

# 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 LINWOOD CHANGE HIS LIFE

Many of the men who move to Earl's Place learned about us from a current or former resident. Linwood is no exception.

While in a treatment center, he was encouraged to apply for our program. A few months later, he moved in.

Linwood was born and raised in Baltimore; one of nine children. He enjoyed the same thing all children do, playing in the playground and having fun. He says he liked to play with the older kids who helped shape him.

He started using drugs when he was 21 or 22 years old. After seeing his sister getting high, he decided to try. At first it made him sick, but then he found he liked the feeling the drugs gave him.

On April 21, 2021, when he was 51-years old, he surrendered. Getting high was too hard. The drugs were not providing the same affect. At 5 a.m. on a Friday morning when an outreach worker from the treatment center asked, "Do you want help?", Linwood said yes and began the challenging work of rebuilding his life.

This is his third attempt at getting sober. The difference this time is that he is doing it for himself, not to please others.

Linwood completed the treatment program and came to Earl's Place in September. It wasn't easy in the beginning. He says Earl's Place is more structured than other programs



## What Inspires You to Donate to CCH?

You, our generous donors, are life changers. We would not be able to provide our services without you.

Recently we asked what inspires you to donate?

Here are some of your responses:

- Desire to help men working to be their best selves
- Connection to the mission and seeing local impact
- I saw first hand the good work that is being done
- Knowing the quality of care provided
- Belief in the cause
- Earl's Place residents and staff
- The mission statement of rebuilding lives is powerful
- We wanted to do something to assist those working with folks who are pretty much forgotten in our society
- New Year's Day run and the friendly men

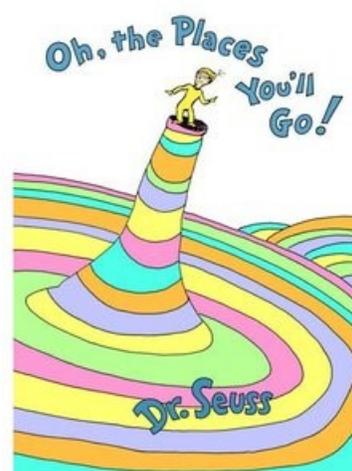
Thanks to all who responded and shared their thoughts. We are humbled and grateful to all of you. We know there are many causes you could choose to support. Thank you for caring about those who are often overlooked and ignored.

I would love to hear from you—call me at 410-522-0225 or e-mail [sheila@cchbaltimore.org](mailto:sheila@cchbaltimore.org). Let me know what inspires you.



Earl's Place  
Saturday, Aug. 13  
10 a.m.—12 noon

RSVP—  
410-522-0225 or  
[sheila@cchbaltimore.org](mailto:sheila@cchbaltimore.org)



Congratulations to Earl's Place residents Guy, Robert J., Daniel, Dennis, Tim, Thomas, and Robert Y. on their move to their own homes. And, to Charles from Prospect Place, who moved to an independent senior apartment.

One of our alumni, Steve T. recently returned with several men from his church, Epic in Dundalk, to have dinner and fellowship with the residents.

T.W finished his Peer Recovery classes and will now begin working on his volunteer hours.

C.R. is working on his Peer Recovery classes.

L.D. received a promotion and raise at work. He also had a chance to see his son who had not seen since he was 12; he is now 25 years old.

N.A. was hired permanently at his job.

**Together, we are changing lives.**

he has been in.

Earl's Place requires a 90 and 90. Ninety daily Narcotics Anonymous or Alcoholic Anonymous meetings for 90 days. After about a week, he found that he enjoyed going to the meetings. He was able to work on his mindset. He found peace in journaling.

Like many of the men, finding employment was a challenge due to his background. After many rejections, he was becoming frustrated, but Jim, the case manager, encouraged him to try one more time. It paid off. In November 2021 he obtained employment.

He recently reconnected with his 25-year-old son who lives in New York and is studying to be a diesel mechanic. He has a relationship with his brother, the only sibling still living, and his fiancé who has 24 years of sobriety and provides lots of support.

“Every day I walk past the [construction] pictures in the hallway – Earl's Place was nothing. Now it has been almost 25 years. Your donations are not going to waste; you are helping a good place.”



Linwood says nowhere else did he feel so much a part of the community. From meals with Board members and others, Christmas gifts, time spent with the students from Goucher College, and so much more, he will always be grateful for his time here.

**“Without Earl's Place I wouldn't be where I am today. I would be back out there [using drugs]. This is the best stop I made. I don't have any way to go but up. I have too much to lose.”**

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### Aging in America When Homeless

Most of the people who experience homelessness are single adults and they are getting older.

When Earl's Place opened in 1997, the average age of the men was 42 years old. Now it is fifty-three. Two of the men who recently applied for the waiting list are seventy.

Studies across the U.S. have shown a clear upward trend in the proportion of ‘older’ persons’ (aged 50-64) among the homeless population. This is a group which frequently falls between the cracks of governmental safety nets. Too young for senior housing. Too poor for market rate housing.

Not only are the men getting older. Their physical and mental health needs are much greater.

According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, homeless persons between ages 50 and 62 often have similar healthcare needs to housed persons 10-20 years older.

To learn more about homelessness and aging go to <https://nationalhomeless.org/issues/>

## LAST WORDS...FROM THE MEN

Here are some other thoughts the men of Earl's Place shared recently that we think you should hear because you help make it all possible.

- "This is the best place. I don't know why I didn't come here sooner."
- "I attribute my success right now to Earl's Place. If I wasn't here, I don't know where I would be."
- "I'm happy to be happy."
- "Jim did the mind work. I did the footwork."
- "This is a safe haven."

Recently, Champ and Sheila had the pleasure of seeing one of the former residents and a long-time donor and volunteer.

Alex Spring is a GEM (giving every month donor) and previously volunteered as a tutor.

Avery completed Earl's Place in 2005. While at Earl's Place he earned his GED and earned a Food Service and Safety Certification through the Dept. of Rehabilitation Workforce Technology Center.

Champ completed Earl's Place in 2003 and about a year later, in February 2004, he became an employee.

It is always great to see our alumni (and our supporters). We love being able to share the stories and the successes you make possible. If you would like to come by for a tour, let Sheila know.



From left to right: Alex, Avery, Champ Photo credit: Alexandra Spring

You can make a lasting impact on the work of Cornerstone Community Housing by including us in your will. For an overview of planned giving options, please visit this website, <https://cchbaltimore.planned.gifts/>

If you would like more information, please contact Sheila Helgerson at 410-522-0225 or [sheila@cchbaltimore.org](mailto:sheila@cchbaltimore.org).



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