

Housing Matters

From the Executive Director

THE SECRET TO MAKING GOOD PEOPLE

“You make good people.” A resident told me this one day after spending time with two former residents.

At first I said no, I don't *make* anyone. But the more I thought about it, he is right.

WE, you and I together, make good people, or rather, we bring out the good in people. Here is the recipe:

- A clean, safe place to live.
- A staff that cares about each resident.
- An opportunity to try new things and perhaps fail and try again.
- A caring community (you) that shares its compassion, talents, and money with us.

Inside this issue you will find a note by a current resident, J.G. At twenty-six, he is wise beyond his years. His story is one of despair, redemption, and now, hope.

Here is what he says Earl's Place is to him: *'The home when I had no home. The resource when I had exhausted all other resources. An option when there were no other options. Support when I needed support the most.'* He has overcome many obstacles; now he is focused on his future. He is working, enjoying life, and this fall he will begin college classes.

Thank you for being here for us, so we could be here for J.G. and so many others. You are changing lives!



Volume 16, Issue 2

Spring 2014

James Carey,
Case Manager

Sheila Helgerson,
Executive Director

Eliza McDermott,
Director of Development

Gary Champ and
Christopher McSwain,
Resident Managers

United Ministries is a housing and social justice organization dedicated to assisting homeless men who want to change their lives, and to changing community attitudes toward the homeless.



Want more updates from Earl's Place?

We send out a brief e-newsletter every month or so.

Visit earlsplace.org to sign-up!

Board Member Spotlight

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS



Tim Heller

Tim is the Director of a local accounting firm and has more than 10 years in the nonprofit public accounting industry. He has served on the Board of Christ United Church of Christ in Locust Point for the past 8 years, and first came to know our residents during their visits to Christ UCC. Tim believes in the direct impact that Earl's Place has on his community and the transformative power that one place can have on the life of an individual.

Dorothy King

Dorothy retired in 2002 from the Department of Labor- Bureau of Statistics Division where she served as an Economic Assistant with the Consumer Price Index. She currently lends her talents to the Baltimore City Career Academy High School which works with at-risk young adults who want to complete their education and secure employment. Additionally, Dorothy is an active member of Heritage United Church of Christ. She's happy to join the Earl's Place community and work on behalf of those experiencing homelessness.



Bonnie Alison Linville

Bonnie graduated from Tulane University Law School in 2012. While there she served as the Vice President of Community Service for Public Interest Law Foundation. She currently works for Trustpoint International as a contract attorney, and has previously volunteered for the Maryland Office of the Public Defender. Bonnie is passionate about the power of second chances and working to make Baltimore City more equitable for all.



Courtney Stange-Tregear

Courtney has served as the pastor of Zion United Church of Christ since 2012. Before moving to Maryland, Courtney worked as the Director of Faith Formation at Ladera Community Church in Portola Valley, California where she implemented new spiritual programming and played a leading role in the Church's outreach to the wider community. Courtney is inspired by the hope of the Earl's Place men and is looking forward to dedicating herself to this ministry.

Resident Spotlight

OUT OF THE DARKNESS AND INTO THE LIGHT (a story of transformation)

Earl's Place reinforced the sobriety I discovered when I realized that life is so much more than sticking needles in my arms and thinking that was all I deserved.

For a long time I had given up on myself and did not care whether I lived or died, only where my next \$10.00 would come from. Through a long process of trial and error (that to this day I am still going through), I managed to get myself away from drugs long enough to get treatment. When I was accepted into Earl's Place, I had six months sober, now I have over a year.

Earl's Place is perfect for a person like me, a chronic relapsor, one who wants to change, but just has not been given the proper opportunity. Earl's Place was that opportunity for me. The home when I had no home. The resource when I had exhausted all other resources. An option when there were no other options. Support when I needed support the most.

When I was diagnosed with Stage 3 testicular cancer, I could not have asked for a better support system. I was afraid, but I never once thought that I could not make it. I approached the battle with cancer in the same way I did my addiction. I listened to and took good advice and was relentlessly positive and vowed to persevere regardless of how I felt. As a direct result of my efforts, encouraged by Mrs. Sheila and Mr. Jim, I had mended my relationship with my family. My mother sat with me every day I had chemo which meant the world to me. Mrs. Sheila, Mr. Jim, Eliza and all the guys at Earl's Place were also with me very step of the way. Helping me and encouraging me. I could not have done it without them.

