

Housing Matters

From the Executive Director

Do you remember when you were a child and the days and weeks seemed so long? My grandmother always warned me that one day time would seem to fly by and I would miss the leisureliness of my childhood.

I am sure I am not alone in being guilty of forgetting to take time to slow down and enjoy the world around me. My grandmother was trying to teach me about mindfulness even before it became such a part of our regular conversations.

While the past few months have been extremely busy, there have also been opportunities to stop and enjoy the moments. Here are some highlights you helped make possible:

The ribbon cutting at Prospect Place, followed by twelve chronically homeless men finding a home at Prospect Place.

In 2015, thirty men found a home at Earl's Place and 11 of the 13 who left moved to permanent housing.

The Opening Doors Dinner and Auction with keynote speaker, Dan Rodricks.

There were holiday celebrations at Earl's Place and Prospect Place, and of course the annual Resolution Run.

And there was art, gardening and conversation concluding with a reception and art show: Personal Shrines and Public Policies at Goucher College.

Thank you for helping make all these opportunities possible. I look forward to sharing what lies ahead with you.



Volume 18, Issue 1
Spring 2016

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

Prospect Place
8720 Philadelphia Road
Baltimore, MD 21237

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.

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Board Member Spotlight

Scott Kreger

Scott Kreger joined the Board of United Ministries in 2014. He is a Senior Vice President/ Financial Advisor at RBC Wealth Management.

I was introduced to Earl's Place by a past board member and client of mine. Since we are both marathon runners, he encouraged me to sponsor the Resolution Run. I'm proud that I have now sponsored the event for the last ten years.



Scott Kreger, far left, with RBC Baltimore Branch Director, Gary Marino, far right, and residents of Earl's Place.

Before deciding to join the board, I had to do my own due diligence. Does Earl's Place have a track record of success? Is there wasted spending on overhead? Are the board members and staff fully dedicated to changing lives? Is there bureaucracy or can things get done quickly? Will I be able to make a difference?

I was more than satisfied with what I found and as a result am proud to have joined the board. Since joining I have become a GEM (Giving Every Month Donor). I can assure all donors we are making a difference.

This is an exciting time for United Ministries with the opening of Prospect Place.

Now more than ever consider becoming a GEM, volunteer, or board member. However you decide to help, together we are changing lives forever. *Scott*

In February, Scott received the Dick McFarland Volunteer of the Year Award for his community service which included a suit drive for Earl's Place. The award, given by the RBC Foundation-USA, recognizes an RBC Wealth Management-U.S. employee who demonstrates outstanding volunteer commitment and community service. Scott was nominated by his Branch Director Peter Fox, who said that Scott "without a doubt, makes a positive difference in people's lives."

Would you like to serve along with Scott and change the lives of men experiencing homelessness? Please contact Executive Director, Sheila Helgerson, at sheila@umhousing.org for board service opportunities.

Home Again

The residents love our programs in part because for many of them it is the first stable home they have had in a long time. Through your generous support our men are able to build new lives and homes for themselves!

Here is note of appreciation from one of the men:

Since coming here to Prospect Place my life has personally changed for the better, spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

I truly believe if I was not offered this wonderful, unique opportunity that I would never believed in a million years that people do sincerely care about the welfare, care and overall lives of other people.

For me personally, it's just like winning the lottery.

Without the love and caring for and overall understanding for others needs, wants and desires that most if not all of us here at Prospect Place would still be lost with not idea what we were going to do with our lives.

And to be blessed to have Ms. Pamela [Prospect Place Case Manager] make sure that those of us who need to keep our appointments are kept shows me that she goes above and beyond her job to make absolutely certain that each and everyone one of our needs are met and taken care of day after day with no hesitation.

What I am trying to say is that you all have given me a peace of mind. So thank you Prospect Place and all who are involved. My hope, no my prayer, is that other homeless, lost, and forgotten about people, male or female, one day will have the same if not a better opportunity than I was blessed with here at Prospect Place.

So again, thank you all and God bless each and everyone involved with this wonderful program.

Carl E.

Prospect Place Harry & Jeannette Weinberg Apartments is the second project of United Ministries and provides permanent supportive housing to men who were chronically homeless and



have a disability. We officially began housing men on November 1, 2015 and by December 1 all twelve efficiency units were filled and are now home to Andrew, Earl, George, Ronald, David, Charles, Jeffrey, Duane, Edward, Barry, Carl, and William.

The youngest resident is 46 and the oldest is 60. All of the men were referred to us from shelters or street outreach programs with periods of homelessness ranging from four to 20 years.

