

Housing Matters

From the Executive Director

I am writing this article in January although you may not be reading it until after February 2, Groundhog Day. If so, I hope that Punxsutawney Phil had good news for us!

I must admit that I have never seen the movie, Groundhog Day. However, I do understand the premise of the movie and think that the protagonist of the movie, Phil Connors, and our residents have a lot in common.

Phil is a meteorologist who makes the annual trek to Punxsutawney to cover the annual Groundhog Day festivities and he is tired of this assignment. Just when he thinks it can't be any worse he becomes trapped in a time loop and ends up continually reliving February 2.

For the residents, who were in active addiction, and for the great number of people who still are, I think that this must be similar to how they feel. Trapped in a situation that it appears they cannot get out; focused on how to get their next fix, something to eat, or to find a place to sleep for the night. One of the former residents described addiction as being trapped in a glass box. He could see the world going on around him, but he couldn't figure out how to escape to a new way of life.

Just like the men, Phil finally breaks the cycle by bettering himself – he begins helping people, learning new skills.

Helping people, learning new skills...

Thanks to you the men of Earl's Place have the opportunity to do these things and more. A donation of just \$18 provides a day of refuge and a new start for a man.

Larry came to Earl's Place in May of last year. He is determined to break the cycle of homelessness and incarceration. He states he had lost direction and made some bad decisions.

He wanted to fit in and he used drugs and alcohol to cope with his insecurities and low self esteem.

continued on page –8–



Current & former residents supported Sheila at her Commissioning Service

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Sheila Helgerson,
Executive Director

James Carey,
Case Manager

Gary Champ & Mike Rambo,
Resident Managers

Aletheia Shin,
Outreach Coordinator

United Ministries is a housing and social justice organization dedicated to assisting homeless men who want to change their lives, and to changing community attitudes toward the homeless.

Inside this Issue

From the Director	1
Resolution Run	2
Board Member Spotlight	3
Friends and Supporters	4-5
News in Brief	6-7
Coming Events	8

Resolution Run 2012



"...the race was phenomenal this year! Keep up the great work!" - 2012 Participant

What do you get when you combine 50+ degree weather, chili, cornbread, and more than 800 walkers and runners? The perfect recipe for a great way to start the New Year!

Thanks to you, we raised much needed-funds that will provide housing and support for men who are working to improve their lives and obtain their dreams.

Thank you to everyone who made the day successful, including a multitude of volunteers, our sponsors: *Chesapeake Association United Church of Christ (UCC), First & St. Stephens UCC, St. Matthew's UCC, Immanuel UCC, Scott Kreger: RBC Capital Markets Corp., Central Atlantic Conference UCC, David Counts, Robert Olsen, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, United Evangelical UCC, Canton Club Health and Fitness, Gerry's Tire Service, Thomas Hoffman, CLU, CHFC, IAR, Johnny Rad's Pizzeria Tavern, Patterson Park Baptist Church, Skinny Water and Underground Wheel Company, and all of you who participated.*

Congratulations to the Top Gunn team – winners of a pizza party at Johnny Rad's Pizzeria and Immanuel UCC in Catonsville – winner of the Congregation of the Year for the most participants.





Jill White
Board member

Board Member Spotlight

Jill, a life-long member of the United Church of Christ, first learned about Earl’s Place through two of the founders, Gene and Karen Bartell. Jill joined the board in 2007 and has served as board president since 2010.

The fact that this is a UCC affiliated agency combined with our mission, the community served and the success rate drew Jill to become a supporter. Jill feels our mission of providing housing to men who are experiencing homelessness is important because we provide a place where

the men can have a stable environment and support while they get themselves back on their feet. “United Ministries provides whatever the individual needs – educational resources, rehabilitative resources, life training.”

Jill brings a host of skills to the board providing leadership, resources and guidance in long-range planning and goals setting. Her vision for the future of United Ministries includes the development of additional facilities for both men and women. “Serving on the board of directors is one way individuals can support a very meaningful and worthwhile program. Earl’s Place is a program that needs to grow and be better supported. **I would encourage anyone reading this to pay Earl’s Place a visit and spend some time chatting with the staff and the men, and then see if their lives/perspectives are not changed by that one visit!**”

We are so thankful to have board members who have such vision and passion. Thank you Jill for your service!

