



# Newsletter

## Spring 2018

*Ending Homelessness One Child at a Time*

### *From the Director's Desk:*

Almost everybody knows and loves one version or another of the starfish parable. I can't help but share it again here because it says so much about the difference each of us can make, one life at a time. As it relates to Deep Roots, we each can make a difference by not only changing the life of a child, but by simultaneously changing the world as we break the cycle of homelessness.

*A young girl and her father were walking along the beach. They noticed thousands of starfish stranded out of the water and dying on the sand. The little girl began to throw them back into the ocean, one starfish after another. Her father stopped her as she grabbed yet another one, telling her that her efforts were pointless, that there were too many, and that what she was doing would not make a difference.*

*The little girl threw the starfish she was holding in her hand back in to the water, looked at her father and said, "It made a difference to that one!"*

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I'd like to underscore the importance of helping one child at a time by sharing with you the results of a resiliency study done by University of California child psychologist Emmy Werner. Ms. Werner completed a study on a group of children who had suffered severe adversity, poverty, trauma, or other hardship, such as homelessness. She followed the children until they reached age 40. Only about 30% of the children fared



well in life and grew to become holistically healthy adults. What made the difference? Those children had one thing in common; **they each had at least one positive, caring, adult role-model outside the family.**

The results of this resiliency study are both riveting and inspiring – to think that we can have such a meaningful impact on the lives of the children we serve! Here at Deep Roots, staff, volunteers, and community all come together not only to provide food and shelter, but also to build the strongest possible support network for our children and their families. It is with your support, prayers, and encouragement that we are able to continue to make a difference in the lives of those who turn to us or help. For that, we cannot thank you enough!

*- Ola Boswell, Executive Director*

*"Thank you so much. I'm ready to cry, so many beautiful blessings lately. Thank you, I could not have done it without you all at the Deep Roots program. I just needed someone to believe in me."*

*- Christine, former Deep Roots resident and single mother of two on successfully moving to permanent housing.*

# *The Count Your Blessings Exchange*

A No-Cost Thrift Store at Deep Roots

Did you know that Deep Roots operates a community thrift store right here at Clairvaux farm? Did you know that all items are free of charge to shoppers? The Count Your Blessings Exchange is an onsite, no-cost thrift store, open to the public as well as to Deep Roots residents. The Exchange began in 2014 with the hard work and devotion of sisters Audrey Kulick and Louise Stevens. In addition to being sisters, Audrey and Louise are also Deep Roots Board Members, and very much our “boots on the ground” here. With the help of their friend and fellow Deep Roots volunteer, Iva Sidwell (who joined the Exchange crew last year), these women spend long hours sorting, cleaning, and arranging for display the many donated items we receive from the community. The majority of the items are shoes, clothing, toys, and household items. Donations for the Exchange are accepted every day at Deep Roots and we are extremely grateful to the community for the amazing support and generosity! The store is open for shopping every Saturday from 9:00am until 12:00pm with an average number of monthly shoppers of over 150 people!

We look forward to seeing you there!



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## *Just in Time— Krista, Makenna, Gabriella, and Shawn*

by Kelsey Eastman, Volunteer Coordinator



Anyone can fall upon bad luck, and anyone can find themselves in poor or unfavorable circumstances. This is the case for many of our Deep Roots residents. Recently, Krista and her children had been living with a family member, until they suddenly found out that they had one week to find another place to live. Without

Deep Roots, Krista doesn't know where she would have been, but she says there was a very good chance she would not have been able to keep her three children.

“Deep Roots is its own little community. There can be

drama with so many different people in one area, but it is nice to see how everyone can come together. It is like a little family.”

Krista said being here has helped give her the chance to improve her relationship with her children, and how she can see the positive impact being here has made on them. “My kids have always been shy. But since we have been living here, I can see them slowly opening up. They've made friends, and are going out and playing with the other kids on the farm.” In the short amount of time they have been here, we have seen great progress with Krista—who is already interviewing for jobs—and her children who are thriving. We are excited to see all the things this family will do!

