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Newsletter

Summer 2020

Ending Homelessness One Family and One Child at a Time

From the Director's Desk



When the going gets tough, the tough get going! Not only that, it has been noted recently that the wildlife have become more and more visible at this time because less people are moving around. Over the past couple of months, many of you have reached out to offer help and to make sure we have what we need to succeed. We thank you so much for your support and for thinking of us at this moment in time. When most of the world is sheltering in place, we feel blessed to be able to help those who would otherwise have no place to take shelter. The Deep Roots families are resilient and, as you can see, have found meaningful ways to adapt such as sibling front-porch dance parties, hiking, and Mommy & Me time.

- Ola Boswell, Executive Director



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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...

Make a Wish!

Responses from Deep Roots Families

Jason L. (15)

Wish 1- To have wealth.
Wish 2- To help cure cancer.
Wish 3- To help people who struggle with the disease of alcohol and drug addiction.

I think it is called Deep Roots because people that go to stay there are given another chance at life. An opportunity to stay awhile and during that time learn how to create lasting relationships and plant roots.

Davion (6)

Wish 1- To be rich so I can help everyone
Wish 2- Travel the world
Wish 3- A New Ferrari

Franklin H. (6)

Wish 1- To get a new power wheels four wheeler.
Wish 2- To have a play house to share with my sister.
Wish 3- None.
Deep Roots is called deep roots because, I do not know!

Mary (8)

Wish 1- To have 10 ponys
Wish 2- To climb a rainbow
Wish 3- To have my own garden with lots and lots of flowers

Adrianna H. (9)

Wish 1- For me to have another puppy.
Wish 2- For me to have my own room.
Wish 3- To be able to meet with my mentor again!

Deep Roots is called deep roots because they have trees. And they have really deep roots!

Why do you think Deep Roots?
Because its got a lot of roots because its a farm.

Amanda S. (Parent)

Wish 1- To find a decent paying job so I'm able to do more and provide more for my family with out struggle! And when able to, to give back to the community who has helped me in my time of need!!!

Wish 2- For my children to all get along and help daily chores around the house to make my life a little easier!

Wish 3- For every single person to stay safe during this nasty pandemic that we as a whole face!

Why do I think "the farm" is called Deep Roots- Because the staff and residents become a family and the staff try to do their best for the families who come there for support! They want people to learn how to have "deep roots" to learn how to survive and live when things get rough. And to always remember once they are no longer residents they still have "family" to support them, and to push them to do better! And to always have someone to cheer them on when needed the most!

Kya B. (12)

Wish 1- For everyone who is homeless, I wish they are to be able to get on their feet and succeed.
Wish 2- Wish that everyone who needs help with food is able to eat a nice meal.
Wish 3- Wish that the Coronavirus would go away.
Deep Roots is called deep roots because they have trees. And they have really deep roots!

Jisela L. (14)

Wish 1- For Covid-19 pandemic to end (and the worries and fear).
Wish 2- For good health and happiness to everyone.
Wish 3- That the less fortunate people never have to go without.

Like the roots of a tree, every family / person needs a good foundation and structure to succeed and Deep Roots are like an anchor that keeps us from drifting away from each other too.

Scott T. (11)

Wish 1- Wants to go to Alaska
Wish 2- Wants to stay 21 forever
Wish 3- Wants to win a billion dollars!

Deep Roots means to help people and never give up. You find a way to make things work.

GaBriel B. (14)

Wish 1- Bike for us to exercise
Wish 2- Arts & crafts supplies
Wish 3- Skates or Hoverboard

Teressa B. (Parent)

Wish 1- New Laptop
Wish 2- Breaks for my car
Wish 3- Spa day

Jonny (4)

Wish 1- To go to Disney World
Wish 2- Super fast sports car
Wish 3- A big bike

Hayden (8)

Wish 1- To have \$100,000,000
Wish 2- Have an underground base
Wish 3- Have his own house
Why is it called Deep Roots? Because there is alot trees.

Shemeka M. (Parent)

Wish 1- I wish I had money
Wish 2- I wish I had a car
Wish 3- I wish I had a job

Deep Roots means family. Help to highlight core values like responsibility, commitment, community, and respect.

Sara A. (Parent)

Wish 1- I wish for my children to be successful in all that they do and put their mind to.
Wish 2- I wish for a forever home, one that is ours and only ours to create lasting memories in.
Wish 3- I wish for a safe and healthy future for my family.

Tricia S. (Parent)

Wish 1- To be healthy.
Wish 2- To win a billion dollars.
Wish 3- To win a trip to Disney and Sea World.

Volunteer Spotlight: Meet 3 of Deep Roots' Wonderful Volunteers!



