

HOPEWELL COMPASS POINTS

SUMMER 2026 NEWS for FAMILY and FRIENDS

summer SOLSTICE

Liz Shares her *Story*

Good evening,

I want to apologize for not being there with you in person tonight. I was very much looking forward to being back at Hopewell and sharing this story face-to-face. Unfortunately, life had other plans. Just a few months ago, I welcomed my first child into the world, and recently, I managed to break my ankle. While I wish I could be standing before you myself, I am incredibly grateful to have someone reading these words on my behalf. It is a true honor to share how profoundly the Hopewell Therapeutic Community Farm has changed my life.

I come from a large Catholic family on the North Shore of Chicago and am one of ten children. Growing up in a large family meant there was always noise, laughter, and love. Without them, I would never have made it to Hopewell, and without Hopewell, I would not be living the life I have today.

My journey with mental illness began when I was 18 years old. I experienced my first manic episode at an age when most people are just beginning to figure out who they are. What I learned was that I could not combine medication with substances and expect stability. Every time I tried to manage

life on my own terms, I found myself moving further away from the person I wanted to be.

Eventually, I found my way to Hopewell. When I arrived at the farm, I was exhausted—emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. I didn't know exactly what my future would look like, but what I found at Hopewell was something I desperately needed: hope. Hopewell gave me structure when my life felt chaotic. It taught me responsibility when I wanted to avoid it. It taught me humility when I thought I had all the answers. Most importantly, it taught me that recovery isn't something you achieve once and then forget about. Recovery is a way of living. It is showing up every day, taking care of yourself, asking for help when you need it, and trusting that healing is possible.

At Hopewell, I learned lessons that still guide me today. I learned that stability is built one day at a time. I learned the importance of community. I learned that vulnerability is not weakness. I learned that my diagnosis did not define me.

After Hopewell, I attended a program in Oregon called College Excel. Shortly after, I returned home to Chicago following the passing of my father.



Liz and family

Losing my dad was one of the most painful experiences of my life. My father was a hardworking businessman, a devoted father, and someone who believed in me even during seasons when I struggled to believe in myself. He taught me the value of perseverance. He taught me to keep getting back up.

When I came home, I became an Activities Director at a skilled nursing facility where I loved connecting with residents and helping bring joy into their lives. A few years later, I accepted a position at JPMorgan Chase as an Events Management Associate. While at JPMorgan, I met my husband, Tommy. From the beginning, Tommy loved me in a way I had never experienced before. He saw all of me—the strengths, the struggles,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



A THERAPEUTIC FARM COMMUNITY

COLLEEN WELDER, Chief Executive Officer



Dear Hopewell Community,

The past year has been a season of learning, growth, and professional renewal. I want to share how I have been spending many of my Fridays and how that experience is strengthening my leadership at Hopewell.

In the spring of 2025, a conversation over coffee with a friend introduced me to Leadership Geauga. She shared how meaningful the experience had been for her and encouraged me to apply. By September, I joined the Leadership Geauga Class of 2026.

The program began with an orientation and overnight retreat that quickly transformed a room of strangers into a supportive community. Since then, my Fridays have been spent participating in monthly Leadership Days featuring behind-the-scenes tours of county organizations, conversations with local leaders, and firsthand experiences with the people and programs that serve our community.

One of the most valuable lessons came through the DiSC® assessment, which explores four behavioral styles: Dominance, influence, Steadiness, and Conscientiousness. More than a personality assessment, DiSC® provides practical tools to better understand communication styles, recognize individual strengths, and build stronger working relationships.

The training reinforced that the strongest teams succeed when every style has a voice. I have already begun applying these insights at Hopewell to communicate more effectively, strengthen collaboration, and better support colleagues with different perspectives and approaches.

The greatest gift of Leadership Geauga is knowing I now have 38 trusted colleagues who understand both the rewards and challenges of leadership. I returned to Hopewell inspired, better equipped, and grateful for the opportunity to grow as a leader in service to our residents and community.

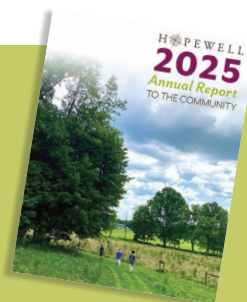
Kind regards,

Colleen Welder

Colleen Welder, RN-BC, MBA
Chief Executive Officer



View Hopewell's 2025 Annual Report
at Hopewellcommunity.org/news
or scan this QR code.



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COMPASS POINTS

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hopewellcommunity.org

THE 15TH ANNUAL DAVID CUTLER CONSERVATORY
EXPLORING MENTAL HEALTH SERIES

Beyond Worry, Beyond Rituals: Understanding Anxiety and OCD in Adolescents and Young Adults

Tuesday, October 6, 5:30-8:00pm | Gilmour Academy, Gates Mills, Ohio

Anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) affect millions of adolescents and young adults, yet these conditions are often misunderstood or overlooked.