### ***Landlords needed!***

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

# Spotlight On Volunteers

by Kelsey Eastman, Volunteer Coordinator

*Deep Roots is a combination of many different things, but the one thing that rings true for the entire organization is that it would not exist without our caring and dedicated volunteers.*

This time, we want to focus on three very special volunteers. They have each dedicated so much of their time to Deep Roots and have helped us greatly not only as an organization, but as a community. A big thank you to Jim Logullo, Jennifer Logullo, and Laurie Loveless, as well as to all of our other volunteers.

Jennifer Logullo is one of our volunteers who works with our Sprouts Program as well as serving as a Mentor for the children who come to her sessions. Every Tuesday Jennifer brings in different games, crafts, and activities for an hour long session with the children on site. In asking her what brought her to Deep Roots, she stated “I love the whole philosophy of Deep Roots; what a difference you’re making in the lives of families in our community. I wanted to be a part of that, particularly in working with the kids, who stole my heart from the first time I met them. We always make a mess, and sometimes we get a little noisy, but it’s all just a part of learning the truth about how much God loves us, messes and all!”



Jim Logullo, Jennifer’s husband, is one of our maintenance volunteers who has been renovating our Mission house. Every Sunday he comes in to work on the Mission House, fixing it up from top to bottom. He also has helped with the construction of our new greenhouse! Jim stated “I have always been involved with construction outreach projects, but they have been limited to brief time frames or once a year projects. I have been looking for an organization that would be a more constant commitment. I have really enjoyed serving at the farm and I look forward to the continuous opportunities that are available here. I have always felt it is a pleasant atmosphere at the farm and every time I come to volunteer, I am greeted with a hello or a nice comment.”

Laurie Loveless is a Tutor and Mentor for one of the kids on the farm. She has been involved with supporting Clairvaux Farm and assisting the homeless since the 80’s and she loves getting to know the residents and the children on site. Every Wednesday she comes to the farm for an hour long session with the child which involves helping her with homework and playing games with her, as well as the other kids. She became a tutor because she knew it was

what we really needed at the time. A special story that Laurie shared with me helped to relay the importance of building relationships with our residents. “It was my first tutoring session, we sat in the Dining Hall and all of the other kids became curious, gathering around and wondering what was going on. One of the other children then walked up to me and asked me if I would like him to brew me a cup of tea. He then brought me the tea and sat with me very patiently. This was a great reminder that when you volunteer here at Deep Roots, you initially come to give back to your community, but in reality you end up receiving so much more.” A valuable word of advice from Laurie to any incoming Tutors or Mentors, “You should not feel inadequate, if you are unaware of what to do as a Tutor. The most important part, is just showing up. Be consistent, and let them know you care.”



While all of our volunteers may do very different projects throughout the site, the most important part is just becoming a part of our little community. Get to know the residents, and the children. Become a part of their support system. Let them know you care and that you see them all as human, because we all go through hardships and we would all want people to care about us.

Our most urgent volunteer need is for Tutors and Mentors. Our goal is to get one Tutor / Mentor for every child Deep Roots reaches, on and off the farm. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at (302) 588-2159 or [volunteer@deeproofsinc.org](mailto:volunteer@deeproofsinc.org).

## *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...

## *Helping Deep Roots Grow*



The gift of a greenhouse made its way from Long Island, New York all the way to Deep Roots at Clairvaux Farm. Our kids are so excited to learn and grow with this greenhouse, literally! Deep Roots staff and volunteers are coming together, including several Master Gardeners, to make the most of this amazing gift. Walter Gaipa, owner of Marion Gardens in East Marion, NY, along with the support of our dear friends at the First Presbyterian Church of Southold, donated both time and materials – not to mention organic seeds and soil as well – to see this project through from delivery to construction. The greenhouse is 15 feet by 28 feet, we can't wait to see what is yet to come, from flowers and herbs to seasonal produce for our kitchen. Thank you so much for helping us grow!

*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**

Deep Roots is tremendously grateful for all your contributions—*thank you!* In addition to monetary, food, and goods donations, we are in dire need of a reliable **Commuter Car** to help us affordably transport our residents to jobs and appointments of all kinds. All donations are tax deductible. Please call or email us at: **(410)275-2194** or **info@deeproootsinc.org**