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# Newsletter

## Summer 2018

*Ending Homelessness One Child at a Time*

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

It is miraculous and wonderful the way God uses other people to make us feel Love. It is equally remarkable to witness and see people being that Love in action. It has many faces, such as the prayers of friends, loved ones, and even strangers; or such as people helping each other, acts of charity, community, sharing, and kindness.

Deep Roots exists from and was built upon that Love. Love founded and supports this amazing place of hope, healing, transformation, safety, and sanctuary. I can't help but feel proud and inspired by the people and the community that stand behind Deep Roots.

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In Luke 3:11, while speaking to a group of people waiting to be baptized and answering the question "What shall we do?", John the Baptist replied, "Anyone that has two coats, should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same." I am honored to say the embodiment of this concept is alive and well within 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 nearly 12,000 meals and nearly 6,000 bed nights!

# What's Cooking:

## The Deep Roots Community Soup Kitchen



Did you know that Deep Roots prepares and serves three meals a day, 365 days a year, and serves both our residents and the community at large as a soup kitchen as well? Anyone in need is welcome to dine with us! The Deep Roots kitchen and dining hall is known here as the *Clairvaux Café* (named after Clairvaux Farm, where Deep Roots is located). The dining hall is the heart of Deep Roots, where families come together daily for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and for holiday meals and celebrations. On top of that, our visiting workgroups dine with our residents at the *Clairvaux Café*, and oftentimes participate in the cooking and meal preparations as well.

In addition to serving meals, the Deep Roots kitchen also acts as Job / Skills training for our adult residents, and as work experience for resumes and job applications. The adult residents at Deep Roots take

turns helping out preparing and serving meals in the kitchen. In addition to skill-building, the meal prep teaches our residents how to provide HEALTHY meals for themselves and their families. There is an unfortunate and direct link between poverty and processed foods. We've met many kids at Deep Roots that are unfamiliar with fresh produce! Our *Sprouts* afterschool classes spend time with the Deep Roots children in our greenhouse, in our outdoor garden, and eventually in our dining hall learning about cooking and enjoying the fruits of their labor.

There are countless Volunteer opportunities associated with the *Clairvaux Café*. These opportunities enable Volunteers throughout the greater community to engage with the Deep Roots community and to directly serve the homeless families who live here.

And last, but not least, Deep Roots would like to thank the amazing people at the IKEA Distribution Center in Perryville who provided a dining hall makeover to Deep Roots. It's beautiful, please come join us and see for yourself!

### Recipe for a Happy Home...

4 Cups of Love

2 Cups of Loyalty

3 Cups of Forgiving

1 Cup of Friendship

5 Spoons of Hope

2 Spoons of Tenderness

4 Quarts of Faith

1 Barrel of Laughter



Take Love and Loyalty, mix thoroughly with Faith. Blend with Tenderness, Kindness, and Understanding. Add Friendship and Hope. Sprinkle abundantly with Laughter. Bake with Sunshine, serve daily with generous helpings.

# *Hello from Pastor Terri Martin, Our New Board President*



I remember as a little girl my daddy'd ask me, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" He'd ask me this question throughout my young life and without really being able to pronounce it I'd reply, "a peedaschrician!" He'd smile and say, "One day you will."

As a child we set our sights on what makes us feel good, what we enjoy seeing, doing, or pretending to be. We look at our community role models and aspire to be a teacher, a doctor, a police man, a fire man, an athlete, and the list goes on...

What a child doesn't aspire to be is homeless, drug addicted, an alcoholic, a high school drop out, a gang member, or a failure at whatever they hope to be. Life

has a way of changing our hopes and dreams. A way of driving people to make poor choices. A way of beating a person down, until they feel they are nothing at all. Some of us make it through those tough times and some of us get consumed by them. *There but for the Grace of God, go!*

With the greatest humility, I'm honored to serve families who have somehow found themselves in a place of despair. In need of kindness and compassion from others to extend a hand up. In need of a heart of love to look beyond their current circumstances and to simply see their needs. To partner with these families and find hope that has faded in the parents— hope which is just springing up in the children— becomes the beacon of light by which we can all collectively work toward: a new tomorrow, a light that shall shine brighter.

The more I look at the state of the world and how many who suffer homelessness in our country alone, the need for us all to help one another is more crucial then ever. I cry out to God, here am I, send me...

- Pastor Terri Martin, Deep Roots Board President

## *Deep Roots Success Story: The Johnson Family*

by Lori Goldsmith, Deep Roots Administrator

Over the past several years, I have watched families arrive and depart from Deep Roots with the hope of moving forward with their lives. During the past year, Deep Roots was blessed to receive a grant for "Rapid Re-Housing"; this meant we had the ability to help multiple families pay for move-in costs such as the security deposit and first month's rent. With this, many new doors have opened for the families we serve. One such family is the Johnson family.

Meet Erica Johnson and her family: Aniyah, Isaiah, Malachi, and Cheryl. They arrived at Deep Roots in December of last year. From the first time I met Erica, she was determined to get back on her feet as quickly as possible. When she came to live at Deep Roots, Erica was working a full time job and struggling to support her family. Several months prior to that, Erica had to have unexpected surgery. She was forced to take time off work, fall behind on bills, and lose her housing. After working with our staff and community resource partners, just a couple months after coming to Deep Roots, Erica's hard work paid off. With the help of our grant, the Johnson's signed a lease and moved into their own place. When asked about her experience,

Erica said, "It helped us grow even closer as a family, and it showed me how strong I can be as a single mother of four. I now know there are no limits in life when we use positive actions and ambition to get to a good place in life." Congratulations—may God continue to bless the Johnson's on their new journey!



# 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...

## The Great Gifts of Summer

Deep Roots is excited for the great gifts of summer this year! From our blooming crop of homegrown summer produce, to our multiple fieldtrips. There will be several visits to Turner's Creek & the Sassafras Environmental Education Center plus on-site visits from Tri-State Bird Rescue, which are all part of a series of lessons sponsored by a wonderful grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust—thank you! Another special thank you to APGFCU for kicking off the season by sponsoring our Volunteer Appreciation Cookout and Crab Feast—it was not only fun and delicious, it was an opportunity to praise and appreciate the many volunteers that come together to make Deep Roots such an amazing place.

Looking ahead, our resident families will soon be enjoying a summer sailing trip on the Sultana. Many Deep Roots children—both residents and alumni—will soon be heading to Camp Pecometh for more adventures, and workgroups from all over the state and country are signed up to visit and serve here. We can't wait! To top off all of these great gifts of summer, Deep Roots is also pleased to share the joyous news that in the last weeks, four newborn babies have arrived and one more is on the way—JOY, JOY, JOY!



*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!

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or to donate online, please visit the Donate page on our website:  
**www.deerootsinc.org**

Deep Roots is so grateful for your contributions—*thank you!* In addition to monetary, food, and goods donations, we are specifically seeking **reliable Computers & IT Equipment**, a dependable **Commuter Car**, **baby items**, **diapers**, **toilet paper**, and **paper towels**. Donations are tax deductible. Please call or email us at: (410)275-2194 or [info@deerootsinc.org](mailto:info@deerootsinc.org)