
News from Nick's Place, Inc.



June 2010 - Nick's Place Update

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Spring is almost over and with the passing of Memorial Day, summer has its unofficial start. In April, as we have for the past several years, we packed off our residents to Ocean City, Maryland (chaperoned of course) for the Narcotics Anonymous (NA) convention. Several thousand people in recovery attend each year and the weekend is packed with great speakers, dances, meetings and friendship. This year was no exception and for us, we enjoy hearing about how Nick's Place residents from different years stay connected.

Summers at Nick's Place have always included outings at Beaver Dam and Six Flags Amusement Park. We don't expect anything different this year. These types of outings build friendships and reinforce the idea that building a life in recovery...is fun.

Alumni News

Tony W. graduates - George Mason University with honors - We had a special occasion to celebrate. Just a couple of weeks ago Barry and I were invited to Tony's graduation party. Tony was with us for six months in 2008. When he left Nick's Place, he returned home to resume his degree and just graduated, with honors, from George Mason University with a degree in Economics. If anyone is looking for a sharp, articulate and personable young man, let me know. Tony would be an asset to any organization. We and of course his family are very proud of Tony and what he has achieved.

Jon F. returns to college - Jon who was with us in 2009 returned to school at the University of Maryland this past January where he is part of their agricultural program. He's maintained a 3.5 average in every class.

Jason S. accepted into apprenticeship program - Jason who was with us in 2007 and is one of our weekend managers, studied for the sheet metal apprenticeship program and passed the test with flying colors. He begins that program this summer while working at Stromberg Sheet Metal.

Current Residents

All of our guys are working hard and looking forward to their first adult clean and sober summer. In early June we are expecting two new residents and our current residents are looking forward to setting a good example and helping the newcomers to adjust to life at Nick's Place.

Other News

Capital Improvements Grant - We are very pleased to announce that we received a capital improvements grant from the Philip Graham Fund that is allowing us to make some needed renovations to Nick's Place. We have new flooring throughout the basement living space; we have also renovated one of the bathrooms. The kitchen remodeling will start on June 15 and will open the kitchen and dining area and provide more work space for all the dinners we prepare. Do you know I figured out that we are serving over 2,000 dinners a year. And there is nothing little about serving six hungry guys; when we make a roast, it better be ten pounds or more! Thank God for the Food Bank and the donations we receive from individuals and churches.

Operating Deficit - Through the month of May, we are running a \$17,000 deficit to our operations budget; and for all the services our guys we receive, we operate on a tiny budget. The deficit is in part due to cutbacks in foundation support. Through careful planning, a whole lot of penny-pinching, the generosity of so many friends, family members, supporters and the grace of God (literally), we've been able to operate Nick's Place for the last 10 years, and even have a reserve fund to fall back on. But we know that it is not practical to depend on it for a long-term strategy! If you can help us make up the deficit we will be very grateful.

Also if you know of any companies or foundations that might want to support Nick's Place, please let me know. Or if you think any of your friends or family members would be interested in the work we're doing at Nick's Place, please forward this email or direct them to our website at www.nicksplace.org,

E-mail Communication - We will begin using this e-mail method to provide you with more frequent news and progress about our residents and alumni and changes at Nick's Place. I hope you will be patient with us as we work out all the bugs. We'll be sure to include pictures in the future. We will continue to mail our newsletters to those people for whom we have no e-mail address and of course if you'd like to continue to receive our news by mail, just let me know.

Final Thoughts

We know that we cannot accomplish our mission of providing a clean, safe, sober home to our residents without the help we receive from our friends and supporters. I can't thank you enough for the support and generosity you have shown Nick's Place. Please keep us in our thoughts and prayers.

And if you'd like to make a gift you can send it to: Nick's Place, c/o Rhea McVicker, 4604 W Caroline Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705 or visit www.nicksplace.org and select the donations tab, or if more convenient you can select the Donate Online link in this e-mail

Thank you again for all you've done for our guys and Nick's Place.