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Newsletter

Fall 2020

Ending Homelessness One Family and One Child at a Time

From the Director's Desk

The link between poverty, homelessness and illiteracy in children is well established. Impoverished children are frequently less able to identify letters of the alphabet when compared to children from families with stable housing or a more secure financial background. Homeless children are also more likely to have learning disabilities. But there is hope! The healing properties of play for all children are — like the many provided for the families homeless youth in particular a way to a sense of control over their environment. We say, let the games begin! 😊

- Ola Boswell, Executive Director



Also In this Newsletter:

Page 2: Kids Corner

Page 3: Meet Adriane—Deep Roots' New Board Chair

& A Deep Roots Success Story:

Don, Mary, and Joy

Page 4: Be a Light

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...

Kids Corner — Sibling Bonding Time



Franklin and Adrianna are 4 years apart, he is 6 years old and Adrianna is nearly 10. Altogether they have 5 kids in their family — all living and playing together at Deep Roots. Both children had the same “favorite thing” to report at Deep Roots: the cats! And, in particular, Albert is their favorite one with his black suit and white bow tie. Both children also love their Deep Roots mentors!

Franklin mentioned that he loves the playground here as well, and he also loves playing with rocks. Franklin started first grade this year and wants to be a “cop” when he grows up. In his free time, Franklin enjoys playing video games.

Adrianna loves to go on bike rides on the Deep Roots property. She began 4th grade this year. Her favorite person is her baby sister “Mae Mae”, and her favorite food is crabs — she is a true Marylander! When Adrianna grows up she wants to be a veterinarian or a vet tech, which is wonderful news for the Deep Roots cats!

Four Brothers

Patrick taught two of his brothers how to ride two-wheeler bicycles. He is 12 years old and is in 7th grade. Patrick would like to be a famous YouTuber and he would like to discover other places in the U.S.A.

Brantley is 6 years old and in the first grade. He wants to be a police officer when he grows up and he wants people to know that he is very strong. His favorite animal is a coyote!

Kamryn is 5 years old and has just started Kindergarten. We know he is off to a great start since he already knows his numbers and ABC’s. Kamryn loves the Paw Patrol series and you could probably guess that his favorite animal is a dog.

Aaron is almost 10 years old and his favorite holiday is Christmas because it is close to his birthday. He has been collecting Pokémon cards for years and would love to share his knowledge of them with you. When asked if there is anything Aaron wanted people to know about him, he replied, “I love my family.”

And all of them share a love of bike riding! It is one of their favorite things to do outside, but they also love the playground swings and sports like soccer, football, and hockey.



From left to right: Patrick, Brantley, Kamryn, and Aaron

Would you be interested in becoming a Deep Roots mentor or tutor?

Please email our Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@deeprootsinc.org for additional information.

Welcome to Our New Board Chair: Adriane Baker!

Adriane served on the Deep Roots board of directors for several years before becoming our new Board Chair last month. Adriane has lived in Earleville her entire life, and her family has been in this area for over 120 years. Adriane is definitely *ROOTED* in our community! While she works in finance, Adriane is an avid lover of animals and farm life. We asked her to answer the following question: Why is Deep Roots close to your heart? Adriane replied, “I enjoy giving back to my community by helping others,” — Adriane is also a volunteer with the Hacks Point Volunteer Fire Company — “as a community, we are strong only by working together. It is important to lend a hand and to remember to show kindness and compassion to our neighbors.”

We are so blessed to have Adriane on board!

A Call for the Holidays! Already?

Please help us provide Holiday Meal Baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We are gratefully accepting food donations or monetary gifts of \$50 per basket.

Also for Christmas Gift Family Adoptions please contact: volunteer@deeproootsinc.org

Thank you!



A Deep Roots Success Story:

Meet former residents Don, Mary, and Joy



There are so many special people whom we serve at Deep Roots and it is such a blessing to reconnect with them in the months and years after they’ve left our shelter. Three of those special people, Don, Mary and their daughter, Joy, left Deep Roots upon securing safe, permanent housing in a wonderful community through the Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH). As a Veteran, Don was eligible for a newly remodeled home with an accessible ramp to accommodate Don’s use of a wheelchair (when not using his prosthetic leg). The Community sits on a beautiful stretch of land with a water view of the Susquehanna River, which empties into the Chesapeake Bay. In a recent visit to Don and Mary, our staff viewed nearly 10 deer, gathered together in a field and woods in front of Don and Mary’s house — very peaceful!

We have fond recollections of Don and Mary and their time spent at Deep Roots. While living at Deep Roots, both Don and Mary volunteered their time on many occasions to offer help to the Deep Roots community— from driving to cooking and many things in between, including help with assembling a donation of Ikea furniture for our dining hall! We used to refer to Mary as the Wind Beneath Our Wings in the kitchen. She and Don were so dependable and loved conversation — we miss having them here but they will always be in our hearts. Joy, who loves art and cats, convinced her parents to adopt one of the Deep Roots rescue cats as her special friend to take to their new residence. Congratulations, much love, and continued well-wishes on your successful and happy home!

Be a Light

Contributed by Deep Roots Volunteer, Brett Lovelace

Each of us have adapted in our own ways to novel coronavirus societal changes. The Deep Roots community is no different than the millions of people across the country except that we look for deeper meaning in times of uncertainty and unprecedented risk. Music has a way of providing clarity of thought, insight, and a new perspective during the murkiest of times.

Early in the pandemic when ‘shelter in place’ happened, I heard the song, *Be a Light*. Thomas Rhett wrote the song and collaborated on vocals with Reb McEntire, Hillary Scott, Chris Tomlin, and Keith Urban. The lyrics and melody struck me instantly because it seems to be about the Deep Roots mission. The second stanza evoked raw emotions.

In a world full of hate, be a light

When you do somebody wrong, make it right



Don't hide in the dark, you were born to shine

In a world full of hate, be a light

Then the tears started flowing when Rhett launched into the third verse.

In a place that needs change, make a difference

In a time full of noise, just listen

'Cause life is but a breeze, better live it

In a place that needs a change, make a difference

I pulled the car over to the side of road and sobbed. All the anxiety, fear, worry, and exhaustion that I was carrying because of the pandemic was released. My mind immediately went to Deep Roots and how each of us contribute to the community in different ways.

It could be painting a room, weeding the gardens, making sandwiches for the staff and residents or just taking five minutes to have a conversation with someone who needs to talk. It all matters, moves the needle, and makes a light. Deep Roots is a light, lifeline, and steady anchor in choppy waters.

Extrapolate those acts of light for Deep Roots into other facets of your life – relationships with family, friends, colleagues, and even the strangers (behind the face coverings) in the grocery store or restaurants.

Be a light.



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.