this adventure would take me to the places it has, nor did I think I would have seen all that I have seen. There have been peaks and valleys – but always a feeling of hope, no matter how desperate things at times became.

As I look back on this odyssey, I do not regret one minute of the journey – or the countless thousands that have touched my life and crossed my path. It is with a profound sense of gratitude and honor that I look upon this adventure. At times I humbly believe I have gotten more than I have given.

The greatest gift I received that night was standing among hundreds of people who sat in that very Chapel twenty-five years earlier that came that Friday to pray and celebrate. To know that they had walked with us a distance of twenty-five years was amazing.

The most overwhelming aspect of the Anniversary Celebration was to see a young man travel from as far away as Chicago, Illinois, to pray with us, as well as the young men – who are now grown men with their wives and children – with tears streaming down their cheeks as they greeted one another.

The miracle of Hope House Ministries is not my vision come true or the thousands of broken lives we have helped to heal, but rather the countless hand and hearts that have blessed this ministry for more than a quarter of a century. It is truly a ministry blessed by God.

In late March someone came into the Counseling Center for services. I stopped to help her and she said so simply, but yet so profoundly, “This is a holy place.” As I thought about her comment, I said to myself she is right.

Every day broken and wounded people of all ages and walks of life come across our threshold seeking “something.” They are met with compassion and the fundamental belief that “all life is sacred” and thus treated accordingly.

As we formally begin our Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Year, thanks seem so inadequate to express my profound gratitude for all that you do everyday to bless our Ministry. Almost 400 people volunteer on a regular basis, sharing their time and talent with people that often feel discarded and hopeless. We will never know the full impact that each of you have had on so many.

Be assured of my continued prayers at our daily Eucharist for you and your families. Pray that God will continue to bless us with the hands, hearts and treasure that we need to continue our mission.

Forever grateful,

Fr. Francis Pizzarelli,
SMM, LCSW-R, ACSW, DCSW

Founder and Executive Director
Photos from the HHM Appreciation Dinner on Tuesday, May 17, 2005

We welcomed over 300 people to the Annual Appreciation Dinner. Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who have made these past 25 years so special!

The DiNapoli family and Fr. Charlie Papa enjoy this special evening (From left: Laurie Eimers John DiNapoli, Joe DiNapoli, Fr. Charlie Papa and Fran DiNapoli).

Matt LoNigro shares a dance with his son Matthew.

Kelly Harkins (right), a volunteer for over five years and her friend, Andrea Breiner, enjoy good times and great food.

Girls night out! (From left: Debbie DiRosa, Irene Gerace, Genevieve Heidrich and Bonnie Abrescia)

HHM Golf Classic - cont’d. from pg. 1


Without these kind and caring contributors we could not have accomplished so much!!
For the third year in a row, Fr. Francis Pizzarelli and the Hope House Ministries Endowment Committee proudly hosted their Annual Endowment Fund Event on Thursday, March 3rd at the beautiful Villa Lombardi’s in Holbrook, New York. Approximately 330 guests were welcomed and over $165,000 was raised! Thanks to the dedication and hard work of this committee as well as the generosity of hundreds of donors, over $578,000 in event profits have been raised to date, in support of the ministry’s Endowment Fund.

Following a VIP reception honoring the many charitable event sponsors, the guests enjoyed a cocktail hour and a gourmet buffet dinner while enjoying the beautiful music of James Faith Entertainment of Port Jefferson. To begin the formal part of the program, Monsignor Thomas Hartman opened with a beautiful invocation. Like the year before, we were honored to have an alumnus of Hope House Ministries in attendance. Steven Bowden extended his gratitude to Fr. Frank while sharing testimonials of life at The Community House. Following this, Curtis Sliwa, Founder of the Guardian Angels Alliance, offered a dynamic keynote address while paving the way for our tremendous event honoree, Thomas J. Spota, Suffolk County District Attorney, who shared his supportive words of the ministry as well as presenting a very generous gift of $20,000. With a gracious heart Fr. Francis Pizzarelli closed the formal program by extending a special thanks to the committee members and event sponsors who made this event so extraordinary.

**SPONSORSHIPS**

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Pace’s Steak House

**PHOTOGRAPHY SPONSOR**
Spinnato Gallery

*cont’d. on pg. 5*
ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FOUNDER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Fr. Francis Pizzarelli, SMM, LCSW-R, ACSW, DCSW

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE
Dr. Robert J. Frey
President, Frey Family Foundation, Inc.
Chairman, HHM Endowment Committee

Charles Russo, Esq.
Russo, Fox & Karl
Chairman, Hope House Ministries

Dr. Anthony J. Bonasera
Deputy Superintendent of Schools
Mount Sinai UFSD

William L. Devine
Mutual Inc.

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A Project Hope Anecdote

Project Hope is a newly formed homeless intervention drop-in shelter. This program has been generously funded by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance and has served over 70 people since 2004.

“I am 50 years old, I have no family, no job and no hope for myself because of my 30 years of alcohol and drug addiction.” This was Jim’s self perception over two and a half years ago when he sat slumped and dispirited. But today Jim is sober, has a great sponsor, is involved in Alcoholic Anonymous, is employed, has been able to reconnect with his family and above all, has found a renewed sense of hope and dignity. According to Jim, “everyday is a miracle.” When asked what brought about this transformation, which enabled him to change his life around, Jim’s response was, “the hope and encouragement which I received from the homeless advocate when I was homeless.”