It was such a perfect situation in such an im-

perfect circumstance. Mrs. Sheila, being a breast cancer survivor, gave me the best advice out of everyone. She told me to "listen to my body". A mantra that I kept in the forefront of my mind. We had many talks about her experiences with chemo and treatment options. She even took me to my early appointments. Her counsel was the greatest consolation and comfort that I had through the entire ordeal.

To say Earl's Place saved my life would be a vast understatement.

Earl's Place gave me the chance to rediscover how beautiful and amazing life is. They provided me with a training ground for a normal lifestyle, helping me to gain employment, teaching me good money management, and how to pay my bills on time.

Life to me now is a gift, each day a new chance for the opportunity to do better than yesterday.

Every day I think of ways to better myself, my life, and the lives of those around me. This person I am, I should not be. I should be dead from an overdose or incarcerated for an indefinite

amount of time, but I was given a crack of light in the world of darkness I lived in. It caught my attention, I was drawn toward it. Gradually, I gravitated out of the dark and into the light, but I did not do it on my own. I approached the light on my own, but through the guidance of Earl's Place; I found what the light truly meant to me. I owe all that I am now to this program.

The smallest of light can go on to touch and transform an entire life. It only takes the desire to change and the will to do whatever it takes.

J.G.

April 2014

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UNMASKED AND REBORN: PORTRAITS OF LIVES IN TRANSITION

The unlikely mix of college freshman, Earl's Place residents, and art

Last spring, Phaye Polinkoff-Chen, a professor at Goucher College in Towson and neighbor of former Board member Roy Joellenbeck, contacted Sheila with an idea for a possible partnership.

Ms. Polinkoff-Chen leads a community radio class as part of the freshman seminar series with the goal of giving a voice to the voiceless. During the fall of 2013 she and her students spent almost every Thursday

evening with us, interviewing the men.

The men and the students enjoyed their time together and when the semester ended the relationship did not. Two of the students, Lily and Marlee, wanted to stay connected and felt that working together on an art project would be a good way to continue our relationship.

This simple project turned into a full-fledged show.



Gallery Wall—Goucher College, May 2014

During the opening reception both young women spoke. Lily said, “They are really cool people. It has been a fantastic experience for us.” Marlee echoed this saying, “I loved the experience so much, I found a way to come back this semester. I always imagined a future career in social justice and art and this was a really beautiful way to experience this. I am super grateful that the men opened their hearts and their home to us. It is astonishing how everyone who participated was pushed so far out of their comfort zones, but still rolled with it.”

Special thanks go to **Anna, Eliza, Lily, Marlee, Phaye, the Goucher Hillel and the Community Based Learning Program** for making the opening reception possible. You can find photos of the men's art work and the event on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/earlsplace.

“[The art project] took me back to a happy time. Back to art class, before I started drinking. I went to a private school, they had

pottery classes and art classes. I could have done much better a few years ago, before the seizures started. Now I look more than draw or create.” - Anthony

“My piece is like an Andy Warhol. Basically it represents me in different stages. The black and white was a dark time. The traced part was like a lost soul with no substance. The one I colored was me being restored. The color is me being at peace again.” - Lee



Lee

Anthony



Spencer

[My piece] didn't wind up being what I started. It is basically a collage, a potpourri of different pictures. It was meant to signify the diversity in the world and for living for different experiences and broadening my horizons.”

