



*Because you care, we want to
keep in touch with you*

Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness. Starting on the Path to Independence Holiday Edition –Newsletter 2014



GREETINGS FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.



On behalf of our Board of Directors and the women of Hyacinth's Place, we wish our supporters a healthy and happy New Year! I also wish to take this opportunity to say a special "Thank You" to our many volunteers who make all the difference to the work we do at Hyacinth's Place.

As with so many small non-profit organizations, 2014 has been a year of hard work, pleasant surprises, disappointments and challenges. With every new donor, grant award and milestone accomplished, we were pleasantly surprised. With the general lack of funding for the mentally ill and support services for the homeless, we remained disappointed. Every time a potential donor asked; "What are your plans for "long-term financial self-sustainability", we are reminded of the hard work yet to be accomplished to meet this challenge.

However, as we say good-bye to 2014 with the awesome outpouring of love and attention from new and old supporters at Thanksgiving and Christmas, we are hopeful. We will continue to be diligent in our work and we continue to ask for your support to prevent the recidivism of the homeless mentally ill. Please enjoy this

issue detailing some of the good things that are unfolding at Hyacinth's Place.



Thanksgiving & Family: Volunteer Chef Anthony did a spread. He was in the kitchen at 8:00 a.m. and the aroma drifted into the elevator shaft bathing all four floors of the building with the wonderful aroma of savory spices. One woman told me "It reminded me of when I was a child growing up with my grandmother down South." Thanks to the generosity of others, there was no lack of turkeys. While Anthony fixed all the trimmings, one of our women worked side-by-side with him, preparing the deserts...banana-pudding and pies. Another volunteer (our psychologist) stopped by to drop off her bag of treats for the ladies.

Thanksgiving is usually that time of the year when family get together and in some cases, friends are also invited to join the festivity. Our women, in the past lived in shelters or were on the streets, were excluded because they were an embarrassment to their families. We know we have passed one of those "milestones" and we have made a difference in a woman's life when she comes to us and says "My family has invited me to thanksgiving dinner." This year, Thanksgiving dinner was early at Hyacinth's Place because quite a few women said to us "My family has invited me to Thanksgiving dinner.



Generosity of the Heart: The Christmas trees on the first and second levels were beautifully decorated with lights that were colorful and twinkled like stars on a dark night. Volunteers and a team of women from Hyacinth's Place did the decorating. We all agreed the place was beautifully transformed.

The outpouring of gifts began early. The first Saturday in December, fifteen bags individually labeled arrived for our women and took their place under the first Christmas tree. The second weekend in December several cars and vans converged in our parking area shortly before 8 a.m. and a crew of women took over Hyacinth's Place. In less than thirty minutes, the dining area and kitchen were transformed with beautiful purple table cloths on each table and large platters of assorted appetizers lined the counters. Our conference room became a partial hair salon and partial boutique. The hairdressers plied their trade and our women enjoyed hairstyles of their choice, "makeovers" while festive Christmas music played. The women were invited to shop in the boutique while the second set of fifteen individually labeled gift bags were taken to the Christmas tree on the second level.

On the third weekend, another women's group arrived for the second year to spend a Christmas moment with our ladies. It was great! We shared, we sang, we ate and instead of taking the bags up to the Christmas tree, the women opened their gifts then and there. When we thought it was all done, Megan, the 29 year old Marine who services the President Obama's plane, arrived with her crew as she had last year, on Christmas Eve for her rendition of Christmas.

A woman in her "thank you" speech through an interpreter said, "I am sure I speak for all the other women, we have never had this kind of Christmas! This has been such a generosity of the heart."



Volunteer Corner: We need you to pass our story on to your friends, family, and coworkers. Encourage them to visit our website and social media pages, read our blog and newsletter, and, of course, donate their time and treasure. Brag about your volunteer spot -- tell them what you do and how much you contribute to our organization. Let them know that their donations go to support our mission and that we have VERY little overhead costs. Remind them that we are a Top Rated Non-profit on Great Nonprofits. Com and are Bronze Award Organization on Guidestar.

Please contact us if you know of an organization that is looking for a speaker on the topics of mental illness or homelessness



Advocacy Update: City Council Will Act on the Housing Production Trust Fund: We had a busy fall advocating for D.C.'s affordable-housing programs! This fall, we joined the Coalition for Non-Profit and Economic Development and nearly 100 organizations, business, churches, unions, and neighbors in signing a letter urging the City Council to put \$100 million into the Housing Production Trust Fund. This letter was published in the City Paper. The City Council will vote on the fund later this month so stay tuned for further information.



CALLING ALL SHOPPERS. Did you know that if shop on *Amazon*, the site will donate money to Hyacinth's Place? *How does it work?* Prior to shopping, pick Hyacinth's Place (<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1410842/>) **as your charity of choice.** Then, you can shop to your heart's content. Through its AmazonSmile program, Amazon will then donate 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Hyacinth's Place.



Finally, remember that we have an EBay store and are always looking for donations of memorabilia, accessories, small electronics and furniture. Money raised by both programs goes to support our goal of providing support services to our residents.



TRANSPARENCY AND INTERNET PRIVACY POLICY:

Hyacinth's Place is committed to cultivating an atmosphere of accountability and transparency. Hyacinth's Place has been designated both a Top-Rated Non Profit by Great Non Profits and a Bronze-level GuideStar Exchange participant.

Our Internet Privacy Policy: *Your privacy is extremely important to us, and we'll do everything we can to protect it. To this end, our organization maintains an opt-in policy for its email communications. That means we only want to send mail to individuals who have requested that these mailings be sent to them or to people with whom we have an ongoing individual or business relationship.* To unsubscribe from our email

list, please email info@hyacinths.org and include the word “unsubscribe” in the subject line. If your contact information has changed, please let us know,



THANK YOU!! We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers, donors, and supporters. You are the lifeblood of Hyacinth’s Place. Without you, we would not be able to provide our women with the outstanding level of care that they receive.

Urla Barrow
Executive Director
Hyacinth’s Place
1060 Bladensburg Road, NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 618-3444
(301) 494-5219 (Fax)
www.hyacinths.org
www.facebook.com/HyacinthsPlace
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