

Housing Matters



Cornerstone Community Housing is dedicated to



assisting men experiencing homelessness, who want to change their lives, and to changing community attitudes toward homelessness.

It Takes a Village

Ronald is our newest graduate. With his *Oh, The Places You'll Go!* book and the skills that he has learned over the past year and a half, he has made the move to independence and his own apartment.

When he came to us in December of 2018, Ronald's goals were to address health and mental health needs, increase his income, and obtain housing. Working with case managers from Earl's Place, Johns Hopkins Hospital Bayview, and Johns Hopkins North Broadway Center, Ronald has done just that and continues to move forward.

After his wife died in 2017, Ronald says his substance abuse became unmanageable and he became homeless. He stayed in emergency shelters and then obtained substance abuse treatment through the Broadway Center before coming to Earl's Place. It has not been a straight path for him. The challenges of mental health and addiction have caused some bumps in his plans, but thanks to his hard work, you and your generosity, and strong support systems, the future looks bright.



From the Director

Hello,

As Father's Day approaches, we wish all of you who are fathers or like a father to someone a very happy day.

On page 3, you will read about Theodore and his relationship with his father, who, 22 years ago, was also a resident of Earl's Place.

Often the men we work with did not have a relationship with their fathers and their relationships with their own children are strained. Thanks to you, opportunities, and time, many have been able to begin to rebuild those relationships.

You can help Theodore and others. Please send your donation in honor or in memory of your father today. Let us know if you would like us to send him a note telling him of your special gift.

Thanks to Baltimore Sun Columnist, Dan Rodricks, I am pleased to tell you that if you make a donation by June 30th, you will be entered in a drawing to win an autographed copy of Dan's book, *Father's Day Creek*. Thank you and good luck!

Sheila

Sheila Helgerson, Executive Director

OUR BOARD

Nathan Barbo, Chair

Eric Miller, Vice Chair

Erika McClammy, Secretary

Tony Parrott, Treasurer

Karen Bartell

Thomas Bond

Samuel Fagan

Andrew Frank

Nancy Gardner

Marcus Guynn

UPDATES

While the world is topsy turvy, we are doing our best to maintain the routines we can.

Jim, our case manager, continues to work with the men from a safe distance. We have started mini house meetings so we can still have some time together but in groups of four or five men instead of all 17 at a time.

One of our newer residents, Jonathan, worked as a peer recovery specialist in Washington, D.C. When the coronavirus hit, he was laid off, but this did not stop him. He immediately began going on interviews and is now working at a COVID-19 testing site.



Nick came to Earl's Place a year ago and found a space to recover from brain surgery, enroll in GED classes, reconnect with his family, and more.

At the end of April, Nick received his *Oh, The Places You'll Go!* book and became an official Earl's Place alumnus. A Visionary.

Changing Lives, One Man at a Time

“When I was 10, I visited my father here at Earl’s Place. He did well, so I thought you could help me, too.”

While Theodore’s words tear at my heart, I am also glad, that, thanks to you, 22 years later we are still open and changing lives.

Theodore, Sr. was one of the first residents of Earl’s Place. I cannot remember many details of his stay, but I do know that as his son says, he did well. He moved to his own apartment and kept in touch. Unfortunately, in 2007 he passed away. Four years later Theodore’s mother also died.

Theodore, Jr. began using drugs at 16 and attempted treatment several times. At thirty-one years old, he has been homeless off and on since he was 21. He has lived at Earl’s Place since January 2019 and has two years of sobriety.

With Father’s Day approaching I asked Theodore about his memories of his father. Here is what he had to say, *“He was a good person who loved his family. Although he was an addict and homeless for a time, he rebuilt his life and his relationships with me and my five sisters. I remember him reading to me from the Bible and listening to Gospel music. One of my favorite times was when we went to my favorite gospel singer’s concert.*

Another special memory is when I was 10 or 11 years old and he bought me the gear I needed to play football. I played on a team in Patterson Park, both defense and offense.



Theodore, Jr.

One day, another player punted the ball and I caught it and made a touchdown. I was so excited. I looked up and saw my father there watching. I never thought he would come to my games. That is my best memory ever.”

Theodore has many years and opportunities ahead of him.

Thanks to you, he is learning how to be self-supporting and positive. He has his learner’s permit, has completed driver’s education classes, and is impatiently waiting to complete the required driving instruction. He has been employed for three months cleaning at BWI Airport and hopes to get a driving job once he obtains his driver’s license.

Theodore would like you to know that at Earl’s Place “You can get your life together.”

THE VALUE OF STABILITY: PRICELESS

Thank You For Providing Hope, Help and a Home!

Our newest resident, moved in recently and is beginning to feel like a new man, even in the midst of the stress that has become our daily lives.

His addiction began early in life when, at 19, a serious car accident left him with a broken neck and back. He was prescribed Percocet for five years and developed an addiction that continued until recently. He also suffers from anxiety and depression.



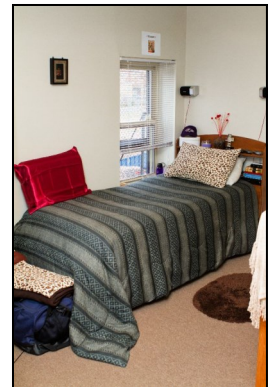
Typical mission setting

He is 49 years-old and has been homeless now for about two years following a divorce. For the first few months he couch surfed with friends and when the good will ran out, he entered the shelter system. He rotated between two overnight shelters; one free and another when he had the \$3.00 overnight fee.

He spent the nights with 100+ men and depending on the shelter, the days either watching TV or wandering the City. Now with the Corona Virus outbreak life is especially challenging for those experiencing homelessness and as you can imagine his stress level elevated.

Now he has a room to call home and a safe place to adhere to shelter in place rules.

He is looking forward to a new life; building a network of people he feels comfortable with and can trust, and, of course, getting his own place to live.



Earl's Place room



Earl's Place
1400 E. Lombard Street
Baltimore, MD 21231

Prospect Place
8720 Philadelphia Road
Baltimore, MD 21237

For more information,
visit us online at
cchbaltimore.org