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Newsletter

Winter 2019 / 2020

Merry Christmas

Ending Homelessness One Family and One Child at a Time

From the Director's Desk

We wish you a merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

There is tremendous beauty and light not just on the faces of the children at Deep Roots, and not just in the hope and growth of the parents that live here. It goes beyond that, to the kindness that flows through Deep Roots. So many lives are affected by the work done here. We witness and participate in an outpouring of kindness (from the community, from the staff, from donors, and volunteers) and — making it even more beautiful — as the vessel for this kindness, some of what we share remains with us. When we share love, we become more loving. When we share joy, hope, health, or beauty, these qualities increase within ourselves. I am overcome in this wonderful season with not only gratitude, but also with fulfillment. While we see a lot of heartbreaking stories and moments that bring families to live at Deep Roots, we see a far greater light that comes from hope, change, and the overwhelming, never-ending love and kindness of our supporters.

"The fragrance always stays in the hand that gives the rose" (Hada Bejar). Your love and

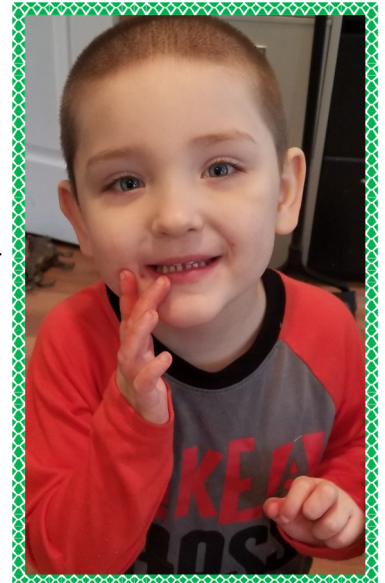
caring are an inspiration to us all and it is my prayer that you yourself feel and know the sweetness and blessing that you share. Thank you— please keep up the amazing work! Thank you for giving so greatly and for working so hard to change and improve the lives of those who turn to us for help. Thank you for being and shining a light in the darkness.

- Ola Boswell, Executive Director

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In 2019, Deep Roots provided over 11,000 bed-nights and over 24,000 meals. Over 60% were for children.

Kid's Corner



Meet Sagan...

Sagan will be 8 years old in January and he loves to make people laugh. He loves cats — which is a great thing as we always have about 7 or 8 rescue-cats at Deep Roots. Sagan has bonded with every cat on the farm and knows them by name.

Sagan also loves video games, especially Minecraft, and he currently wants to be a video game developer when he grows up. His favorite subject in school is Library because he gets new books and he is learning coding there. Sagan loves to read, especially Goosebumps books.

We asked Sagan what his favorite thing is about Deep Roots. He said, "All the kids and cats to play with."



Meet Leroy...

Leroy has a super fun personality and loves to laugh! You can count on Leroy for a good joke or prank! He is 11 years old and has 4 younger sisters. Leroy is in the 6th grade at school and says his favorite class is Social Studies because he likes learning about history.

During his time at Deep Roots, Leroy has joined us on field trips, attended Sprouts classes, and he's been paired with a mentor. When asked what he likes most about Deep Roots, Leroy said, "I like all the friends I've made!" Leroy has shown us that he is a very caring young man, and we think he has a very bright future ahead!

Kid's Corner

Meet Nia'Keira...

Nai'Keira is 12 years old and in the 6th grade. She is the oldest of her siblings and has 3 younger sisters and 2 brothers. She is an awesome big sister and always helping her family. We asked Nai'Keira what she would want people to know about her, and she said, "I love helping little kids!" We can tell she has a natural gift, and her siblings love her right back!

Nai'Keira's favorite class in school is gym, and her favorite sports team is the Ravens. She likes rap music and playing games. If you see Nai'Keira, we're sure she'll have a smile on her face! Her favorite thing about Deep Roots is the new friends she has made. We love having Nai'Keira in our Deep Roots family!



Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you to the churches, organizations & individuals who made the holidays joyous and memorable for the Deep Roots children!

Thank you for your family & children's Christmas gifts, holiday meals & baskets, supplies, activities, parties, cookies, prayers, and quality time given which are lighting up the season for Deep Roots families.