-Spencer

Friends & Supporters | January—April 2014

Brian and Carol Allen
 Lynda Allera
 Sherri Alms & Robert Omberg *
 Jerry and Susan Alt
 Paul Amirault: GP Construction Company
 Stephen & Jane Anderson
 Casey Anno & David Wilhem *
 Anonymous *
 Joseph Arsenault & Linda Emerick *
 Betty L. Baggett
 Cathy Baldwin
 Linda Barclay *
 Richard Barnickel
 Victor Basile
 Merle & Ann Bayne
 Warren Beads
 O. Audrey Bengston
 Megan Blakely
 Margie Bonnett
 Lacey Bourdeaux
 Albert Boyce
 Ann Bracken
 Lucy Brady*
 Randall & Catherine Brakemeyer
 Marsha Brett
 Carl Caplan
 Scott Carberry
 Earl and Beverly Chambers
 Suzette Champ
 James Charles
 Chipotle Mexican Grill
 Christian Community United Church of
 Christ (UCC)
 Ralph & Carolyn Clark
 Diana Cohen
 Neil Cohen
 Karen & Richard Cook
 Mena Cooper
 April Cox *
 Katherine Craig
 Frank Curtis
 Sharon Daniloski
 Frances Daum
 Helle DeSimone
 Timothy Dinterman
 Kristel Donner
 Earl Drew**
 Agnes Eakle
 Dave & Imane Egbert*
 ExxonMobil Foundation
 Sheila Farrell
 Thomas Gamper
 Nancy Gardner
 Pam Georgiadis
 Gerry's Tire Auto Service
 Girl Scouts of Central Maryland:
 Dorinda Barney, Pattie Dash, Terry Mercer
 Lawrence & Beverly Gisondi
 Goucher College Hillel

Clarence Gross*
 Margaret Gugerty
 Chris Guyer
 Elsie Louise Hall
 Assadollah Hashemi *
 David & Pamela Hawks
 Donna Hayhurst
 Sheila Helgerson & Michael Taurone*
 Thomas Henninger *
 John & Virginia Himmelheber
 Daniel Hinton
 Carol and Thomas Hoffman *
 Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Q. Hoffman
 Hunts Memorial United Methodist Church
 Barbara Joellenbeck & Steven Calahan
 Lois Joellenbeck & Peter Scholl
 Roy Joellenbeck
 Anna Johnson-Winegar
 Catherine King
 The Marion I. & Henry J. Knott Foundation
 Elsie Lawson *
 Ronald & Maria Lefrancois
 Thaddeus Logan
 John Lowman
 Howard & Carol Manger
 Stephen Maslen *
 Gina Mast
 Laura Matthews
 Noel McCaman
 Andrew McCarty
 Eliza McDermott *
 Leon Medley **
 Angela Megna
 Benita Merritt *
 Susan Meyers
 Phyllis Mitchell
 Quiana Mondowney *
 Charlene Mowery
 Gwendolyn Murray
 James and Joann Oliver
 John & Margaret Oliver *
 Beth O'Malley & Randy Young
 Phyllis & Louis Plack
 Gladys Powell
 Rosalie Powers
 Abe & Linda Price
 Tina Proctor
 Loretta Richardson
 Bob & Judy Rinaldi
 Ellen Rosen
 Ford C. & Carol B. Rowell
 Suzanne Royer *
 Vernon Rushing
 Pamela & Theron Russell
 Elaine Ryan
 St. John's UCC *
 St. Matthew UCC
 Barbara Sanbower
 Dale & Lynn Sanders

James Sanford *
 Kerry Schulze & Douglas Price
 Casey Schurman *
 David Schwartz *
 Herbert & Sue Shankroff
 Tony Shore
 Alexander & Patricia Short
 Charles Simmont
 Alva Smith-Grubb
 Linda Spring *
 Katharine Stauffer
 Carol Stoecker
 Stoney Creek Senior Citizens, Inc.
 Matt Stubbs & Hannah Gardi *
 Towson Unitarian Universalist Church
 Robert Trimble
 United Evangelical UCC Youth Group
 David Vanneman
 Taryn Veith
 Shirley & Bernard Vine
 Christine Walz
 Robert & Sandy Wancowicz
 Lorraine Ward
 Susan and Howard Whetzel
 Doug & Jill White*
 Elizabeth Wiggins & Steve Breckler *
 Gregory Wilkins
 Daniel & Beryl Williams
 Kenneth & Shirley Wisner
 Ellen & Ronald Witko
 Clara & Randy Young
 Robert & Barbara Young
 Ronald and Carol Zielke

In Memory of:

First United Evangelical Church

Anonymous *

Katherine Joellenbeck

Barbara Joellenbeck

In Honor of:

Reed Cordish

Elaine Ryan:

Eugene & Karen Bartell

Stephen & Jane Anderson

Betty Baggett

O. Bengston

Ralph Clark

Timothy Dinterman

Ms. Lois Joellenbeck

Barbara Sanbower

Kenneth & Shirley Wisner

* **GEMs (Giving Every Month)**

** **Visionary (Current or former resident)**

We sincerely apologize for any errors or omissions; please contact our office for corrections.



