



Spring time 2011

News from Rhea

I'll start by thanking you for caring about Nick's Place. I am always happy to share our news and the stories of our young men with you. So here we go.

Brand new this year and something we are really excited about is our weekly alumni/resident in-house meeting. Our alumni play a key role in making Nick's Place successful. To keep everyone on board we add pizza to the deal on the last Wednesday of each month! I'd like to thank a grateful parent for helping to fund the pizza night!

There is nothing better to Barry and me than seeing all of these guys who we have come to know and love, walk through our doors. Nick's Place is a second home to them and it is what makes us different from other transitional homes.

Again, this year, we sent our residents to the Narcotics Anonymous (NA) convention with house manager supervision. It is held in Ocean City, Maryland and draws several thousand people from the mid-Atlantic region and beyond. Later in this newsletter, current resident, Ike W. and Rio W. and recent former resident Tim D. share their experiences with you about the convention and Nick's Place.

Ruth Birch an Overhead Door Company employee is now a volunteer. She cooks for us one night a week. After 10 years of cooking this is a wonderful break. She's a great cook, has a terrific sense of humor and has quickly become a member of the Nick's Place Family.

And, while speaking of Overhead Door Company, go to our website www.nicksplace.org. There you'll see a video that was created by Justin White for Overhead Door Company to introduce Nick's Place to their employees and encourage their support for the weekly casual Friday fund raising initiative. You'll see beautiful pictures of Nick, interviews with me and Barry about the creation of Nick's Place; interviews with six of our guys who work at OHDC and hear from them how Nick's Place helped change their lives; you'll also hear from their managers at OHDC. It is beautifully done and we are grateful for Overhead Door Company's support.

Finally, I think it's important to let you know how we are doing financially. Good news first: we did rebound in 2010; Bad news: we are far short of meeting our operating expenses this year. We continue to apply for new funding opportunities among private and corporate foundations, financial institutions and individuals. As you know there is tremendous competition for finite dollars, but we explore every opportunity we learn about those that fits our mission. Here are a few suggestions for helping us meet our goal.

First, it is easy to sign up through our website or at the bottom of this newsletter to become an **automatic monthly donor**. This method is convenient and helps us know how much money we can count on monthly. Second, if your company has a **charitable giving committee or foundation** and Nick's Place meets its funding area of interest, you could sponsor us to be a recipient of a corporate grant or a company fundraising initiative; and don't forget **the matching gift!** Third, you can give to us through the **United Way member #9659 or the Combined Federal Campaign** for federal employees. Finally, make sure you **tell your friends and family** about us, why you support us and how they can help. Just tell them to watch the video!

Nick's Place works. We have the proof. I used to feel bashful about asking for financial support but I

don't anymore. We must continue to provide a safe, affordable home to our residents. With so many budget cuts to social services, we know that Nick's Place will be more necessary than ever.

Current Residents

A Message from Ike W.

I'm writing this in memory of Nick a young man I didn't get a chance to meet, but know so much about. If it were not for his death there would not be "Nicks Place", and without "Nicks Place" I wouldn't have the opportunities I have today, and for that I am truly grateful.



I was blessed with 93 days clean and sober before traveling to Ocean City with my two roommates Rio and Clark for the NA Convention. On the way to the convention, I had so many mixed feelings and emotions. I didn't know what to expect, half of me was scared and nervous, and the other half was excited and extremely thankful and content with the opportunity to be a part of a great clean and sober memory.

My experience at the convention was outstanding; over 7,000 addicts at one place for one primary purpose of staying clean, and becoming free of active addiction is amazing all by itself. The alumni played a big part in comforting me at the convention, opening my eyes to some great meetings, wonderful places to eat, and most importantly introducing me to other addicts who have been carrying the message of recovery for years. The convention really opened my eyes to the priceless feeling of recovery and enjoying life without the use of any mind altering chemicals.

In conclusion Nick, Nick's Place, the alumni, Rhea and Barry, and other house managers have been God's greatest gift to me. Rhea and Barry have been angels in my life; they have yet to guide me in the wrong direction, and always seems to put Nick's Place guys first. I am truly blessed and honored to be apart of a winning, life saving, family oriented group. **Recovery to me is what you make it, one day at a time I find myself becoming free from me.**

Message from Demario W (Rio)

My name is Demario W. I came to Nick's Place, January 3, 2011. It's now May; that is amazing. A year ago I never would have thought I would be anywhere like this. I love Nick's Place. Without it I would still be on the Eastern Shore, in my same crazy cycle of Madness. Nick's Place gave me structure which was well needed. I pay rent, I do chores, I get out of bed, I have a job and work six days a week and I eat good food everyday.



I've only been here for 4 months but I'm slowly learning how to live life on life's terms. Not everyday is fabulous, but any day clean is better than a day using.

We are a family at Nick's Place and recovery comes first. I'm blessed to be here and couldn't imagine a better place for a nut like me.

Former Residents

Message from Tim D.

As a 20 year old in rehab for the third time since I was 18, the task of getting and staying clean was daunting. I moved into Nick's Place March 3, 2010 as a very scared and maladjusted little boy. The way my life changed from that point until I moved out in January 2011 can only be called a miracle. **I give all the credit of my growth in recovery to the people associated with Nick's Place and to the grace of God.** Nick's Place gave me a home when my own family wouldn't, guidance when others had given up, and most of all hope. Something I myself had long given up on.

By taking the suggestions of Nick's Place, not always willingly, I began to work a 12 step program of recovery. I attended meetings daily, found a sponsor, worked steps, got a home group and got involved in service. These are the things that have kept me clean for the past 16 months. Along the way I began to grow as a man.

I came to Nick's with nothing. I left with my name on a bank account, phone bill, a car title, car and a health insurance card. I now live in a house with two other people in recovery and recently was promoted at my job. All that has happened up to this point seemed completely impossible a year and a half ago. **Nick's Place saved my life and gave me the tools to have a life I never saw possible.**



[Other alumni news](#)

Steve C. left us right after the convention. Steve was part of the Nick's Place family for 10 months. While with us Steve was able to save money toward returning to school. He has recently received a promotion from Overhead Door Company.

Tim and friend

Jason B and his wife are expecting their second baby. This one will join sister Ella as her baby brother. Blessings to them.

Baz E. is the head coach of a girls little league team and serves on the hospital's and institution's committee for his 12-step program.

Oscar P. and Jon E. are playing in a recovery softball league

Final Thoughts

As you can see, our guys are open and honest about the changes taking place in the lives. I am happy to share the accomplishments of our guys with you. I know that the stories of our residents, their trials, their challenges, their accomplishments and successes are what you want to hear. They tell you that supporting Nick's Place is helping to make a difference in their lives. Your donations, prayers and time are important and necessary.

As I wrote earlier, I hope that you will share Nick's Place with your friends, families, faith community and work colleagues. Please forward this e-mail to someone you know. It's easy, just use the forward e-mail function below.

Finally, if you'd like to be a resource to Nick's Place by cooking a meal, mentoring a resident or teaching a class on your career, please contact me at rheamcvicker@verizon.net or 301-937-0455.

Until then, thank you again for all you do for Nick's Place.

**To Make a donation by mail: Nick's Place, Inc. c/o Rhea Mcvicker
4604 W. Caroline Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705
Or through our website: www.nicksplace.org**