

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.

You Are the Key to Stan's Success!

On March 6, Stan moved to his own apartment and joined our growing list of Visionaries (Earl's Place alumni). He came to Earl's Place on December 26, 2018 and just a short time after moving in he was approved for housing.. Due to circumstances beyond his control, he didn't actually move for *13 months*. We enjoyed having him here, but the refrain "it shouldn't be long now" was getting old for him.

While waiting for his new home, Stan practiced patience and humor. Last month he gave Sheila his Christmas wish list for 2020! But, the waiting was a blessing in disguise. Stan was able to address some health and mental health needs and now has a solid network of service providers. And of course he had more time to build relationships with the residents and work with staff to get him "housing ready". When asked what he learned while here, he responded, "You know at 60 I should have known these things. It's just common sense and I didn't have any." It's never too late to learn and change. We wish Stan much happiness in his new home.



From the Director

Dear Friends,

Corona Virus. Covid-19. Social distancing. This new normal is a challenging time for all of us.

I appreciate the calls and e-mails to check on us. We are practicing the recommended safety precautions. We have information for online meetings and encouraged the men to stay in their rooms as much as they can. At the same time, we know how stressful this is and are making sure we touch base with each person. Our Board has switched to conference calls as they continue their work.

While we cannot interact in person, you can follow us on Facebook @cchbaltimore.

E-mails and phone calls are also appreciated.

And, of course, we still need to pay our bills so if you are able to make a donation, please do so. It costs approximately \$18 a day to house one of the men at Earl's Place. Consider becoming a monthly donor, a GEM. You can sign up through our website, cchbaltimore.org or by setting up a monthly payment through your bank.

Thank you for your ongoing compassion and support. Together we are changing lives. I wish you health, peace, and happiness.

Sheila

Sheila Helgerson, Executive Director

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Danney graduated from the Goodwill job training program and obtained employment at the State Office Building.
- Jonathan celebrated a year of sobriety and obtained part-time employment at his former treatment program.
- Nick started GED classes.
- Frank is attending Microsoft Technology Associate Training at Goodwill and was hired to work part-time in the computer lab.
- Theodore started a job at BWI.

When asked during his exit interview what he learned about himself while at Earl's Place, one man said:

"I learned to be patient, and have a little forgiveness. Not to be judgmental and give without expecting anything back."

Today, Anthony is Finishing Things

On Wednesday, January 1, 2020, 581 people registered for the 15th Annual Resolution Run in Patterson Park. While current and former residents joined us as volunteers, a couple of the current residents participated in the run. Anthony was one of them.

Anthony is 53 years old; born and raised in Baltimore. He began using drugs when he was 14 years-old. Despite that, he graduated from Walbrook High School and attended Oklahoma Baptist University on a basketball scholarship. He dropped out of college to return to Baltimore and assist his mother. He worked a variety of jobs and had several periods of sobriety.

He became homeless in 2017 and came to Earl's Place in June of 2019 after completing a substance abuse program.

His initial goals were to address his health, have a hip replacement, and get back to work. **Thanks to you he was able to do all those things.**

On July 24, he had his surgery and on January 1, 2020 he completed the Resolution Run 5K. In between he had a successful recovery and obtained employment.

Next steps include continuing to look for more secure employment, saving money, and obtaining his own housing.

Today, Anthony is looking forward to many more "finishes" in his life and we are looking forward to sharing them with you.



Thank you to our sponsors:

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PATIENCE IS ALSO A FORM OF ACTION

We chose PATIENCE as our word for 2020 before we knew how much we would need it.

Wikipedia defines patience this way - the ability to endure difficult circumstances such as perseverance in the face of delay; tolerance of provocation without responding in annoyance/anger; or forbearance when under strain, especially when faced with longer-term difficulties.

Even before they enter Earl's Place the mens' patience is tested as the wait for a room is typically 6-9 months. And often the waiting continues...waiting for a job training program, waiting for a decision on an application for Supplemental Security Income from Social Security, waiting for a permanent housing opportunity. But, the waiting pays off and thanks to you, we have the stories to prove it.

Celebrating Life

He was a son.
He was a brother.
He was a father.
He loved soccer.
He achieved his dream of becoming a CDL driver.
He reunited with his family.

“He” was John, a former Earl’s Place resident, who died on January 30.
“He” was Michael, a former Earl’s Place resident, who died on January 31.
“He” was George, a Prospect Place resident, who died on February 8.

All three were a part of the Cornerstone Community family and will be missed. We celebrate these men and the men who are working to change their lives and those who are making these opportunities possible.

Thanks to you, they experience the kindness of strangers, the opportunity to rebuild their lives, and the stability and comfort of home.



Earl's Place
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Baltimore, MD 21231

Prospect Place
8720 Philadelphia Road
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For more information,
visit us online at
cchbaltimore.org