Join Hopewell for an engaging evening with leading mental health experts as they share insights, evidence-based approaches, and practical ways to support young people on their path to recovery.

Featured Panel Guests

Joanna Hardis, LISW-S — Advocate, Author, and OCD Specialist in Cleveland, Ohio

Meredith Hettler, MS, LMFT, CCATP — Newport Healthcare

Katia Mortiz, Ph.D., ABPP — Founder NBI Ranch

Sami Petty, MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC, Hopewell Consulting Nurse Practitioner and University Hospitals — Cleveland

Moderator

Carl Vondracek, M.Ed., LPCC-S, Hopewell Clinical Manager

Whether you are a parent, family member, educator, healthcare provider, student, or community member, you will leave with practical strategies, valuable resources, and renewed hope.

THE EVENT IS FREE BUT REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BEFORE SEPTEMBER 29.

Visit hopewellcommunity.org/events/exploring-mental-health-2026/ or scan the QR code.



***Thank you to our sponsors
Alexander and Sally Cutler.***

WELCOME to *our New Hopewell Board Member*



ALEXIS KIM

Alexis Kim is a partner in the Tax group at Thompson Hine, where she advises businesses, nonprofit organizations, and individuals on a wide range of federal income tax matters and Ohio tax controversies before the Ohio Department of Taxation and the Ohio Board of Tax Appeals. She is an active leader in Cleveland's professional and nonprofit communities and has provided pro bono legal services through the firm's partnership with Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland.

Outside of work, Alexis enjoys attending Cleveland Guardians games with her husband and stepchildren as a season ticket holder. Hopewell holds a special place in her heart because her grandfather was a long-time supporter who believed deeply in the healing power of nature. She is excited to carry his legacy forward through her service on the Hopewell Board.

summer SOLSTICE

A Celebration of Community and Compassion

*It was a beautiful evening at The Chagrin Valley Hunt Club on June 26 as more than 245 guests gathered for Hopewell's 26th Summer Solstice benefit. Together, we raised more than **\$329,000**, ensuring that adults living with serious mental illness have access to the life-changing care and support that Hopewell provides.*



A very special thank you to **PNC Private Bank Hawthorn**, our Presenting Sponsor for an incredible 26 consecutive years. Your enduring commitment has helped shape Summer Solstice into the meaningful and impactful event it is today. Thank you to **John P. Beer**, outgoing Managing Director, for his continued leadership and dedication to this longstanding partnership. Hopewell welcomed **Patrick O'Brien**, Market Managing Director, Senior Vice President, to our event. Your support of Hopewell's mission continues to make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.

A heartfelt thank you to our Honorary Chairs, **Suzanne and Paul Westlake**, for your long-term support and for introducing so many friends to Hopewell. Special thanks to **Emily Westlake** for creating a

stunning and welcoming atmosphere, **Carole Obernesser** for organizing the always-popular cake auction, and **Susan Locke** for coordinating our wonderful table hosts. We are also deeply grateful to our **Summer Solstice Steering Committee and the many volunteers** whose dedication and hard work made the evening such a success.

One of the evening's most meaningful moments came as Hopewell Clinician **Annie Melinz** shared Liz's heartfelt remarks with our guests, reminding us all of the deep impact your generosity makes every day.

We appreciate all of our generous donors and supporters. Because of your compassion and commitment, Hopewell can continue providing fee assistance to the many residents who otherwise could not afford the care they need.

A full list of sponsors and Summer Solstice photos can be found on our website or scan the QR code.
[Hopewellcommunity.org/events/summer-solstice-2026](https://hopewellcommunity.org/events/summer-solstice-2026)



Tom Morley, Hopewell Board Chair



Robin Gilliland and Emily Westlake sharing their live auction cake with Caitlin Cronkey

See You Next Year!

June 11, 2027

THE CHAGRIN VALLEY HUNT CLUB, GATES MILLS, OHIO



Patrick O'Brien, Market Managing Director, Senior Vice President, PNC Private Bank Hawthorn



Mark and Carole Obernesser



Julie and Jake Kuipers



Debbie Johnson and Colleen Welder, Hopewell CEO



Nancy and Jim Abbott



Annie Melinz, Hopewell Clinician

Thank you, JULIA



Meet **Julia Beard**, Summer Solstice 2026 Intern. A rising sophomore at The Ohio State University, Julia Beard brought confidence, positivity, and a willingness to learn to the Hopewell Development Team during her Summer Solstice internship.

