

HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis Response

March 22, 2009

President's Message

Dear HOPE Members,

Spring is here! The thought of warmer days is something to look forward to. As winter fades away and spring begins its work, we start to see new growth all around us. The cycle of seasons is so familiar, but in many ways is taken for granted. Our lives are similar. We live through good times and bad, times when nothing seems to go our way, and times when we just can't miss! There is so much we can learn from the cycles of nature.

In this season of new beginnings, it's time for a change within HOPE. My two year term as president has come to an end, and it's time to pass the baton. As I reflect on the past two years, my time as president has been both challenging and rewarding. Much has been done to create a solid infrastructure to help carry us into the future. We still have much work to do!

Please join me in giving your full support to Amy Rideout, as she takes on the responsibilities of president until the June 27 annual board of directors meeting. Because officers are elected by the board at each year's annual meeting in June, a formal election to a two year term as president won't happen until then. Amy is one of the pillars of this organization, and I know she will do a great job leading this organization into the future!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you, the membership, these past two years as president. I look forward to continuing to serve on the board of directors, and most importantly, along side you as we work together bringing comfort to others through our very special canine partners.

Sincerely,

Dave Valantine

Comfort in times of crisis