

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.

Thanks for Giving Renard the Opportunity to Turn His Life Around!

Renard S. came to Sheila as he got ready to move to his apartment to say he was thankful.

Thankful for the opportunity to do what he needed to do to get his life on track. “Earl’s Place is a pretty good set up,” he says.

Renard came to Baltimore from Prince Georges County five years ago for specialty health care at Johns Hopkins. When he completed his hospital stay, he was discharged to a substance abuse treatment program.

In his words, he was not ready. He cycled through several other programs and then returned to Prince Georges County for a year and a half. He tried to slow down his drug use, but he continued to mess up. Eventually he grew tired of his lifestyle.

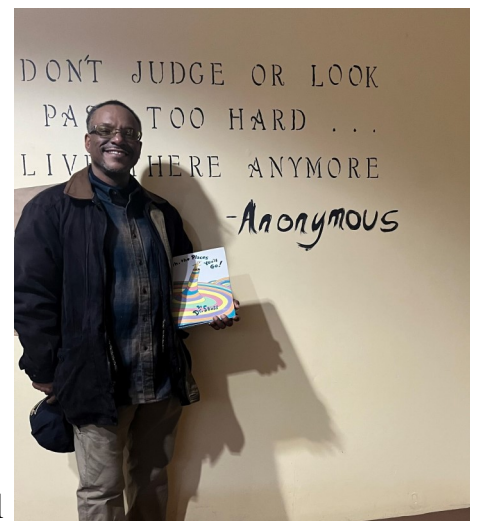
He returned to Baltimore and began working on his recovery. In July of 2022 he came to Earl’s Place.

Today he says he feels strong in his recovery and his goals. He was on the right track when he came to Earl’s Place but says being here made him stronger.

“Earl’s Place gave me the opportunity to use my time to do positive things. Jim (the case manager) helped me slow down and look at all my options so I could make the best choices. Residents are allowed to work at their own pace. The rules are reasonable and ultimately it is up to each person as individuals whether they will be successful.”

Renard is involved with the aftercare program at the treatment center. He is working on becoming a Peer Recovery Coach. He has a sponsor and a strong network to fall back on.

He says when you donate to Earl’s Place, **you are investing in one of the best places he has ever been.**





Tasia Talbert has rejoined CCH as the Communications and Development Associate. She worked with Sheila for a short time early in 2022 and returned in November.

Tasia is upping our social media presence. You can find us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and more—@cchbaltimore.

This year, we will focus on stories from our residents that show what thrive means in their lives and the impact YOU are making.

And on stories about you, our donors.

If you would be willing to have a conversation with Tasia about how you found us, why you give, or what you would like others to know, you can reach Tasia at 410-522-0225 or tasia@cchbaltimore.org.

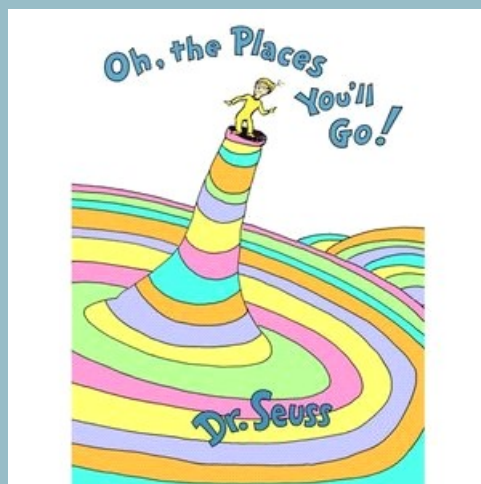
Come Join Us for an OPEN HOUSE

WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 22

WHERE: Earl's Place
1400 E. Lombard Street

TIME: 11 A.M.—1 P.M.

RSVP: 410-522-0225 or
sheila@cchbaltimore.org



Congratulations to Frankie, Darryl, Leon, Charles, Walter, Renard, Joseph, and Gregory on their new homes.



Leon's Living Room

Thanks to a generous donor, Charles was able to cross attending a Ravens game off his bucket list.

Former resident, Robert B., celebrated 7 years of sobriety.

Former resident, Bryant, graduated from the Workforce & Technology Center after completing Housekeeping and Floor Technician certifications.

Former resident, Robert J., purchased a car and now saves 6 hours a day commuting to and from work.

Together: Bringing an End to Homelessness Closer

Nearly 30 years ago, a small group of committed people formed United Ministries, now Cornerstone Community Housing. They were the visionaries behind Earl's Place.

This past December marked the 25th anniversary of Earl's Place grand opening. While statistics show that 30% of nonprofits go out of business after 10 years, thanks to you and so many in the community we continue to provide hope, help, and a home to some of our less fortunate neighbors.

Our first year at Earl's Place we housed 28 men. The average age was 39 (now it is about 53). Four of the original residents, Warren, Douglas, Daniel, and Dale are still in touch with us.

Recently, when Sheila spoke to Douglas he was surprised to learn it has been 25 years since he came to Earl's Place. He has been busy living his life and enjoying his family. He has been a MTA bus driver for 13 years and recently purchased a house in Ednor Gardens.

In 2022, we housed a total of thirty-nine men at Earl's Place. Sixteen of the men moved to permanent housing while three returned to treatment programs and five relapsed.

At Prospect Place we housed thirteen – one person who had lived there since we opened in 2015 died. J.D. moved in on July 1 after living his in car for about two years.

What started as a small group of supporters has grown.

We are humbled and grateful that you have chosen to join us on this journey to bring an end to homelessness closer, one man at a time.

We look forward to the future, as together, we continue to change lives.

Opening Doors

Last year we ventured back in to the world of in-person events with the Opening Doors Dinner.

It was great to be back at the Shriner's Boumi Temple and to see so many familiar faces.

The stars of the evening were four current and former residents. Facilitated by past board chair, Nathan Barbo, the men shared stories of their experiences at Earl's Place and Prospect Place and of hope and home.



NOW WE'RE COOKING

Nancy Gardner has been a long time volunteer with CCH and came up with the wonderful idea of a cooking class with Sheila.

“In a passing conversation with Sheila, we were reflecting on the integrated nature of the services available to residents at Earl’s Place. In thinking about the concept of overall well-being, food preparation seemed like a vehicle for investigating budgeting, well-being, healthy living, etc. with residents. Sheila and I had no idea how this might actually work out in real time, but I was game for giving it a try. In some ways, it felt like coming back to some cherished, age-old roots.

More than anything, I hope the residents gain a sense of self-confidence in their ability to manage a kitchen and cook for themselves, maybe even for others too.



When the men enjoy what they made and appreciate each other’s help in the kitchen, the day was a success."

They have made a variety of things including chicken soup and apple crisp and are learning basic nutrition skills, how to read a recipe, and lots more. You can find more updates on our Facebook page,

<https://www.facebook.com/cchbaltimore>

THINGS WE DON'T LIKE TO TALK ABOUT: for most of us it is money, religion, and politics. Often because we don't want to be misunderstood. Whether you are 18 or 80 thinking about the future and the legacy you want to leave is something none of us should avoid.

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

If you have questions, please contact Sheila Helgerson at 410-522-0225 or sheila@cchbaltimore.org. If you have already included CCH in your will, thank you. And please let Sheila know.



Earl's Place
1400 E. Lombard Street
Baltimore, MD 21231
410-522-0225

Prospect Place
8720 Philadelphia Road
Baltimore, MD 21237
410-682-9660

For more information,
visit us online at
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sheila@cchbaltimore.org