



P.O. Box 113, Earleville, Maryland 21919 (410) 275-2194
info@deeprootsinc.org Visit us online at deeprootsinc.org

Newsletter

Summer 2019

Ending Homelessness One Family and One Child at a Time

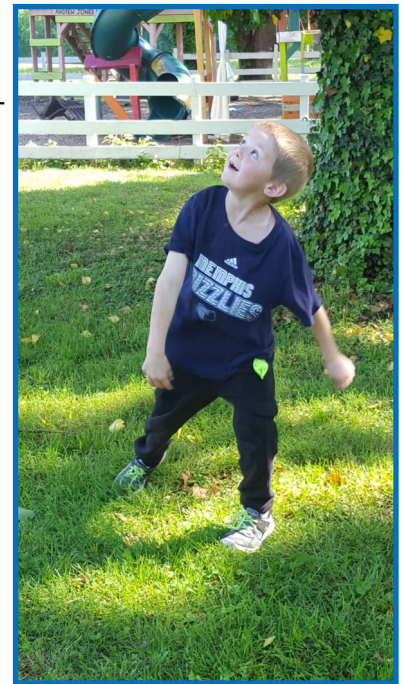
From the Director's Desk

Summertime and the living is easy... No doubt many of you recognize this line from the well-known Gershwin opera "Porgy and Bess". Likely, you also agree with it – at least conceptually. Winter – with all its snow, sleet, ice, and bone-chilling wind is in the past – for now, anyway. Your thoughts have turned to things like road trips, summer vacations, fishing expeditions, or a day at the beach. For most kids, summer means the great break from school. You may have welcomed the arrival of summer by deep-cleaning your house or apartment and perhaps even adding a fresh coat of paint. Maybe you have been busy planting flowers, trimming bushes, or starting a vegetable garden. It's summertime, and – for most of us - life is good!

Sadly, the exuberance and joy that mark the arrival of summer for most of us are not experienced by everyone. For too many families, summer does not ease the daily trials and on-going stresses of not having a place to live. The challenges of homelessness continue through the year - for families, and especially for children. The statistics on homelessness tell a story, and it is not a happy one. For example, according to the 2018 Maryland Annual Report on Homelessness, homelessness continues to increase each year. An alarming 21% of the state's total homeless population are minor children, while families make up 34%. Cecil County Public Schools report that more than 24% of homeless students drop out of school. Almost 44% of "chronically absent" students in Cecil County Public schools are homeless.

These are jarring but not surprising statistics. At Deep Roots, and with your help, we continue to do our part to mitigate the demoralizing and often tragic impacts of homelessness on children and families. Thanks to you — our donors, volunteers, and supporters — the number of people we serve continues to increase each year. Together, we are healing and changing lives!

- Ola Boswell, Executive Director



Also In this Newsletter:

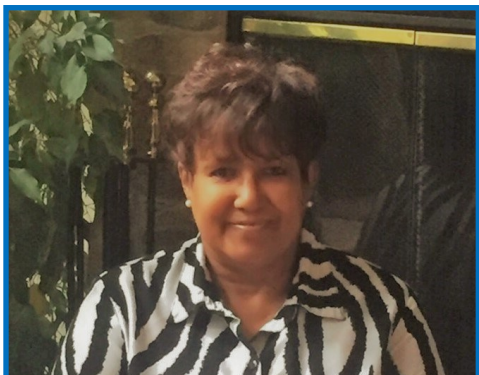
Page 2: Thank you for Taking the Time; & Kid's Corner

Page 3: Deep Roots Success Story

Page 4: Did You Know?; & Kid's Corner

"I want to start this off by thanking the people here at Deep Roots, the people that show my family that there's hope and there are people willing to help when you come from such a dark place and a hole so deep that you can't even see the light. I am just now starting to feel the change in my life. More than I ever dreamed of, my goal is to better myself and my family. You guys make that possible. Hopefully other people and the community will see all the doors and walks of life you guys have shown us and it will prove that there is hope and we can all work together. Once again, thank you so much for everything you have done for me and my family. You all saved my life" - Josh, Deep Roots Resident