Father's Day is June 15. Consider giving a gift that will honor your father **and** give another father the opportunity for a new beginning and a second chance.

Your **donation** in honor or in memory of your father will be used to change a life. While you are at it, submit a picture of a not-so-attractive tie and be entered to win a fabulous prize. See below for more details.



UGLY TIE CONTEST

EARL'S PLACE, a community-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides up to 2 years of housing and supportive services to men who are homeless in Baltimore, is on the hunt for the most outrageous and ugliest tie out there and they need your help! Beginning on May 1st, Earl's Place is taking photo submissions through their Facebook page of you and your ugliest tie for a chance to win prizes such as a gift card to Brooks Brothers and a VIP package for two at Maryland Live! Casino. By 12:00 P.M. on June 15th, the residents of Earl's Place will pick and announce the winner!

RULES & GUIDELINES:

- 1) You must "like" Earl's Place on Facebook
- 2) Share this photo on your wall and tag Earl's Place in the description
- 3) Post a picture of your tie on the Earl's Place wall, make sure to explain why you chose that tie (1 per person!)
- 4) Cross your fingers and hope you're our lucky winner!

Like us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/earlsplace>

Did you know that \$18 will provide a day of housing and support for a man?

Want to make a difference in the lives of our residents? Financial donations allow us to help our residents with the services and items they need most, but there are many other ways you can help out!

Wish List

LINENS

Twin bed sheets
Bath towels
Washcloths

FOOD

Coffee
Sugar
Cereal
Fresh fruits & vegetables

TOILETRIES

Bar soap
Deodorant
Shampoo
Toothpaste
Lotion

Please contact us for other needs - gently used furniture, clothing, etc. accepted as space/needs permits.

SUPPLIES

Paper Towels
13 gallon trash bags
Light bulbs (60 watts)
Aluminum foil
Plastic wrap
All purpose cleaners
Dish liquid
Dishwasher powder
Toilet paper

MISCELLANEOUS

Gift cards to Home Depot,
Staples or local grocery stores

Earl Johnson Legacy Society

The Legacy Society recognizes individuals who make a gift through a bequest, charitable trust, life insurance or other planned gift.

LEAVE A LEGACY*

1. Prepare a will. More than 60% of those who die don't have one.
2. Leave a specific amount, asset or percentage of your will or trust to United Ministries/Earl's Place.
3. Consider various assets for your charitable gift. These include stocks, bonds, CDs, real estate, vehicles, art and jewelry.
4. Name United Ministries as the beneficiary of your pension plan or IRA.
5. Name United Ministries as the beneficiary or owner of a life insurance policy.
6. Remember loved ones through memorial gifts.
7. Encourage family and friends to leave gifts to charitable organizations in their wills.

Your leadership may prompt others to think about how they too can help.

**Adapted from www.leavealegacymd.org*

LEGACY MEMBERS

Dorothy Burnett Glen Conrad
Robert Olsen Alexandra Spring
Rev. Bruce Swanson

A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by contacting United Ministries at 1400 E. Lombard Street, Baltimore, MD 21231 or 410-522-0225. Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary for the cost of copying and postage.

Monthly Giving Program

Join the growing group of GEMs!



Become a Giving Every Month (**GEM**) donor by making your pledge of \$10 or more on-line at <http://www.earlsplace.org/Giving.htm>.

The staff and clients of Earl's Place are always pleased to speak to your congregation or organization. Call or e-mail us to schedule a time.

Talk & Tour

Sunday, Sunday, July 13
1-3 p.m.

Join us for conversation and snacks.
RSVP to Eliza or Sheila, 410-522-0225

DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION

Thursday, October 9

RESOLUTION RUN

JANUARY 1, 2015
5K Run/Walk and 1 mile Fun Run/Walk
Patterson Park

UPCOMING
EVENTS