This project was made possible thanks to our partners and the developers for this project, Episcopal Housing Corporation, and our initial funders Baltimore County Housing and Planning, Maryland Dept. of Housing and Community Development, France-Merrick Foundation and The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation. We also extend thanks to the many individuals and congregations who provided financial and in-kind support.

Earlier this year after five years with Earl's Place, our case manager, Jim Carey left. We are grateful for his years of jokes and hard work. And while we were sad to see him leave, we are pleased to welcome Marc Bowman.



Marc Bowman

I am the new case manager at Earl's Place. I am excited about being a part of such a unique social work ministry that provides homeless and housing services targeting men who are in recovery from alcohol and substance abuse.

I have worked in community/mental health services for over 20 years serving various population groups in D.C., Maryland and Virginia. I have served at risk youth, and children, individuals experiencing mental health crisis, residential programs housing the geriatric population, individuals in recovery from alcohol and substance abuse, homeless families, individuals and the chronically homeless.

My passion is serving those who are most vulnerable in society and being a role model for those that I serve. I have served in a number of unique places, and even though I have been at Earl's Place for a short while, it is clear to me that UM/Earl's Place is one of those unique places that everyone needs to experience at least once.

Marc

We are very fortunate to have a special relationship with Goucher College.

This spring Goucher students and Earl's Place residents worked together to make personal shrines and beautify our garden. The project ended with an art show and reception at the college. The evening included remarks from our Goucher friends, Phaye Poliakoff-Chen, Marlee Goldshine, and Claire Donnelly, Delegate Steve Lafferty (Baltimore County #42), Earl's Place resident, Charles, and music by the



a Capella groups Red Hot Blue and The Counselors of Peace. More pictures can be found on Facebook (bit.ly/EPshrines).

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***GEMs (Giving Every Month)**

**** Visionary (Current or former
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***We sincerely apologize for any
 errors or omissions; please contact
 our office for corrections.***

United Ministries is a 501 (c) (3)
 nonprofit organization donations to
 which are tax deductible to the fullest
 extent allowed by law. A copy of our
 current financial statement is available
 on 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 of the State for
 the cost of copying and postage.

Community Investment Tax Credit Program (CITC)

Would you like to get 50 percent of your donation to United Ministries back through Maryland State tax credits?

When you make a donation of \$500 or more to United Ministries, you may be eligible to receive a Maryland CITC tax credit equal of half the value of your donation. CITC tax credits are equal to 50 percent of the value of donated money, goods or real property and are in addition to Federal and State charitable tax deductions.

Contact Sheila at 410-522-0225 or sheila@umhousing.org with your intent to donate and to confirm tax credits are still available.

WISH LIST

Monetary contributions allow us to use your donations where they are most needed. Here is a list of items we can always use.

Twin Bed Sheets	Laundry detergent
Twin Bed Blankets	13 Gallon trash bags
Twin Bed Comforter/Bedspreads	Light Bulbs (60 Watt)
Pillows	Aluminum Foil
Bath Towels and Wash Cloths	Plastic Wrap
Lotion	All Purpose Cleaners
Bar Soap	Dish Liquid/Dishwasher Powder
Deodorant	Toilet Paper
Razors	Paper Towels
Shampoo	Non perishable food items
Toothpaste	Sugar
	Coffee
Gift cards to Home Depot, Staples or local grocery stores	

Leave a Legacy

Did you know there are ways to support United Ministries without writing a check?

One of the most popular ways is to include us in your will. It's very simple to do. You can specify an amount to be given to United Ministries or you can designate a percentage of your estate to be donated. Check with your attorney or your financial advisor to get the exact language you need. And be sure to advise us of your bequest so that we can properly thank you for your support.

Your donation provides hope and housing.

Father's Day is June 19. Honor your father or a man who has been like a father to you by making a donation and help another man thrive and not just survive.



Will you make an investment in someone's future today?

Donate on line, bit.ly/UMdonate, call to make a donation over the phone (410-522-0225) or mail a check to 1400 E. Lombard Street, Baltimore, MD 21231

Thank you!

Your gift, no matter what size, will help change a man's life forever.

We are always pleased to speak to your congregation or organization. Call or e-mail Sheila at sheila@umhousing.org or (410) 522-0225 to schedule a time.

UPCOMING
EVENTS

Talk and Tour

Sunday, June 26, 1–3 p.m.

Join us for a tour, conversation and snacks.

RSVP (410) 522-0225

Opening Doors Dinner and Auction

Thursday, October 6th, 6-9:30 p.m.

Resolution Run

Sunday, January 1, 2017, 2 p.m.