

# Housing Matters



Cornerstone Community Housing, Inc. has a two-fold mission. We are dedicated to helping men experiencing homelessness rebuild their lives and to changing attitudes toward homelessness through outreach and education.

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## YOU ARE HELPING ED BECOME THE FATHER HE WANTS TO BE

This month, we celebrate the men of Earl's Place and Prospect Place and their opportunities to rebuild their lives and their families, thanks to you. We know that it is has been a difficult year for many. If you lost a loved one, we offer our condolences and sincere wishes that your memories bring you peace.

Recently, Isabella Maxey, an intern through the Sondheim Nonprofit Leadership Program, spoke with Edwin C. Ed is one of the current residents at Earl's Place who is grateful for a second chance at life and the opportunity to be an engaged father to his children, 15-year-old twins, a girl and a boy.

**He wants the same things for his children every other parent wants:** that they succeed in life. "The dream I have for my kids is that they have great families of their own, live well, keep a positive attitude, and be happy", he says.

Their relationships have not always been good. Ed is in recovery from drug addiction. He says, "Before getting clean (sober), I was on heroin and cocaine which would put me in a bad place and cause me to isolate. I would fuss at my kids and they would look at me some kind of way as if to say, '*What's wrong with you?*' I knew that I had to change."

Ed has been drug-free since May of 2020 and a resident of Earl's Place for five months.

# IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO REPAIR THE PAST

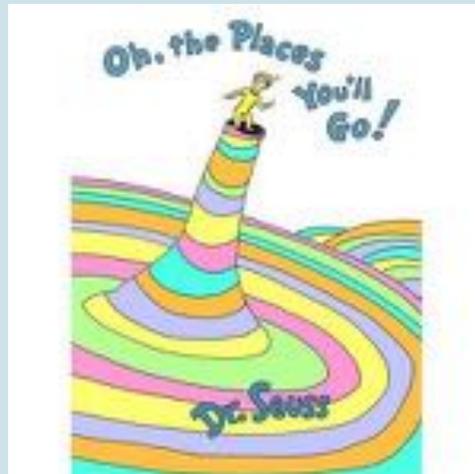
Many of the men we work with have struggled with “nuisance” charges that seem insignificant but can morph into much bigger problems. Failure to appear for a court hearing happens all too often because while homeless, the men are transient, and don’t always receive the notice.

While working with the Homeless Persons Representation Program (HPRP) on the expungement of J.’s criminal records, the attorney for his case found an open warrant. At some point J. had received a citation from the Mass Transit Police for “failing to pay the applicable fare”. He had paid for his trip using the disability reduced fare but did not have his Reduced Fare ID to match. While this seems to be a minor infraction it could have easily developed into something serious. If he encountered the police again, he could have been detained for the civil citation. This would mean another setback for him with time spent in the Baltimore City Detention Center and hours of work for the police, attorneys, court staff, and judge.

Fortunately, J. has a whole team on his side. Without stable housing for all his adult life, he has been at Earl’s Place since February 3, 2021, and now, at 35, has a safe, supportive place to live. Jim, his case manager, worked with him for referrals for mental health and legal services. Once he learned of the open warrant, Jim contacted the liaison for the Docket for Homeless Persons (DHP) who contacted the State’s Attorney’s Office. Working together the warrant has now been scheduled for dismissal, K. can breathe easy and continue to work on his goals.

Kudos to Jim and our partner organizations for the work they do every day to help our residents put their past behind them and move forward.

## UPDATES



Congratulations to Barry, Charles, and Mark on their moves to the next phase of their lives.

Mark said in his exit interview, “My life feels better, I feel more secure. I learned more about my self and about my addiction. **When anxious, eat more chocolate.**”

In April, we welcomed A.J. and his



emotional support dog, Thunder, to Prospect Place.

After being homeless for several years, now, at 70-years-old, A.J. has met his short-term goal of finding affordable housing for himself and Thunder. They are very happy to be settled into their own space.

**Together, we are changing lives!**

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He is on his way to getting back on his feet and back to his family.

He says his son and daughter motivated him to seek treatment for his drug addiction. “My relationship with my children was strained while I was using”, he says. “I was someone else. When I saw what it was doing to them, I promised them I would get better.”

Ed’s childhood set him up for a life of struggles. His father passed away when he was young, leaving his mother to raise him. Although he had a good relationship with his mother, not having a father in his life made an impact. “I found myself in bad situations,” Ed says, describing the bulk of his childhood spent in a juvenile detention center. “My mother taught me as much as she could, but I had to figure out how to be a man myself. I didn’t have many role models.”

Ed is determined to make sure his own children do not go through the same struggles. “I don’t want my kids to be the way I was when I was growing up. I want them to succeed in life.” Ed’s son has an interest in computer technology and his daughter wants to be a dermatologist.

Thanks to you and the opportunity to rebuild his life while at Earl’s Place, Ed can be the father he wants to be. One who is present. “Being in their lives, helping them when they face difficulties, being supportive of their interests and accomplishments,” Ed says. “Being there for them That’s what’s most important.”

Will you make a donation in honor or in memory of the father in your life? Your donation today, will help change another man’s life.

## The Future is in Good Hands

Sheila had the pleasure of working with two outstanding young women, Ariella Adams and Isabella Maxey, the last few months.

Ariella is a Johns Hopkins Public Health graduate student. Through the Baltimore Community Practicum course she began working with Sheila in October. Over the course of 16 weeks she compiled a Policy and Procedure manual to be used for an application that Sheila had been working on for quite some time. And, if that wasn’t enough, she continued on and conducted interviews with former residents. We will share her findings soon.



Ariella lives in New York, but is moving to Baltimore to finish her studies and start a new job.



Isabella Maxey came to us from the Sondheim Nonprofit Leadership program at The Shriver Center at UMBC. Isabella spent her time interviewing residents and developing materials for the newsletters and social media, including the cover story for this newsletter.

Isabella graduated in May with a degree in Business Communication from Stevenson University and has also secured a full-time job.

These two young women are going places!



Thom is one of our newer residents and one of our resident artists. He was homeless for six months before he checked into a rehabilitation program. He came to Earl's Place in February of this year.

He says, "The help's there if you ask for it. If you ask the right people, there are always people willing to help you, but you have to help yourself first." He describes Earl's Place as the perfect place to do just that.



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