

Meeting Ground

E-Newsletter
February, 2016



[About us](#) [Contact Us](#)

Valentine Delivery to Wayfarers' House



[Art Space on Main](#) delivered a truckload of Valentine Love just in time for heart day. For the past month, they have collected canned goods to stock the kitchen at the Wayfarer's House. Thank you!

If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. -Isaiah 58:10

Rotating Shelter Feels the Love

Neither snow nor fire has kept our valiant volunteers from pouring their love upon our guests.



We speak for all of the ERS guests when we say "Muchisimo Gracias!" to Tom and Sue McDade from Moore's Chapel whose faithful service allowed our guests to

THE WORD

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods.

His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords.

His love endures forever.

The 26 lines of Psalm 136 provide details about God's power and provision. Each verse ends with the refrain, "His love endures forever." During February we focus on love and the many ways that people express that love:

giving time to cook a meal for those staying at the Emergency Rotating Shelter, giving time to drive guests to the ERS, giving time to serve a meal at the Lunch Program, giving time to sort clothing at Wayfarers' House, giving time to be with our guests at the Mary Randall Center, giving time to salute our veterans at the Settlement House by offering assistance and words of encouragement. The time we give, however precious, is fleeting. Our actions are but a

STAY IN from the blizzard Jonas in January Thursday - Sunday morning. The guests gushed about your service to them. Their gratitude poured out in their speech and in their eyes, as though they were trying to make us understand just how wonderful you made them feel. Only an encounter with the love of Christ can cause people to spill over with joy like that.

Our guests also speak fervently about their stay at Elkton Presbyterian where site supervisors Dale and Joyce Collins helped them feel the love of Christ in their care. Thank you for going above and beyond for our guests and making their stay special.

For two weeks at North East United Methodist Church and St. Mary Ann's Episcopal Church, we kept hearing about the FOOD. Site Supers Kelly Wilson and Mark Dobbins, do you have gourmet chefs in your congregations? Our guests could taste the love!

At every site throughout the season weve had plenty individuals who sacrificed an hour or two, dinner, sleep, etc. to allow our guests to have a place to go for the night. We more than appreciate all of you who stepped forward so that we can day-by-day have GOOD NEWS to share -- *pun intended*. Thank you also to the dedicated drivers who have been serving all season...and for those who are just joining us.

We are currently in the **12th week** of the Emergency Rotating Shelter at *Janes United Methodist* in Rising Sun. This week, we are with Site Super Amy. "Yay!" to Amy for taking the reins.

We ask for so much. Now we are thrilled to offer YOU something! If you are in need of any volunteers, please feel free to contact Shenise at shenise@meetingground.org. We have some people who are very interested in serving at your church with a meal or any fellowship slot. Do not hesitate to invite these willing hands to your site if you have that need.

That was the Snow...this is the Fire

Fire struck the Mary Randall Center early Saturday morning, February 13. Fortunately, damage was mostly limited to the outside of the facility, so services are able to continue. The fire was started by "firebugs" in the trash cans at the rear of the building, one of only several trash can fires set in the same early morning time frame in Elkton.



One immediate need: Trash cans.

moment in time. In contrast, the Psalmist reminds us that God's love endures forever. Knowing that God's love endures forever gives us the surety and strength to give and to love in this moment.

Thank you for the love you have shown the guests and residents of Meeting Ground. Thank God for the love He has for us - forever.

SAVE THE DATE

3rd Annual Wine and Food Tasting Fundraiser

May 6, 2016
6-9 pm

Elk Forge B&B Inn



[CLICK HERE FOR INFO AND TICKETS](#)

**MISSION:
LUNCH PROGRAM**

If you can help, please call 410-620-3128.

[Read the full story from the Cecil Whig.](#)

Hope for the Homeless

And now a word from one of our residents at the Cecil County Men's Shelter (Settlement House):

I can't be more honored and proud to be selected to write about "Settlement House" program for Veterans as well as civilians.



I'd first like to address the stereotype about the homeless; though there are some few that choose that lifestyle, most homeless are normal, honest, hardworking and deserving people who wound up in that situation due to circumstances not of their own doing. There are some who have struggled with drugs, alcohol, legal, mental health, physical health and/or broken family issues. Those experiencing homelessness are typically looked upon as lazy, dirty, creepy, untrustworthy people, and this for the most part could not be farther from the truth.

Let me introduce myself; my name is John T., and I have worked my whole life from the age of twelve including a near eight year tour in the US Navy aboard two different nuclear powered, nuclear missile carrying "submarines."

I can't say where I would be right now if VA hadn't brought me here to Settlement House. This program is designed first to provide immediate temporary housing to be followed by help to achieve permanent housing. The program is set up to guide Settlement House residents to overcome all possible issues that are causing homelessness. Up to 15 people, mostly Veterans of all of our US Armed Forces, are supplied a temporary home with a large kitchen full of food. We have an awesome house, warm beds and every imaginable resource to hand, with a staff that oversees the daily progress of our journey to wellness and a once again normal life into a safe and healthy environment, back into the community.

As residents here we all realize that our own best resource is ourselves; sharing information, life stories, personal property and all around concern for our fellow residents. Funding is limited, and most things are donated, but the staff here somehow make it work and gives "Hope for the Homeless."

Upcoming Events

February 18: Chamber of Commerce Card Exchange at Meeting Ground. 401 North Street, Elkton, MD. Parking available at the Cecil County Health Department at 401 Bow St. 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm



The lunch program at Cecil County Men's Shelter (Settlement House) serves a hot lunch four days a week to anyone in the community in need of a meal.

Our volunteers who come in to help serve and/or prepare the meal are a vital part of this important ministry.

Pictured above are volunteers from Elkton Presbyterian Church, who have committed to coming once a month to prepare lunch for those in need. THANK YOU!

We are searching for other groups who can make a similar commitment to this mission. *For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me. - Matthew 25:35*

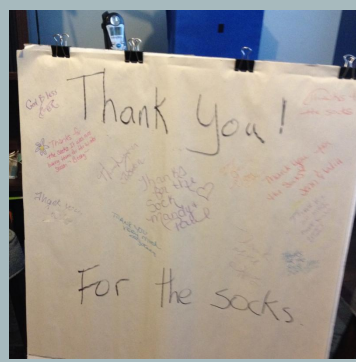
Contact Jeanne at jeanne@meetingground.org.

**LAST WORD:
THX FOR THE SOX!**

February 20: [North Elk Coffee House with Kate MacLeod](#). Proceeds benefit Meeting Ground. Doors open at 6:45 pm.

March 19: [North Elk Coffee House with Pam Ortiz Trio](#). Proceeds benefit Meeting Ground. Door open at 6:45 pm.

May 6: 3rd Annual Taste of the Meeting Ground. Elk Forge B&B Inn. 6 - 9 pm. [Info here](#).



Associates at [W.L. Gore](#) collected and donated socks for our guests just in time for cold weather. THANK YOU!

Quick Links

Like us on Facebook 

[DONATE](#)