Would you like information about joining the board?
Please contact Sheila at 410-522-0225 or sheila@earlsplace.org

What People are Saying...

I have personally seen the impact this program makes in the lives of the people they serve. I have seen men go from living on the streets to graduating from college with honors. United Ministries’ Earl’s Place program doesn’t put band-aids on gaping wounds; it rebuilds lives! This program gives its residents a chance to repent, rehabilitate and restore their lives. Every facet of the individual is included in this ministry of transformation. When I give a donation to United Ministries, I know that I am helping to make a difference. I know that my support of United Ministries is helping to change our world, one (whole) life at a time. — Lois C. St. Mark's UCC Baltimore, MD

You can write a review by going to
<http://greatnonprofits.org/reviews/united-ministries-inc>

Friends & Supporters | June— December 2011

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In Memory Of

Marshel D. Baggett from Betty L. Baggett
Thomas H. Bartell from Betty L. Baggett
 Rev. Eugene & Karen Bartell
 Margaret Marshall
Carolyn Bolster from Rev. Eugene & Karen Bartell
William Conlin from Gail & Jim Cosby
 Robert Trimble
Thurman Hileman from David & Marianne Brown
Kathryn Joellenbeck from Barbara Joellenbeck
 Mary Ellen Pattee
Frank Moore from Rev. Eugene & Karen Bartell
John Nadeau from Carol Nadeau
Harold E. Roderuck from David & Marianne Brown
Lloyd Stewart from Dan & Bobbie Arnheim
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 Chesapeake Association UCC
 Mary Durbano
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Doug & Helen Thorn
Alice G. Waldhauser from Beryl & Danny Williams, Sr.
Harry E. Watson from David & Marianne Brown
Charles T. Wiles from David & Marianne Brown

In Honor of

Rev. Eugene & Karen Bartell from Rev. Stephen Anderson
 Rev. Hugh Nash
David & Marianne Brown from Betty L. Baggett
Ralph & Bobbi Cook from Rev. Eugene and Karen Bartell
Rev. John Deckenback from Angela Megna
Larry Dunham from Amy Dunham
Leslie & Larry Dunham from Margaret Dunham
Lloyd Dunham from Larry & Leslie Dunham
Herb Ecker from Doug & Jill White
Elizabeth Fuss from Timothy Fuss
Edward Gross from Jodi Gross
Josh & Tom Helt from Kathleen Helt
Sheila Helgerson from Rev. Beth O'Malley & Randell Young
 Rev. Gerald and Elizabeth Fuss
Rich Henry from Terry Fitzgerald
Carol Hoffman from Gregory Cantori
John Joers from Jodi Gross

Rev. Roy Joellenbeck from Barbara Joellenbeck
 Betty Macioch
Gerry Krotee from John & Lillian Lowensen
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Paul Lindon from Melissa Lindon
On behalf of MD. from Homer and Katharine Riggins
On Behalf of Maryland from Paul Misner
Rev. James & Mary Ellen Manning from Rev. Eugene & Karen Bartell
Frank Moore from Rev. Eugene & Karen Bartell
Heather Moyer from Anonymous
Don Nicholson from Susan Nicholson
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Homer Riggins from Katharine Riggins
Giles Robertson from Catharine Robertson
Dozier A. Robinson from Helen E. Williams
Michael Taurone from Sheila Helgerson
United Evangelical Youth Group from United Evangelical UCC
William Van O'Linda from Ryan Collins
Stephen White from Jill and Doug White
Don Whiteman from Jodi Gross

Thank You!

The support of these donors has helped us carry out our mission of providing new beginnings through housing. If you have provided for United Ministries/Earl's Place in your estate plans, please let us know. If not, we would love to talk to you about how you can.

Call or write: United Ministries, Inc. 1400 E. Lombard Street, Baltimore, MD 21231 info@earlsplace.org or 410-522-0225

We hope you never need us, but we are glad you are here for those who do!
Your donations means a new beginning for a homeless man.

News in Brief



Aletheia Shin joined the Earl's Place family in August as the Outreach Coordinator. Aletheia is a Lutheran Volunteer Corps participant and it is hard to believe that almost half her year of service is over!