One of Julia's first experiences at Hopewell was visiting the farm to see firsthand what Summer Solstice supports. The visit gave her a new perspective, seeing the community in person made the mission much more meaningful.

Julia credits her confidence and independence to her four years at Beaumont School, where she helped plan numerous events. She said, "I learned that an event like Summer Solstice takes so much more time than people realize, and there are so many people working behind the scenes."

At The Ohio State University, Julia is majoring in finance at the Fisher College of Business and is an active member of Kappa Kappa Gamma. She was especially drawn to Hopewell because her sorority's philanthropy focuses on mental health and well-being. Looking ahead, Julia plans to complete her finance degree and build a career where she can continue learning, growing, and advancing professionally.

Thank you, Julia, for your hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm throughout Summer Solstice 2026 and for your support of the Hopewell Development Team!

Congratulations, COLLEEN!



In June, Hopewell Chief Executive Officer **Colleen Welder** graduated from the 2026 Leadership Geauga County Signature Adult Program with 38 other participants.

Over the course of the 10-month program, Colleen gained a deeper understanding of the people, organizations, and issues that shape Geauga County. Her class traveled 437 miles throughout the county, visited 64 businesses, and met with 110 community and business leaders, gaining valuable insight into the region's strengths, challenges, and opportunities.

Participants also explored their own leadership styles, strengthened their communication skills, and learned how to collaborate effectively with people who have different perspectives and approaches.

Congratulations, Colleen, on this outstanding accomplishment and your continued commitment to leadership, learning, and serving our community!

Liz Shares Her Story CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the history, the diagnosis—and never treated me as broken. We were married in 2023, and to this day, I can honestly say he is the best thing that has ever happened to me.

One year after we were married, we received another incredible blessing. I became pregnant with our first child. This year, we welcomed our son, Lawrence Glen Wille—Larry for short. We named him after my father. Becoming a mother has been the greatest dream of my life.

I do not believe I would be here without Hopewell. The stability I gained at Hopewell made all this possible. Hopewell helped me build the life I have today. It helped me become a daughter who could honor her father's memory. It helped me become a wife capable of receiving and giving love. It helped me become a professional who could succeed in a demanding career. Most importantly, it helped me become a mother.

When people invest in Hopewell, they are investing in stories like mine. They are investing in second chances. They are investing in families being reunited, careers being rebuilt, dreams being restored, and lives being transformed.

I am living proof that recovery is possible. To the staff, clinicians, donors, volunteers, and everyone who supports this remarkable place: thank you. Thank you for believing in people during moments when they may not yet believe in themselves. Thank you for creating a community where healing can happen. Thank you for helping me discover that my life was not over, it was only beginning.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you, Hopewell, for giving me the foundation upon which I built this beautiful life.

(This speech was condensed for publication.)

HONORARY & MEMORIAL GIFTS

APRIL 28 – AUGUST 7, 2026

IN HONOR OF

Farnham Rankin
Richard Barney

Chloe Rankin Seelbach
Peggi and Michael Mizen

Suzanne and Paul Westlake
Maggie Rooney

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We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact the Development office at 440-247-0912 so that we may correct our records.

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AHS Foundation
O'Neill Brothers Foundation
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IN MEMORY OF

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Glenn and Pam Schwaller

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from the WISHING WELL

We appreciate non-monetary gifts-in-kind which enhance our activities and programs.

AMAZON WISH LIST



Visit our website at www.hopewellcommunity.org/support-us/wishing-well or scan this QR code to see items on our Amazon Wishing Well list. Purchases will be shipped directly to the farm.

GIFTS-IN-KIND WISHES GRANTED!

SALLY AND JOHN SCHULZE
EZ-Go Cart



ANONYMOUS DONOR
Information and security screens at the farm



JESSICA MCDONOUGH

A visiting artist donated this hanging art piece for the Hopewell Music Room. She weaved every piece of fabric with care, and her favorite touch was having the sheet music read "...And I think to myself, what a wonderful world."



HOPEWELL COMPASS POINTS

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At Hopewell, we empower individuals to function at their highest level of effectiveness, leading to a more satisfying, self-reliant, and independent life, both during and after their stay.

Using the healing powers of clinical engagement, our therapeutic community, nature, and meaningful work, Hopewell's program transforms the whole person: mind, body, and spirit.

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*Hopewell helps change lives
and heal broken families.*

THANK YOU TO OUR HOPEWELL FRIENDS
FOR ALL YOUR PAST DONATIONS.
YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT MAKES A
MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE IN SO MANY LIVES.

*"From the bottom of
my heart, thank you,
Hopewell, for giving me the
foundation upon which I
built this beautiful life."*

— LIZ

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