Thank You for Taking the Time - by Board President Pastor Terri Martin



I so wish that every person we have the privilege to serve received the fullness of what we have to offer. Unfortunately, that will remain a constant petition before God. For those that we're unable to reach for one reason or another, I wish that they would take something away of personal value that will help them live life a little bit better. Words can't express how heartbreaking it is to watch a family, so filled with potential, get in their own way of success. It is a continuous reminder of how versatile we must be if we're going to truly make a difference. There is no cookie cutter formula that will work for every family, they are all uniquely and wonderfully different, and their challenges and obstacles are also very different.

I understand what Paul meant when he said, "For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant to all, that I might gain the more" (1Corinthians 9:19). God knows that even those who have been called to serve need to be encouraged at times and so He blessed us with Josh and his family (residents at Deep Roots since the end of last year. Josh, expressing the very emotions and sentiment that we hope every family would experience and attest to, blessed us with his words:

"Often you hear what can Deep Roots do for you, what does Deep Roots mean to you? It means life, love, respect, friendship, and family. People here are all of the above. You come here when you are at your weakest, you have nothing left and the people here build you up. Everything that you never thought was possible, they open doors, minds, and hearts and lend a helping hand for people that are less fortunate and have fallen short on their journey. I firsthand have witnessed everything I speak of, they helped me, they helped my family to be together, to be strong, and to depend on one another to get back on the journey of life. So when people ask me what Deep Roots did for me, I say they saved my soul, my family, and gave me a much better goal to proceed." - Josh

No matter how discouraging it can be when we prematurely lose a resident family at Deep Roots, we keep pressing forward hoping and praying to make a difference in the circumstances of the next family— mind body and spirit. Josh's words were just the encouragement needed to validate; we may not win them all, but knowing we truly win some is a great victory. If the very sentiment that we hope every family experiences only comes once in a while, it's a tremendous boost of energy that says, God is working through us and we're making a difference. Many, many THANKS to Josh for the great boost of encouragement!



Kid's Corner

Meet Aivrey...

Aivrey works with both a Mentor and a Tutor from Deep Roots and he recently celebrated his 14th birthday at Deep Roots. He is loved by all! Aivrey recently told us, "I love it here at Deep Roots, there is so much nature and I like spending time outside. I also like to play video games, play football, listen to music, as well as I really like to eat!" One quotation that Aivrey enjoys and would like to share is: "The world is what you want it to be."

Aivrey-14

A Deep Roots Success Story - Catching Up with the Smallwood Family by Kelsey Eastman



Pictured above, Amanda and her children Kya, Adriana, Franklin, and Mae Mae.

“All of the continued support has helped tremendously, and we are so thankful for Deep Roots and all that they have done for us.” - Amanda



Pictured above, Kya and her Mentor Ellen.

parties and many fieldtrips- most recently being our Easter Egg Hunt, tour of the schooner Sultana in Chestertown, Maryland, and a Delaware Blue Rocks baseball game! Two of Amanda’s children, Kya and Kyle, also have Deep Roots Volunteer Mentors that they meet with twice a month onsite at the farm for activities and tutoring. Kya and her Mentor Ellen have been together since March of 2018 and enjoy reading and doing arts together, while Kyle and his Mentor Steve have been together since April of this year and they enjoy anything from playing lacrosse, to fishing, to riding bikes. Another Deep Roots Volunteer, who works at the local hospital, donates diapers and wipes for baby Mae Mae. All of the staff also enjoy meeting with the family and helping them to find other beneficial resources. Amanda says, “All of the continued support has helped tremendously, and we are so thankful for Deep Roots and all that they have done for us.”

