



For Immediate Release:

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Hope Enterprises Board Names Robert Labatch Next President

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. – The Hope Enterprises, Inc. board of directors is pleased to announce that Robert Labatch has been chosen as the successor to James F. Campbell as president of Hope. Campbell will retire at the end of December, having served as the president of Hope for 17 years. Following a comprehensive, objective and national search, the board is confident it has chosen the right person to lead Hope.

“It is a true honor to be the new leader at Hope,” said Labatch. “My goal as president is to ensure we provide high-quality supports and services to the individuals and families we serve. We have been enhancing and empowering people since 1952, and I will ensure that remains for years to come.”

Labatch’s background and experience are deeply rooted in social work and in serving individuals with disabilities. His progression to leadership positions was the foundation for the board’s decision. In addition, Labatch expressed and proved his passion and commitment to provide the leadership Hope needs to overcome challenges and capture opportunities to serve the mission of Hope.

Lauren Bryson, chair of Hope’s board of directors, said Labatch’s knowledge and understanding of Hope and the individuals it serves will be extremely valuable in leading a smooth and effective transition.

“Rob has the passion, knowledge and enthusiasm to effectively serve as the leader of Hope to provide safe, innovative, quality services for all the individuals and families we serve in the region. The board is excited about this next step for Hope and is looking forward to working with Rob to move Hope successfully into the future,” Bryson said.

Labatch has been on staff at Hope Enterprises since 2014, serving as vice president of day programs. Among his accomplishments during that time, he successfully transformed a 25-year-old, non-profit, sheltered workshop program into a competitive industrial center, promoting the integration of individuals with disabilities.

Prior to joining Hope, Labatch spent 16 years working in various human services positions for Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Program in Williamsport and PerformCare in Harrisburg. He also is owner and operator of a successful private business.



“The challenges that Hope faces every day are not going away,” said Campbell. “It will take strong and consistent leadership to guide the agency in its attempt to meet the diverse needs of those served by Hope. That approach is what Rob will certainly bring with him as president. I am confident in his abilities and excited about the new chapter in the incredible history of Hope Enterprises. Families rely on our agency for those necessary supports, and that level of trust with Hope will continue.”

Labatch holds a Bachelor of Social Work from Misericordia University, and a Master of Social Work from Temple University. His professional affiliations include serving as secretary of the West Branch Drug and Alcohol Commission board of directors and as a finance and development committee member of Family Promise of Lycoming County, Inc., where he is past board president.

The mission of Hope Enterprises, Inc. is “Enhancing the lives of people with developmental disABILITIES by providing them with caring supports and responsive programs and services.” Hope is a comprehensive service provider offering a wide range of programs and services for people with disabilities, serving over 800 individuals and their families through a well-trained, committed staff. The service area reaches across a seven-county area including Lycoming, Clinton, Northumberland, Columbia, Montour, Snyder, and Union. Always receptive to pursuing new techniques and ideas, Hope continues to be on the cutting edge in this field.

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