Aletheia comes to us from Korea by way of Michigan where she graduated from Calvin College in Grand Rapids. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with a focus on Studio Arts in Visual Communication, Graphic Design and Ceramics. In addition to helping with the e-newsletter and other communications, Aletheia is working with the men to develop an art exhibition, *The Monkey on Our Back*, which will be displayed in June at the Creative Alliance Amalie Rothschild Gallery. See page seven for more information.

On November 13th, the long awaited Commissioning Service for Sheila finally took place and now she is officially a Commissioned Minister of the UCC! Many family and friends, supporters of Earl's Place and present and past Earl's Place residents were part of this special event. The men were very excited to be part of this special moment and also to show off how good they look in their suits!



Thank you to all the congregations and individuals who participated in our Adopt-a-Resident program and helped to make this Christmas season a true season of sharing.

"I have not had shoes that are brand new in a long time" Larry said as he beamed at his brand new white Nike shoes. Your gifts touched all of our hearts this holiday season. Hats and scarves (at left) were hand made for the men by Carolyn Crittenden, Bonnie Jones, and the women from Glade UCC in Walkersville, MD.

Earl's Place staff and residents participated in the Annual Homeless Persons' Memorial Day Service on December 21st at the Inner Harbor. Candles were lit and stories were told in remembrance of homeless friends who had died.

"The event was meaningful" said Craig, a current resident at Earl's Place. "I recognized a name I knew from working at the shelter. When I was on the street, you heard of many people who died. You don't know what God has in store for you."



The Monkey on Our Back coming soon...



by Aletheia Shin

Stories of Earl's Place are heard most often through word of mouth from our staff, residents and board members.

This year, we wanted to provide an opportunity for the men at Earl's Place to tell their stories to you in a different way because sometimes words are not enough.

Art is not the language in which the men communicate in their everyday life. But in the process of exploring this language of art that is so

foreign to them, the men are enjoying this opportunity to "word" their reflections. The *Monkey on Our Back* will reveal to you the humanity from everyday scenes of homelessness which many of us can so easily become numb to.

We hope to shine a bright light on the injustices, the struggles and the hopes of the homeless population in their step-by-step process of returning back to society positively and productively.

We hope that you join us at our opening in June.

Would you like a convenient way to make donations?

Would you like to spread your donation out over time?

One of the best ways you can support Earl's Place is to become a monthly donor.

I would like to invite you to do so by authorizing a contribution of \$10, \$20 or more a month from your credit card or bank account, or, if you prefer, you can mail in your donations. We will provide you with a quarterly giving statement and a year-end statement that documents your generosity.

Sign up through our website or contact me at 410-522-0225. And, please let me know if you have any questions.

"As I reflected on the whole year and the things I accomplished, this was the best year of my life. I'm grateful. My faith is really high today. I have a fear about moving on, but it's a healthy fear. All I have to do is stay clean." —Ray, current resident

-continued from page 1-

Working with one of our volunteers Dr. Les Mandell, a psychologist, he gained confidence. Today he is enrolled in GED classes, is receiving therapy for his stuttering through The Hearing and Speech agency, is working on his physical health and is enrolled in the Department of Rehabilitation Services for job training.

Emerson just completed his first semester at Baltimore County Community college with a 4.0 GPA.

Andre and Carl both moved into their own housing; Carl in December and Andre at the beginning of January. Both were very grateful for the generosity of donors who provided much needed items to make their new locations feel like home.

The men continue to cook and serve a monthly meal at The Supper Club soup kitchen and to provide clean-up assistance every week.

These are just a few examples of how your donations are making a difference. Thanks to everyone who responded to our 2011 annual appeal. Without you none of this would be possible and so, let me say, thank you once again on behalf of all of us.

P.S. If you would like to hear about what is happening a little more frequently I invite you to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter on our website, www.earlsplace.org.



The staff and residents of Earl's Place are always honored to speak at your congregation or organization. Call or e-mail us for details!

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

June 2012

***The Monkey on Our Back* Exhibition
Amalie Rothschild Gallery at the Creative Alliance**

January 1, 2013

**Resolution Run
Patterson Park, Baltimore MD**

Sponsorship opportunities are available, call 410-522-0225

A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by contacting United Ministries at 1400 E. Lombard Street, Baltimore, MD 21231 or 410-522-0225. Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary for the cost of copying and postage.