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Newsletter

Winter 2018 Merry Christmas

Ending Homelessness One Family and One Child at a Time

From the Director's Desk:

Undeniably, the holiday season and its spirit fill us with goodwill, generosity, and kindness. Families get together and preserve long-standing holiday traditions. Homes are filled with the fragrances of the holidays as we cook favorite dishes and bake pies, cookies, and other goodies. Our children bubble with excitement - and perhaps some apprehension - will Santa bring them what they hope for? Will he know how hard they've tried to be good? Will he know which house is ours? We head into the Christmas season equipped with wishlists from friends and family. We put up Christmas trees inside, we add lights and decorations outside.

Sadly, not all families are fortunate enough to celebrate the holidays in this manner. As many of us may at some point have known, the holiday season becomes challenging when your family doesn't have enough money. But less of us can claim to know what it would be like when your family doesn't have a place to live.

With winter rapidly approaching and the first snowfall already behind us, homeless families are in desperate need of shelter and support. Sleeping in cars, under bridges, or in tent cities, they are desperate for a safe place for their families. Shelters, including Deep Roots, do our very best to provide for those in need. Thanks to all of you, we are able to provide many families and children a safe place to lay their heads to sleep, three daily meals to fill their bellies, and access to the services they need. We feel truly blessed to have your support and we thank you for everything you do to make Deep Roots succeed. May your holidays be filled with kindness, love, and happiness, and may the New Year bring closeness to the Lord.

- Ola Boswell, Executive Director



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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. This year, Deep Roots served more people than ever before. So far, this year, we have provided nearly 24,000 meals and over 10,600 bed nights.

Meet the Family

Meet Keyan, Kanye and Keyshaun Waters by Todd Flenniken

Keyan Waters is a large man in physical stature. With his deep voice and purposeful stride, it's as if he always has a destination he's trying to reach. When you ask anyone on the farm where Mr. Waters may be, you find that whatever he's doing, there is a purpose to it.

He may be playing with his two young boys, Keyshaun, 5 years old, and Kanye, 4. He may be in the dining hall cooking up a great meal, Mr. Waters was a cook at a restaurant in a nearby town before he and his boys arrived at Deep Roots. He may also be helping a fellow resident by giving them a ride to or from work or appointments. Anything Keyan is doing, there is a purpose behind it.

When asked what Deep Roots means to him, Mr. Waters replied,

*"Just the stability, I know my kids are safe now
and they have a home and they love it."*

Everyone at Deep Roots hears Keyan Waters use words like "appreciative", "thankful", "determined", and "blessed" which are the same words that staff, volunteers, and residents use to express how we feel about Mr. Waters and his two boys.

Keyan Waters may be big in stature, but he has an even bigger heart!



Wishlist for a Better World



This year instead of a gift that I can touch, I want a gift that I can feel. A gift such as Love.

This year I would love a houseful of family and tenderness such as hugs.

For Christmas this year, I want to be filled with compassion and not toys that are good for a year or two. I want sympathy for myself and others. I'm a 13 year old son, brother, friend, and a loving grandchild. My name is Jason and I love my family and friends. I care for them as they care for me. This year at Deep Roots my family gets to be together for Christmas.

JASON 13 YO

Thank You to Our Volunteers!

By Kelsey Eastman

As I am sure you all have heard before, Deep Roots is so incredibly grateful for each and every one of our volunteers. So far this year, our volunteers have served over 12,200 hours! When calculating the value of our volunteer program using the current Independent Sector volunteer hour value, this equated to over \$294,500!

With the holiday season fully underway, one message I would like to leave with each and every one of our readers, donors, and volunteers is a quotation from Thomas Merton, "We find our true authentic identity in devoting our freedom not to solving false problems, not to solving merely individual problems, not to merely finding our own place in the world, but to [solving] the problems of mankind in our time."

Volunteer Spotlight



Alex Rollo-Smith, pictured below with his buddy Franklin, volunteers with us at Deep Roots whenever he has free time. Due to a recent illness, Alex has gained a new outlook on life and what is important to him: service. At

Deep Roots, he enjoys spending his time playing with the children, helping staff around the farm, and even doing what he calls the more "exciting things" such as shredding paper, folding letters, and adjusting databases. He is always happy to help with any task at hand and he brings energy to each task no matter how mundane it may seem.