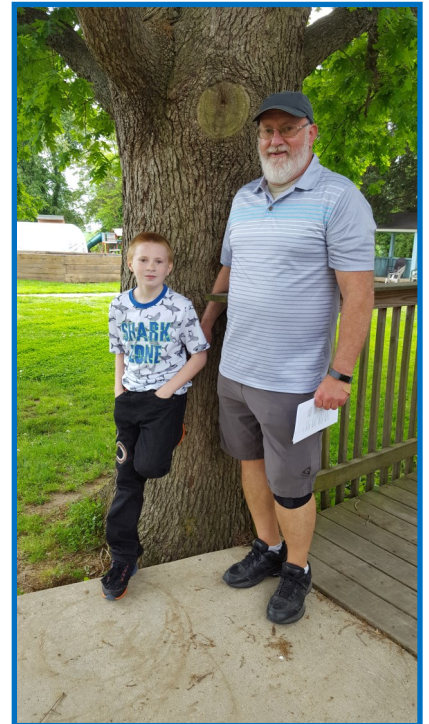
Amanda always talks about how the kids often ask if they can move back to the farm so that they can play with the other kids. They are always saying how much they miss the staff and look forward to coming here every other week, and we very much look forward to seeing them on site as well. I was even able to arrange a video chat between the kids and a previous Resident Volunteer who moved back to Germany!

In a card I recently received from Amanda, she writes “I just wanted to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for the continued support. You have made such a huge impact on our family and I want you to know you are truly appreciated! We all love you!” While I can go on and on about how proud I am of this family and all that they have accomplished, I am also very thankful to have met them. The relationship that I have been able to form with this family over the last two years is one that I will appreciate forever. The best part of my job is by far having the ability to meet and get to know our families and become a part of the Deep Roots community.

Looking back on past residents, there is one family that comes to mind that myself and the rest of the staff are so very proud of. Amanda Smallwood and her four children moved offsite from Deep Roots a little over a year ago after spending nearly a year here with us on the farm. Despite having moved away, they still have a great connection to Deep Roots and our programs.

Within the last year, the Smallwood family has not only moved into an apartment and secured employment, but they have also welcomed a beautiful new baby girl, Mae Mae, into the world as well!

Since they have left Deep Roots, the family has continued to join us for our holiday



Pictured above, Kyle and his mentor Steve.

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@deeprootsinc.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...



Kid's Corner - Meet Jamel...

Nothing slips past Jamel! Deep Roots' Children's Program Coordinator, Jessica, shared that Jamel is the first kid who has ever questioned receiving too many good behavior points for Sprouts class! There were a few classes that he needed to leave early, and in his opinion he did not think he deserved the full amount of points for class that day! I explained to him that if he had to leave early and it was excused, he would still receive full points if his behavior was good. I was pretty impressed by his high moral standard - very mature for an 11 year old! That doesn't mean he doesn't enjoy youthful activities! His favorite thing to do is to play basketball, and if he can't do that he'll settle for a game of Fortnite.

Jamel - 11

Did You Know?

... that our brain may classify certain categories of human beings as equal to mere objects, without status, dignity, or social needs? A study performed by Dr. Lasana Harris while at Leiden University (currently Dr. Harris is based at Duke University) suggests that the part of the brain (the medial prefrontal cortex) that activates when people see or relate to others, classifies homeless people as objects. When shown images of homeless people, study participants responded as if the homeless person were a cup, a table, or some other inanimate object. Homeless people were not perceived by study participants' brains as actual human beings!

Says Dr. Lasana: "When we perceive others as less than human, it is easier to ignore them, and to suspend the moral and social rules we normally live by."

Clearly, the implications of these findings are chilling. But they do not apply to everyone. Many of us do recognize the humanity and dignity of those less fortunate than ourselves. If you are reading this, you are already someone who cares about homeless people. As such, you are already an advocate for and supporter of Deep Roots' mission to "End Homelessness, One Family and One Child at a Time," and we are deeply grateful for your compassion and support!



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! ***We are a United Way of Cecil County Partner Agency**

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.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.