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Newsletter

Winter 2017/2018

*Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays
from the Deep Roots Community!*

Ending Homelessness One Child at a Time

From the Director's Desk:



Last year's Annual Report on Homelessness for Maryland shows that homeless deaths increased 26% in the month of January.

Winter, like all seasons, brings its characteristic joys, coziness, and beauty. To the homeless population, however, it

brings increased danger, challenges, and difficulty. Together, let us please remember to count our blessings at this time of year, but also – and especially – let us remember to keep those less fortunate than ourselves in our thoughts, prayers, and actions. As Jesus reminds us in Matthew 25:40, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

It is, without a doubt, a blessing to have shelter, warmth, safety, and a place to call home. Recently, I came across the following quotation from a book by Matthew Desmond called *Evicted*:

"The home is the center of life. It is a refuge from the grind of work, the pressure of school, and the menace of the streets. We say that at home, we can 'be ourselves.' Everywhere else, we are someone else. At home, we remove our masks."

When I first encountered it, I wanted to disagree with the last half of that quotation. I thought to myself, "No, I am myself wherever I am." But then, a couple of days later, I was having a rough

day... hectic... challenging... stressful (the kind of day we are all familiar with from time to time). Much of the pain of that day began lifting the nearer and nearer I got to my home that evening. Even more so when I made it to the front door, the familiar jingling of my keys, the sound of my dog on the other side of the door. And then inside, kicking off my boots, relaxing in the shower, then my slippers, a robe, and a cup of soothing tea. I was starting to feel like myself again. It was at that point that the words appeared in my head, *There's no place like home*. After a few deep breaths and a warm feeling of peace, gratitude, and balance, I remembered the beautiful kids and families living at Deep Roots. I thought about the challenges they experienced and about the difficult lives they were living before we met them. I thought of the many more children and families Deep Roots will serve in the months and years to come. I envisioned a winter in which no one would die because of homelessness. Together we can try to accomplish that. Thank you so very much for your caring, for your support, and for all that you do for the Deep Roots community.

- Ola Boswell, Executive Director



Deep Roots at Clairvaux Farm is a shelter for homeless families with children. We offer transitional housing and a program to break the cycle of homelessness. So far this year, Deep Roots has provided over 23,000 meals, and over 8900 bed nights!

A Deep Roots Success Story - Catching up with Amanda, Mariah, and Marquel

by Todd Flenniken, Deep Roots Resident Farm Assistant



When I first heard Amanda Hagan and her two children, Mariah and Marquel, would be coming to live at Clairvaux Farm, I had mixed emotions. While I did not know Amanda well personally, I was very familiar with her family. I had taken her niece and nephews to Deep Roots' monthly events in

previous years. So while I was sad that she and the kids needed somewhere to stay, I was happy to know that she would be someplace safe.

Amanda had a couple of things going for her when she arrived at Deep Roots. She had a stable job in Middletown, Delaware. She also had a great mindset for helping others and for living in a community. Amanda definitely wasn't looking for a handout, she just needed a "hand up"!

You have to be impressed, Amanda has to be at work six – sometimes seven – days a week at 5:00 AM to make the donuts at the Dunkin Donuts. Then she comes home and is a full time mom to two kids, talk about a hero! On top of that, Amanda has also been instrumental in helping other Deep Roots residents gain employment at the donut shop where she is now a shift manager!

Recently, Amanda was able to move out and secure a beautiful apartment for herself and the kids in nearby Cecilton. She says she's thankful for Deep Roots who offered her not only temporary shelter, but also resources to give her a hand up to get where she wanted to be for her kids. We miss them terribly here at Clairvaux Farm. Marquel always gave hugs and I don't think I ever saw Mariah without a smile on her face.

***Good luck Amanda, Mariah, and Marquel,
you are always a part of Deep Roots!***

'Tis the Season by Ed Oceanic, Board President

Tis the season of celebration, for a baby who became a carpenter. For children and the young at heart, Saint Nicholas adds to the season's joy. We at Deep Roots have much to be thankful for, we are starting our fifth year in operation at Clairvaux Farm. It seems like only yesterday when Deep Roots purchased the property from Meeting Ground, who stopped operation here April 2013.

There was a lot of work to do as many things were in disrepair, and so began the job of rebuilding. Fortunately, we had many work-groups over the last four years from churches both near and far, as well as groups from local businesses, service organizations and NGO's who have helped us rebuild and



make available to homeless children a safe and inviting facility. Groups both large and small came to give of their talents – and many talents there were – carpenters, electricians, painters, gardeners, musicians, teachers, seamstresses, and cooks to name a few. Everyone who came was additive to the whole, their handprints are clearly evident in the work and the love they provided. The biggest gift given was the love that they showed the children who had suffered great tragedies. The time spent as a community eating meals and working together with people much less fortunate was the greatest gift to both groups. Groups departed joyful, and filled with the spirit that each one of us needs to be a whole individual, and to have a real sense of accomplishment. Work groups come for a day or weekend, and many Mission groups come for a week or more. So as you plan for holiday gift giving, please consider a gift that returns tenfold. Perhaps your church, your family, your business, or your service organization could come as a workgroup next year. We have a mission house to stay in, and have projects from small to large for any group willing. Thank you for your support these last four years.



