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Newsletter

Fall 2019

Ending Homelessness One Family and One Child at a Time

From the Director's Desk

A teacher of mine once drew a picture for our class: a tall rectangle, open at the top, with a stick figure standing on the top edge. He called it, "The Pit of Financial Despair" and introduced us to the expression, "living paycheck to paycheck." *Someone who would be unable to meet financial obligations if unemployed because most of his or her salary is needed for day-to-day essential expenses such as housing, food, or clothing.* According to a recent survey by CareerBuilder, 78% of U.S. workers live paycheck to paycheck. That means that 78% of workers (and their families) would be destitute within a month of losing their jobs. Most of us are one paycheck away from "the pit of financial despair." Friends or family may help out, but sooner or later the inevitable will happen: We cannot pay the rent. Or the mortgage. Our landlord will evict us, or the bank will take our home and with it all the hard-earned money we've already invested in it. We will have plunged into the pit of financial despair. The pit is deep, and its walls are steep. Getting out is much harder than falling in.

For many people, it is painful to see homeless people. Perhaps this is because we feel there is so little we can do to help them. Or maybe we worry that one day we, too, might plunge into the pit. Every family has a story. As individuals, we have no control over the economy, or over political decisions that may cause a shift in job opportunities. We may have control over our personal decisions, but every one of us makes mistakes; imagine if one bad day or one bad business decision cost us our housing. At Deep Roots, we do our very best to help homeless families overcome adversity, get back on their feet, and move forward in positive ways. If you are reading this, you are someone who cares about the worries, the struggle, and the pain of being homeless. And so, from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you. For your compassion. For your understanding. And for your willingness to help.

- Ola Boswell, Executive Director



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(We ❤️ Mission Groups!)

So far this year, Deep Roots has provided over 7,700 bed-nights and over 16,800 meals. Over 60% were for children.

Kid's Corner



Meet Dizra...

Dizra loves nature, being a big sister (to her three sisters, aged 3-17 years old). Dizra herself is 9 years old and just starting 4th grade. Niza, her mother, says "She is a caring and mature little girl. I got so lucky there, she is very positive and great at not feeling down and depressed, never feeling down." Dizra also loves gymnastics and skipped from beginners gymnastics to intermediate a year ago and is now in advanced. She loves flipping—particularly the front tuck on a trampoline! In her entire life, she has had only two B's, and the rest have been straight A's!

Dizra says that something she likes about Deep Roots is...

"All the people that work here are actually putting a lot of work into what they are doing."

A Call for the Holidays A Call for the Holidays A Call for the Holidays

A Call for the Holidays

Once again, Deep Roots is gearing up to provide those in and around our community with support for the holidays. As always, we couldn't do this without you! Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets provide holiday meals and joy to families who might otherwise go without. Last year, with the help of individuals and organizations both near and far, Deep Roots was able to distribute baskets to over 65 families in need. Thank you! The average cost per basket is \$50. We gratefully accept monetary or food donations—such as turkeys, hams, yams, and more! In addition, Deep Roots hosts a Christmas "Adopt A Family" program. Last year, with the help of our extended community, over 60 families—consisting of 131 children and 22 adults—were provided with Christmas gifts.

Please call (410) 275-2194 or email info@deeproottsinc.org to adopt a family this Christmas.

A Call for the Holidays A Call for the Holidays A Call for the Holidays

Kid's Corner



Meet Lydian...

Lydian is almost always smiling. She is 22 months old and she loves cats. This is the first child for parents, Daniel and Erin, and they are "loving watching her grow." Erin says, "She loves it when I read to her, I like it when she sits in my lap." Daniel says, "She likes the belly-button book!"

Lydian loves to brush her own teeth — she almost has all her teeth. She loves to brush everyone else's hair. She also loves babies. She plays in a weekly pop-up group at Deep Roots and she loves sharing with other children. She knows her numbers 1-3 and 7-9 (she is still working on 4-6), she knows A, B, C, & D, and she knows many shapes. What a smart young girl!