Long ago I discovered that I was the one who benefitted the most from any community work I have been involved with. I see volunteering as an adventure. It's being open to new experiences, new people, and growing myself. I am deeply hopeful that my presence at Deep Roots is helping others in some way, but every week, when I show up to help with transportation, I learn something new and grow in some way. Deep Roots is a wonderful community of people working individually and collectively to move in a positive direction. What an amazing privilege it is to be connected to this organization and these people!

-Sue Smith, Deep Roots Transportation Volunteer

It has been my pleasure to volunteer at Deep Roots. A small tight knit staff and community creates an amazing environment for growth and opportunity. The willingness there to help others when they are in need gives you hope for the future. It has been a blessing to join with staff and those willing to donate to be the difference for families in need. Love is not something that's spoken it's something you do. It is a choice that we make to set ourselves and our time aside to be the love and grace that everyone deserves. I thank God, the staff, and all those who donate for the organization. Grace and peace from our Father.

-Avery Coleman, Deep Roots Mentor, Maintenance, and IT Volunteer



I have been in the restaurant and hospitality business for over 35 years. When I found Deep Roots and the Clairvaux Soup Kitchen I was excited to make an immediate impact on the daily lives of people in need. I love working with the families in the kitchen, swapping stories about holiday traditions and foods we enjoyed growing up. We learn from each other and that is the best part of being there.

-Cindy Medeiros, Deep Roots Kitchen Volunteer

A Letter from the Volunteer Coordinator by Kelsey Eastman, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

In the last few months the world has been turned upside down. Everything as we know it has changed. There is no 'normal' now. Covid-19 has affected more than we ever could have imagined, even down to the smallest details of our daily lives. In regards to Deep Roots during this time, most of the staff were working from home, and volunteers and donors have largely been asked to remain off site to protect the safety of both our residents, as well as our volunteers and their families.

I would like to say thank you, both to the onsite staff as well as all of the donors and volunteers who have reached out to us. While it has always been apparent, this time has really shined a light on to all of you, and showed how much of a family we all are. We are a strong and resilient community- residents, Outreach, staff, board members, volunteers, and donors alike. From our mentors who continued to call and connect with their mentees, to the caring individuals who reached out and adapted to find new ways to see how they could help from home. We thank you.

I hope each and every one of you and your circles have been able to stay safe, and healthy. They always say "you never know what you have until it is gone", and speaking for all of the Deep Roots staff, we miss our volunteers, and we can't wait until it is safe to see you all again.

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 are interested in volunteering, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Kelsey Eastman, at volunteer@deeprootsinc.org or (302) 588-2159.



Class of 2020



We are so incredibly proud to announce the graduation of Jasmine! She is graduating 25th in her class with a 4.0 GPA! Jasmine has accepted an invitation and a scholarship (so far, \$25,000 per year and counting!) to attend Manhattan College in New York City. Jasmine also plans to continue acting and modeling, and in the past year has had the opportunity to meet professional actors and be on a talk show! In combination with this experience, she plans to major in Communications / Journalism to get into the field of Entertainment Journalism.



“I have seen her grow into a wonderful, talented, amazing, young woman and I am so very proud of her in life and I am so excited to see what life has in store for her. With much love, congrats!”

- From her loving mom

“From the moment I met Jasmine, I was struck by her maturity and focus to succeed. Jasmine was placed into our after school Sprouts class and was the only upper-classman of all the resident children. She didn't complain, instead she used her time to diligently complete homework assignments, to write essays, and research colleges. She was excited to meet with her Deep Roots Mentor, Stephanie, to learn about the college application process and scholarship opportunities. I knew her dream was to attend college in New York City, and I was thrilled to hear of her acceptance to Manhattan College! We are so proud of this hard working, beautiful young lady! She is sure to succeed and we hope she feels the love and support from all of us at Deep Roots!”

- Deep Roots Children's Program Coordinator, Jessica Stone

“From the moment I met Jasmine last summer, she was ready to do whatever it took to get to college. She had great grades, had already taken the SATs, and had compiled a list of colleges that she was interested in. She even knew her intended major. There was little left for me to do in order to help her achieve her goal, but I enjoyed being a sounding board for her to ask her college-related questions. The college application process is intimidating for some, but Jasmine had her mind made up and nothing was going to stop her. She was positive throughout the entire process, and confident that she'd be heading to college in the Fall. And she is! I was excited to hear that she has chosen Manhattan College. Although the end of Senior Year was disappointing because of the Coronavirus, and it's not clear that her high school will be able to hold an in-person graduation ceremony, I'm hopeful that she will find a way to celebrate her many successes. At such a young age she has already accomplished a lot. I'm very excited to see where her future will take her!”

- Deep Roots Volunteer Mentor / College Coach, Stephanie Darling

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:
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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.