



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

*Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness. Starting on the Path to Independence 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition –Newsletter 2014*



**A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**



**RESIDENTS' CORNER**



**AN UNFOLDING FLOWER.** At a recent Board meeting, I found myself explaining to the Board about all the good things that were happening for Hyacinth's Place. I explained about a woman arriving at my office and asking if she can bring thanksgiving baskets for the women, and as we spoke she told me of the non-profit she operates that would match any funds we independently raised. What is taking place at Hyacinth's Place is the almost invisible unfolding of a beautiful flower from bud to full bloom. Our staff and dedicated volunteers are diligently taking care of that flower and I wait in anticipation for the bouquet to arrive.

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





**OUR NEW PROGRAM GRADUATE!** We are pleased to announce that Ms. K recently graduated from our program. When she came to Hyacinth's Place in 2012, she struggled with both physical and mental health challenges and needed a new beginning. While living at Hyacinth's Place, Ms. K. began to consistently take her medications. As she became stronger, she began to come into her own. We discovered that she is artistically gifted and that her dream is to own a hair salon. Recently, Ms. K moved into her own new apartment that she shares with a roommate.



Ms. K with her new lease.

Congratulations, Ms. K. We are proud of all your hard work!! Thank you to all of our staff and volunteers who faithfully worked with Ms. K so that she was able to achieve her goal of independence. If you are inspired by her story, we need you to tell the story of Hyacinth's Place to your friends and family.



**COMMUNITY EDUCATION & DINNER FUNDRAISER: "GIVING & GIVING BACK FOR A DAY...."**

It was a wonderful 70 degree day with a cool breeze. Staff, volunteers and our women mingled in the garden while our volunteer, Chef Randy, prepared the "party wings" for sale. Others were below the balcony with our long-time southern volunteer who fried the fish the way "grandma" did. As our colorful helium balloons floated overhead, people stopped and enquired. We told them that alleviating homelessness and addressing mental health was worth supporting. They left with one of our flyers on the support services we offer and a tasty dinner and we rang up the change. We even impressed a funder who promises to match any amount of money we raised. So it is on folks, fried chicken with all the side orders



LaTonia: Mr. Davis and Urla

(collards, mac & cheese; fries and potato salad) twice each month. Please come out and support our efforts as we promote our work and raise the funds to assist in its implementation.

**Save The Date: Giving Tuesday Is December 2, 2014.**

**We have a way for giving thanks. It is called Giving-Tuesday** and it is on Tuesday, December 2, 2014. This is a global day dedicated to giving back. Along with other charities, families, businesses, community centers, and students around the world, we will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give. This year, we will have three ways that you can participate in Giving-Tuesday. More information will follow soon, so keep your eye on your email inbox and our Facebook and Twitter pages.



**VOLUNTEER CORNER: WHY I VOLUNTEER. I**

often get asked why I volunteer at Hyacinth's Place. I am an attorney, a stay at home mom, and a wife. We have five children ranging in age from 13 to 26. All but one of them still lives at home (along with our three cats and one dog). Three of my kids have special needs. I often joke that I volunteer because it is quieter at Hyacinth's Place than at home. But the truth is that I get more from volunteering at Hyacinth's Place than I give. I get a sense of satisfaction from watching the women grow stronger and become more independent. I get a sense of pride in producing successful grants, knowing that the funds that we receive go to directly help our clients become productive members of society. Finally, I get inspired – watching someone battling mental illness and other challenges overcome their past and become independent. When I face hurdles in my own life, I think of their courage and determination and renew my strength to conquer my own challenges. *Joi N. – Development Coordinator.*



### HYACINTH'S PLACE IS A TOP RATED

**NONPROFIT.** We are pleased to announce that we once again were recognized for our work by GreatNonprofits.com, a review site similar to Trip Advisor. Interested donors, volunteers, and foundations use the site to research nonprofits prior to donating their time and money. Help us spread the story of the good work that we do. We need you to post a review on the site if you already have not done so.



<http://greatnonprofits.com/reviews/hyacinths-place>.



### 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.



### A HEARTFELT GOODBYE: CNHED'S SEND-OFF FOR RETIRING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BOB POHLMAN.

Vanessa, our advocacy coordinator, attended the Coalition for Non-Profit and Economic Development's (CNHED) celebration honoring their retiring Executive Director, Bob Pohlman. His legacy is so esteemed that earlier this month the City Council passed a resolution honoring him. In attendance were our partners in the housing-rights advocacy community, as well as Mayor Vincent Gray and Councilmembers Alexander, Barry, Bonds, Bowser, Graham, McDuffie, Orange and Wells. We'll miss Bob, but are wishing him a happy retirement and look forward to working with his successor, Stephen Glaude.



### CALLING ALL HOLIDAY SHOPPERS.

Did you know that if you Christmas 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](mailto: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.

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



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