By far, his favorite volunteer activity is spending time with the children and teaching them to play lacrosse; which he currently plays at Westminster College and previously coached at Elkton High School. He also enjoys having snowball fights with some of the kids, even though he says he "always seems to lose". Alex expressed that "Coming to Deep Roots has been a great experience during my semester off of school", and one in which he hopes to continue during the summer as well.

When asked what one important theme Alex would like others to know, he stated that :

"Having homelessness impact my life during my childhood has helped me to realize how much a hand-up, rather than a hand-out, can help someone in need."

Alex is the perfect example of what it means to become a part of the Deep Roots community. He has built relationships not only with the staff and other volunteers, but also with the residents, including outreach and alumni families. So much so, that after playing cops and robbers with little Franklin during his sister's onsite tutoring session, all Franklin would talk about when he got home was how much fun he had playing with his "new friend", and how he couldn't wait to see him again.

I had a conversation with Alex about his experience volunteering at Deep Roots, and there was one comment he made that really stuck with me.

"Deep Roots has given me an opportunity to give others what I most enjoyed in my times of need—a smile and a friend."

This is all we could ever ask of anyone, just to be a friendly face and a helping hand. Alex has been such a wonderful addition to the Deep Roots team, all while making the most of his time here and keeping the smiles coming.



The volunteer possibilities are endless here at Deep Roots, from our general volunteer opportunities to sharing your own interests and expertise. Any interests in volunteering, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Kelsey Eastman, at volunteer@deeproootsinc.org or (302) 588-2159.

Ending Homelessness One Family and 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 encourages 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...

Did You Know?



- Mentors help generate trust, and those who were able to share their poverty experiences with others received more assistance. (Beegle, 2003, p. 16)
- If students had mentors early in life and in college, they were more likely to obtain a bachelor's degree. (Beegle, 2003, p. 16)
- Literacy rates and education levels are more likely to increase if we can hear and understand how these students would like us to help. (Beegle, 2003, p. 16)
- What makes the biggest difference in the success of a child? One good adult! (Dr. Tony Bates, 2012)

- Being able to problem solve helps children to increase their confidence and successfully plan for the future. (Emil, n.d.)
- Several life turning points, such as education, enlistment, participation in a community of faith, etc., leads to lasting positive shifts in the life trajectories of high risk individuals. (Walker, 2005, p. 12)

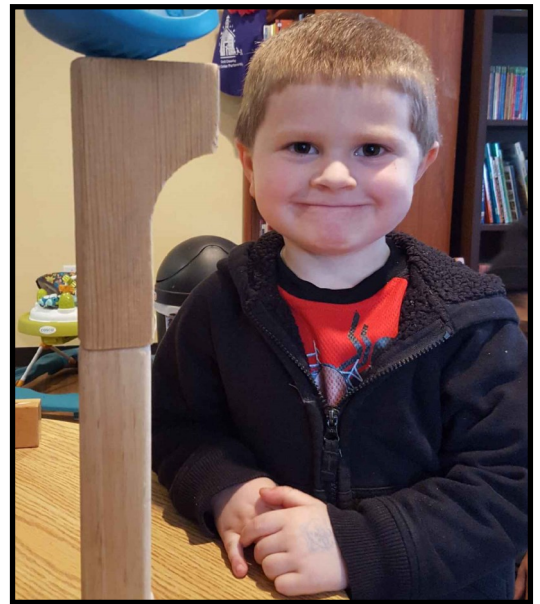
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Did you know....? That donating money to Deep Roots is as easy as shopping with **Amazon Smile**? Amazon donates 0.5% of your Amazon Smile purchases to Deep Roots when you shop at **smile.amazon.com**. Designate "Deep Roots Inc." as your charity of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

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

Deep Roots is extremely grateful for all your contributions—*thank you!* In addition to monetary, food, and goods donations, please check out our *Current Needs List* on our website at deeproointsinc.org/ongoing-needs/. Donations are tax deductible. Please call or email us at: (410) 275-2194 or info@deeproointsinc.org for additional information.