Doing Great Things -

Meet Butch, Deep Roots Math Tutor for Adults and Children by Kelsey Eastman

While Deep Roots has so many wonderful, caring, and dedicated volunteers- I would like to shine a spotlight on one in particular for this newsletter. Butch has been volunteering with us since April of 2018, and he is a Math Tutor for both our children and adult residents. Within that time he has worked with 11 clients and has noted how polite, respectful, and appreciative each and every one of them has been.

There is one person in particular Butch has worked with who has stood out to him over time. When speaking of this resident he described him as “eager to learn everything that he could possibly learn.” They spent approximately 1.5 hours per week together, and in the span of four weeks they progressed from fourth grade math all the way through junior high level math, “He just flew through everything I taught him. He was constantly taking notes and asking me to say things again so that he could write it all down. I truly believe he will do great things in this life. I would be extremely surprised if that was not the case.”

Whenever Butch has his first meetings with a resident, he always likes to share how he did not enjoy math while in school- but now he absolutely loves it. He says, “Math never lies. There are no exceptions. And math can always help you to solve some sort of a problem.” One of the things he really enjoys about working with our clients is that the kids are always refreshing him on how to do things, and teaching him new ways to solve problems.

Butch is originally from Indiana, but when he moved here he heard about us when he was looking for places he could donate furniture. “When I heard about Deep Roots, I wanted to help. I liked the people there and what they do. I have been lucky, and I felt it was my time to give back, and I wanted to be a part of something positive.” When I asked him to share what his experience volunteering here has been like, he stated “Deep Roots is a really positive and great place doing great things. I am just lucky to be even a small part of it.”



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.

Bless the Children: Share What You Have -

by Board President Pastor Terri Martin



With summer vacation having just come to a close, I look back and reflect on all the wonderful things the Deep Roots children got to do: from overnight summer camp to family movie days, to beach trips and field trips. We hope to give these children wonderful memories, and we wonder if these experiences will help shape some part of their future. So often there are things in children’s lives that have such a great impact on the way they move forward in life. My prayer is that the small amount of time we’ve had with them is significant enough to make a positive influence and help shape their future. Some children will have a photographic memory of the amazing moments we’ve shared and desire to live those moments over and over and over again. My hope and prayer is we were only the beginning and not the end. We all take life so much for granted and even while we do all that we can to help the families that we’re privileged to serve, I can’t help but think about the future. We as a community must stay focused on all the

families in the community and not just ourselves, our own families, and those in our immediate circle. There’s so much more to living and loving your neighbor than just that. So to all those who are a part of making a difference in the lives of the people we serve, I say thank you! Thank you for your continued support and sacrifices, thank you for loving the children and their families without ever getting to know them! Thank you that it doesn’t matter if anybody knows your name or what you did, but what matters to you is that you played some small part in helping someone who was in need. There’s so much scripture that describes how amazing you are. God looks down and smiles as he sees us work together for the good of mankind. Hebrews 13:16 says; “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

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...

The Day Our Playground Fell...

A mini-tornado blasted through Deep Roots about one month ago. We were lucky that it came in the middle of the night and nobody was harmed, but it took with it years of love and joy as our beloved children's playground was wiped out completely (donations welcome)! Deep Roots residents said the noise they heard when it happened sounded like a train approaching in the night.

From Mission groups who came through the years, to the children and families that played there, to its inception as a local Eagle Scout project, this playground has been well-loved and cared for. Deep Roots was blessed to have a visiting Mission group here when the damage occurred. They stepped in like champions to clear the damage and debris. We can't thank them, and all of our Mission groups, enough for their gift of hard work and time. Mission groups have come from New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and beyond and each leaves their unique and lasting mark of love — from handprints and murals on our walls and buildings, to the hope they left in the hearts of their new friends, our Deep Roots residents. Mission groups, *We Love You!*



Mission groups are a precious and vital part of Deep Roots. Year-round, we welcome visiting Mission groups of all sizes, ages, and backgrounds. Please see the "Get Involved" section of our website for detailed information or call us to schedule your trip.

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](https://www.amazon.com/smile). 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.deerootsinc.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 [deerootsinc.org/ongoing-needs/](https://www.deerootsinc.org/ongoing-needs/). Donations are tax deductible. Please call or email us at: (410) 275-2194 or info@deerootsinc.org for additional information.