



60 Years of Safety, Healing, and Hope



“They showed me what it is to be independent, how to go out there and get a job, how to go to school, get your education, and go out there and be what you want to be.”

Steve was 16 years old when he came to live in Abbott House’s group home in 1977. It was a big change from the previous settings he had been used to living in since he entered the child welfare system at age eleven.

He recalls the day his biological mother made the difficult decision that her son needed more than she could offer him. He also remembers the day he met Randy and Marjorie, a married couple on the staff at Abbott House who filled the role of “house parents”

and operated a home for 12 teenage boys. It was there Steve experienced a renewed sense of family – a mom, a dad, and fellow teen residents, who soon became brothers. Abbott House social workers and counselors were part of this new family and were there at every turn to provide consistent, compassionate care.

Abbott House pioneered the family-setting concept of group homes for foster children. This strategy helped remove children and adolescents from large, impersonal institutions and offered them a sense of belonging – it revolutionized foster care. More than 40 years later, Steve reached out to thank Abbott House for putting him on the right path. During an emotional reunion with his house parents, he shared memories of playing basketball in the yard, home-cooked dinners around the table, and fun family day trips. Steve’s journey is one of many stories of strength that happened here at Abbott House.

Since we first opened our doors in 1963, Abbott House has grown and evolved in response to the changing needs of society. Programs have been reimagined, populations served have increased, and our geographical footprint now spans the entire New York Metropolitan Area and surrounding Hudson Valley. Through it all, our mission to provide safety, healing, and hope to people facing complex challenges remains unchanged.

During our special 60th anniversary year, we share this sense of purpose and mission with YOU, our donors, volunteers, foster parents, advocates, community members, and corporate sponsors. Together, we have made amazing things happen for the people in care.

Yet, there is still work to be done. Children like Steve still need loving homes, families are struggling to find resources, and adults with disabilities are seeking opportunities to live independently and with dignity. Abbott House will keep on fighting for them, ***but we need your help!*** Abbott House directly serves 3,000 people each year through a range of programs and services, including foster care and adoption, community-based programs, and services for adults with developmental disabilities. We embrace the diversity of our clients and staff and celebrate the rich cultural and ethnic backgrounds that make up our community.

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Today, the group home concept of “house parents” has evolved into a more enhanced model with dedicated residence managers who foster the family dynamics. Opportunities for group dinners each night and supportive enrichment have only grown. Volunteer-led art and music therapy, yoga, mindful meditation, pickleball, basketball, and tutoring are all integral to our supportive services.



During the holiday season, as so many worthy organizations are asking you to give, we invite you to choose to support our work. Why?

Somewhere there is a child entering foster care who feels alone and afraid and art can help them heal. A single mother is working two jobs to pay the rent and still have enough for school supplies. An adult with a disability is seeking acceptance and looks forward to engaging with volunteers during weekly basketball. Your support increases our capacity to meet their needs and gives them hope for a brighter tomorrow.

Your gift, at any level will go the distance.

Together, we can continue to change lives, families and communities while preserving our legacy for generations to come.

With Gratitude,

James L. Kaufman, LCSW-R
President & CEO

PS: Donors who support at the \$100 and up level will receive a piece of Rivertown history featuring Abbott House! Details available on enclosed reply sheet.