Got time?

The volunteer possibilities are endless here at Deep Roots, from working with the kids, to helping in the kitchen, driving, building-maintenance, office help, or sharing your expertise. We need and welcome volunteers 7 days a week. If you have any interest in volunteering, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Kelsey Eastman, at volunteer@deeproootsinc.org or (302) 588-2159.



It's That Time of Year -

by Board President Pastor Terri Martin



It's that time of year! Time when we as a nation give thanks for the many blessings, big and small, that God has given. It's that time when we put our differences aside and reflect on the good of mankind. The time we realize we're more alike than we are different. Our families are similar in many ways, we all have victories and challenges, good days and bad, hopes and dreams, let downs and disappointments. If we took the time to get to know someone that looks different, someone who was raised different, someone who is in a different economical position —be it wealthy or poor— we'd realize how similar we really are. We all love our families and hurt when we see someone we love hurting or going astray. If we could remember we are all a part of the same race, the human race, and we all were created by the same Amazing God, perhaps our world would be a much better place for all.

With a heart of thanksgiving that I am limited by words to express, I say, "Thank you very much" to the *families* whose lives we are blessed to be a part of for however long God allows. Thank you very much to the many *volunteers* who give so much of themselves and their time with humble and sincere hearts. Thank you very much to the *donors* who consistently give so generously from the heart to ensure we can meet our obligations month after month. Thank you very much to the *best staff* any organization could ever hope for, and last but certainly not least, thank you very much to an amazing group of men and women; the *Deep Roots Board Members*, for your love and commitment to a mission that's much bigger than any one of us!

It works because of all of you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

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...

Forward Motion - by former Deep Roots resident, Teresa Brown



What Deep Roots has meant to my daughter, GaBriel, and I... To paint a picture of us when we first got to the Deep Roots community, my daughter and I were an emotional wreck; we were physically, emotionally, and mentally drained. My daughter's eyes expressed so much disappointment and pain for a young soul. I felt hopeless. But I have faith.

Hopeless because I felt like we had no one and no one would help us. And through our hard times, I kept my faith and focus on God. My faith brought us to this community. Upon my first visit to Deep Roots -- where I got a chance to tour the community -- I realized that Deep Roots was exactly what I dreamed services should be like; a community making each other better with resources and support. *"We rise by lifting up each other."*

Mrs. Eileen, thank you so much for being a human resource guide. With all of my situations, you have been a backbone and a wedge to make it all happen.

Mrs. Lori, thank you for your smile and positive energy every day, and your assistance -- you have been the

breeze to my sailboat.

Stephanie, you are my Wonder Woman, no matter late night or early mornings, you have been just a blessing and from the bottom of my heart thank you so much. If you don't already know, you are appreciated! People don't even know all that you do, and you don't complain or brag. You are Super Wonder Woman and I see your cape sticking out.

Mr. Todd, we didn't work together too much, but when we did, you were awesome. Thank you for being an undercurrent and always willing to help with a cheerful heart.

Ms. Ola, thank you for our talks and words of encouragement, but mainly for being that shoulder to cry on "happy tears".

Kelsey, we haven't worked too much together, but every time I needed something, you were there to help, thank you so much.

Ms. Jessica, thank you for your Tuesday's and Thursday's. Bri says thank you as well.

And Pastor Terri, I don't even have the words to say thank you enough for your words, prayers, and love since our meeting in the chapel. That day you told me this is my family too, and for me to allow myself to feel the love and support. Thank you so much, you are an awesome woman and have blessed my daughter and I so much.

For three years my daughter and I have been homeless, no job, and no transportation. At Deep Roots, in a matter of three months I was able to get a full time job, get my car back, and obtain housing. Words I would leave to current and future Deep Roots residents would be to be accountable and responsible for your actions, and always keep your eyes on God. Let staff help you and support each other with kindness and mercy. I used to say I was on a long, dark, and cold path but a path none the less, and that path led me to Deep Roots where my seed was planted, watered, and nurtured.

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.deeprootsinc.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 deeprootsinc.org/ongoing-needs/. Donations are tax deductible. Please call or email us at: (410) 275-2194 or info@deeprootsinc.org for additional information.