Spotlight On Staff



Lori Goldsmith started volunteering at Deep Roots in 2014 and became a staff Member, our Administrator, in 2015. She has been working with the homeless community in Cecil County for over ten years, which includes her time here at Deep Roots. She is responsible for Deep

Root's book keeping, general office management and assistance with adult case management.



David McGlothlin has been working in the counseling and social work field since he graduated from college in 1991. He has worked with children in foster care and, most recently, was a Child Protective Services supervisor in Virginia. He started work-

ing for Deep Roots in October as our Case Manager, and is thrilled about the opportunity to work for us by serving and helping our residents and their children.



Jessica Stone is our Children's Programming Coordinator and runs our Sprouts after school program. Classes include homework time for the children, art projects, math worksheets, reading time, and play. At the end of the class, there is time for activities focusing on mindfulness.

Besides that, Jessica also organizes Deep Roots' fieldtrips to places such as Turner's Creek, Elk Neck State Park, and the Baltimore Aquarium.



Kenneth Haskett and Tamara Hagan have been married for over thirty years. They came to Deep Roots as residents and became staff after a year. They say since Deep Roots helped them and their family so much, they wanted to give back to the organization and

community. Their main duties include Kenneth leading site maintenance and Tamara supervising the kitchen, but both are involved with all aspects of the farm.



Chris and Mesha Cortileso are former residents of Deep Roots. Three years ago, they successfully transitioned out of our resident program and acquired independent housing in Elkton. The couple is currently saving to buy a house of their own and meanwhile have come back to

Deep Roots as live-in staff. Both Chris and Mesha, along with their two children, are a great addition to our community.



Todd Flenniken's association with Deep Roots began before the organization purchased Clairvaux Farm. As a long term live-in volunteer, he assists with chaperoning various events, contributing with social media, and helping with our newsletters. Along with this, Todd

also lends support to our other staff, residents, and fellow volunteers at Clairvaux Farm (and as you see is an avid O's fan).



Kelsey Eastman recently graduated from East Carolina University and came to Deep Roots in mid September through an 11 month AmeriCorps program as our Volunteer Coordinator. Being in this position, she is responsible for recruiting, training, supervising, and managing

volunteers, as well as creating and revising volunteer program documents. She is excited to be a part of Deep Roots as an organization and a community.



Jan Kock is a Resident Volunteer here with us at Deep Roots for a year-long service term through Brethren Volunteer Service. Originally from Germany, he is a recent high school graduate taking a gap year before returning to attend university. He primarily focuses on IT

needs within our office, consisting of website edits, newsletters, database entry, and basic hardware functions.

Ending Homelessness One Child at a Time

In addition to serving as a homeless shelter for children and families in the community, Deep Roots strives to break the generational cycle of homelessness. Our program challenges children and their parents to envision a brighter future, to sustain healthy relationships, and to navigate a course towards personal and social responsibility. Through better life experiences, with mentors, and by providing healthy life-models, education, and supports, Deep Roots seeks to show our families that homelessness is not destiny. Ending poverty and homelessness begins with the building of community, relationships, and in genuine human meeting – beyond barriers of race, class, and religion. Community enriches all our lives, and the lives of our children; it lays the foundation for the gentle and peaceable world we long for: One in which the violence of poverty and homelessness have no more place...



In addition to our Ongoing Needs List, which can be found on the *Donate* page of our website, we also have an

Urgent Needs List:

Mini-van

Baby Monitor

IT-equipment including computers, printers, copy machines, scanners

Bedding, especially twin & double

Please call before donating large furniture & electronics

Landlords? We need affordable housing options for our residents to rent when they are ready to leave Deep Roots.

Thank you more than words can say to all of our donors and volunteers, we couldn't survive without you!

Great news, Thanksgiving was a success! We fed over 250 people throughout the community and over 50 people onsite at Deep Roots. Please call us to help make Christmas an equal success.

Did you know....? That donating money to Deep Roots is as easy as shopping with **Amazon Smile**? Amazon donates 0.5% of your Amazon Smile purchases to Deep Roots when you shop at **smile.amazon.com**. Designate "Deep Roots Inc." as your charity of choice!

Please send checks to:
Deep Roots, Inc. P.O. Box 113
Earleville, MD 21919
or to donate online, please visit the Donate page on our website:
www.deeproootsinc.org

"What we would like to do is change the world – make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves as God intended them to do. We can work for the oasis, the little cell of joy and peace in a harried world. We can throw our pebble in the pond and be confident that its ever-widening circle will reach around the world. We repeat, there is nothing we can do but love, and dear God, please enlarge our hearts to love each other, to love our neighbor, to love our enemy as our friend."

- Dorothy Day, Founder of the Catholic Worker