Jim’s story is representative of many of the homeless men and women who come to Project Hope. So often, a sense of hopelessness can become a paralyzing experience for those who have become homeless. Project Hope may be able to meet their material needs but sometimes the most important gift our homeless guests can receive is a sense of hope. As a result, Project Hope attempts to reach out to our guests in order to offer them a way out of their difficult and sometimes seemingly hopeless situation.

Since its beginning in October 2004, Project Hope has had the privilege of assisting other homeless guests like Jim to recapture their dignity in order to feel better about themselves. For Jim, his miracle started when he sought treatment for his addiction, for another it may be complying with her medication regimen, for another it may mean applying for welfare assistance or finding employment to name a few. Project Hope’s aim is to continue to provide our guests with an environment whereby over time they will be able to discover or to rediscover a sense of self worth in order to move beyond their hopelessness. Consequently, Project Hope seeks to assist and to challenge our guests so they may be able to experience miracles in their lives.

Br. Roger Croteau, CSC
In honor of Hope House Ministries’ 25th Anniversary, the ladies of Laureate Alpha Beta graciously shared their time and talent once again as their annual fashion show raised an outstanding $15,500 to benefit Hope House Ministries. Over 480 people gathered on April 7th for a wonderful fashion show and Chinese auction at Villa Lombardi’s in Holbrook, NY.

The models traveled the catwalk adorned in beautiful clothing from Renee’s, Mattituck, with hairstyles arranged by Rapunzel’s, Mt. Sinai, and make-up by Gina Gerace. As all enjoyed this evening of food and fashions, there were 91 prize baskets and 18 money corsages.

A special thanks is extended to our sponsors who donated their services to make this event so successful: Jim Altebrando of Printing Spectrum, Deb DiRoma of CreativeFX, Ann and Toní of Rapunzel’s Salon, Gini Gerace of LaPosh Salon, Debbie Gildersleeve of Renee’s, Jay and Roger of Hope House Ministries who escorted our models off the runway, and to the entire chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, who continue to bless our ministry with their dedication and abundant gifts.

Fr. Frank (center) accepts a check for $15,500 from Lorri Walberg (L) and Deb DiRoma (R).
As we celebrate with great joy the commencement of our 25th Anniversary Year, we are reminded that our overwhelming success has been made possible by the care and support of so many generous individuals who have offered their invaluable assistance. Therefore, on behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire Hope House Ministries family, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to you for your gifts in support of the 25th Anniversary Appeal. This first annual appeal raised over $27,000 in support of our seven outreach services, which focus on restoring hope to those in need! These vital funds have made it possible to further assist the many people who are in crisis in our communities. We greatly appreciate the support that you have compassionately shared in order to help the less fortunate on Long Island. Thank you for giving so generously in honor of our 25th Anniversary and for helping us to serve over 265,000 individuals, families and children in need to date.

We could not have done it without you!

If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, please contact the Development Department at (631) 473-8796 or e-mail hhmdevelop@optonline.net

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**2005 Annual Appeal Thank You!**

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We could not have done it without you!

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**How to Give**

- **Yes,** I’d like to make a charitable contribution to keep hope alive!
  
  I would like to donate the following amount to Hope House Ministries:
  
  - $25
  - $50
  - $75
  - $100
  - Other

  Donor Name__________________________________________
  Address______________________________________________
  Phone_______________________________________________

- Check Enclosed - Make checks payable to: Hope House Ministries
  
  VISA  MC  Amex # ____________________________
  
  Please send me more information on HHM. Exp. Date________________

  I would like to volunteer my time and talent to HHM.

  All gifts are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law.

  Please send all contributions to: Hope House Ministries, PO Box 358, Port Jefferson, NY 11777-0358
Mark your Calendars!

**September 2005**
Montauk We Hope Bike Tour
Saturday, September 10
at 7 a.m.
Starting in East Setauket
(Tritec Real Estate Building)

**December 2005**
Annual Hope House Ministries
Holiday Party
Thursday, December 1 at 7 p.m.
Held at Villa Lombardi’s,
Holbrook, NY

Andy Cooney Christmas Concert
Sunday, December 11 at 3 p.m.
St. Joseph's College Auditorium,
Patchogue, NY (proceeds to benefit Hope House Ministries)

**March 2006**
The Fourth Annual
Endowment Fund Event
Thursday, March 2
6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Held at Villa Lombardi’s,
Holbrook, NY

**April 2006**
Beta Sigma Phi Fashion Show/
Chinese Auction
Thursday, April 6, 2006
at 6:45 p.m.
Held at Villa Lombardi’s,
Holbrook, NY (proceeds to benefit Hope House Ministries)

**Self Help Meetings**
All meetings are held in the Sr. Aimee Room unless otherwise noted.

**SUNDAYS**
AA-Beginners 6:30pm - 7:45pm
8:00pm - 9:30pm

**MONDAYS**
AA 6:00am

**TUESDAYS**
Parent Group 7:30pm - 9:00pm

**WEDNESDAYS**
AA 6:00am
CODA 10:00am - 11:30am
NA 8:00am - 10:00am

**THURSDAYS**
AA-Beginners 6:30pm - 7:45pm
8:00pm - 9:30pm

**FRIDAYS**
AA 6:00am
AA AA 12:00am (midnight)

**SATURDAYS**
AA 8:00pm - 9:30pm

Celebrating 25 Years