



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

Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness. Starting on the Path to Independence 2nd Edition –Newsletter 2014



NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.



Friends: I thank you for your continued support and your interest in issues related to mental health and homelessness. This is the second edition of our newsletter and a great deal has happened since our first publication.

The “Lazy- Crazy Days of Summer” are almost at an end and Hyacinth’s Place is fast approaching its 3rd year of operations in November 2014. Since we last went to Press, one of our ladies at Hyacinth’s Place closed out her first semester at a local University with all “A” grades and she was honored by being named to the “President’s List”. Although it was her hard work and perseverance, we feel as though we have started her “on the path to independence”

In addition, Hyacinth’s Place was featured on the local Channel 4 news (NBC) in their yearlong program on mental illness, “Changing minds”. We have provided the link to this video and hope you find it enjoyable and edifying.

Our newsletter is meant to keep you informed and to remain in touch so you will be a part of our growth and development. I hope you enjoy this edition.



**HYACINTH’S PLACE FEATURED ON NBC’S
‘CHANGING MINDS’**



<http://www.nbcwashington.com/video/#!/news/local/Hyacinths-Place-Helps-Homeless-Women/266511901>



RESIDENTS’ CORNER

SHE MADE THE PRESIDENT’S LIST

Dana has lived at Hyacinth’s Place for two years. She struggles to walk the straight and narrow road, but as we all know that is our life’s challenge. In spite of her struggles, the changes and transformation to her life, since being at Hyacinth’s Place is outstanding. After completing with the highest grades and perfect attendance in a national Information Technology training course, she could not find employment. Recently, she decided to enroll in University and pursue an Associates of Arts Degree in Business Administration.



RESIDENT'S CORNER CON'T

Many nights as staff conduct bed checks at curfew (10p.m.), Dana would be at the computer in the library doing her research or homework. She can be seen in the dining area on her "off" days from school, with books and papers spread over the table where she is studying.

Well, it paid off. Perfect attendance and all "A" grades, she made the "President's List" her very first semester

CONGRATULATIONS TO DANA!!!



GRANDMA'S HANDS BY DYNISE C.

"Just as I am without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me....." Grandma's voice was the first sound I heard as I traveled down the stairs and into the kitchen. Her kitchen walls were as blue as the sky. It was morning. A lazy, balmy morning in the summertime. It was school vacation and I spent all summer with my beloved. I watched Grandma that morning; her hands were quick to roll out the buttermilk biscuits. She laid them out in the pan ready to put them in the oven. Once in the oven she readied the bacon, scrambled the eggs, and heated her homemade apple sauce. The apple sauce...a gooey confection of fresh apples, cinnamon, butter with a dash of nutmeg. I didn't know that then. I do now. I was 12 years old then. Now I am 58 years old. Quite a few years difference.

I think back to those years spent at Grandma's house. I know there is no substitute for that place in your heart which longs to be filled; needs to be satisfied. My Grandmother satisfied that place for me. She was like a sculpture fashioning clay-her hands made you feel welcome with a warm hug, they fed you a savory dishes as she gathered together paprika or cut pieces of garlic or just made gravy from flour. It was her hands.... small, delicate and always moving so gracefully. Her hands were elegant.

The crowning achievement to my summers with Grandma was our time spent out on the lawn at night. She would spread a blanket, and we lay out under the stars trying to find the "big and little dipper". The stars

peppered the black canopy of night and we found ourselves enthralled with the ocean of darkness as the stars gave us a direction to the majesty of the universe.

As I go about my journey in this fast-paced world that I live in: I remember a time that was slower and more peaceful. I remember Grandma, singing her hymns to me and to God, baking bread, listening to the heart of a neighbor; just taking time to minister to the wants and needs of all. My Grandma.

In retrospect I am grateful for all that was given me those summers. The fun of star-gazing, the lessons about the Bible and the food. I was a student learning life's lessons when I was at my Grandmothers' table. I was fed; not only food but love.

And that filled my soul and I am satisfied even to this very day.



DEAR FATHER By *Izella Ashby*

Help me to be the Woman I was meant to be.
Open up the road so my path can be set free.
I'm your precious black species
Asking for direction,
Then therefore I can be able to see.

I don't want to be blinded, continue to miss the key
I desire to be a part of your world
My Lord so please, hear my plea:
I feel your presence near
so I cannot continue to flee.

I've been looking for someone to accept;
To understand..... Me!!
Then, I realized it's only You God;
who's my true friend.
And who can take care of me.
So, by all means
help me to Fulfill My Dream.



WE ARE NOW MEMBERS.....

Hyacinth's Place would like to advocate on behalf of the homeless and influence policy when it comes to this underserved population. For this reason we have become members of three organizations in the District that work on behalf of the homeless. We have joined the "The Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Economic Development": The Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless and the Coalition of Housing and Homeless Organizations. " It is our goal that with an official "presence at the table", we can be a unifying voice on affordable housing issues for low-income populations.



PROMOTING OUR WORK

We take every opportunity to promote the work of Hyacinth's Place. Educating the public about our model of care allows us to tell our story. On Sunday August 26th, the Pastor and congregation of the Idylwood Presbyterian Church in Falls Church Virginia extended an invitation to us to speak about our programs. Similarly, in the recent past, an invitation was issued by the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Mc Lean Virginia. Any and all opportunities to de-stigmatize mental illness and speak to the hopefulness and progress for rehabilitation is always good.



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.

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,

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