

# A Note from Executive Director, Lisa Zimmers

## The Power of Belief

As I watched the Olympics over the past several weeks, I was in awe of the perseverance and belief demonstrated by the athletes. I can't imagine any of the competitors showed up just glad to be there. They believed they had a chance to be on top of the podium, the best in the world, a gold medal contender. There had to be a host of people believing in them who had supported them in their pursuit.

Belief is a strong conviction that motivates an individual to contribute to the outcome. As many high school seniors are set to graduate, they're filled with many emotions. Uncertainty, excitement, and belief. Whether or not someone believes they can do something, they're right. Hoping for something to happen and believing it will happen are similar but they're not the same. Hope is passive optimism. It's important to have hope but hope is not a plan.

If you've been around Twin Lakes over the past several years, hope means a little more. In 2021, Howard Helms asked if I would be interested in offering associates a scholarship opportunity if there was money to support such an initiative. Having been the recipient of a similar initiative which ultimately changed my life, I'm a tremendous advocate for anything that helps individuals pursue learning opportunities. After a couple of conversations, we ironed out a few details, and the H.O.P.E. scholarship process was set in motion. H.O.P.E stands for Helping Others Pursue Education. Since its inception, there have been 18 associate recipients.

Abby Schomaker, H.O.P.E Scholarship recipient shared, "Receiving the H.O.P.E Scholarship has significantly eased the financial burden of college while allowing me to stay focused on both my education and my work at Twin Lakes/Life Enriching Communities. The residents at Twin Lakes have shown me how powerful it is to work in a community where people believe in you and truly want the best for one another. Their mentorship and generosity have made a lasting impact on my life, and I will forever be grateful. The H.O.P.E Scholarship is an incredible investment in associates, and I hope even more associates have the opportunity to experience the support and encouragement it provides."

In my role, I have to have belief that people are going to show up every day and every night. If I was merely hoping that things would go well, I wouldn't get a wink of sleep. I live each day believing that those alongside of me who call Twin Lakes their workplace are committed to enhancing the lives of those who call Twin Lakes home. I'm incredibly grateful for each associate at Twin Lakes. Knowing that someone believes in you instills confidence to believe in yourself and achieve your dreams.

**-Lisa Zimmers**

