

Meeting Ground

E-Newsletter
January 2016



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What's Your New Thing?

The Mary Randall Center's *Inspiration Board* is filled with the positive new things our guests want to aspire to and live out daily. While the question "What's your new thing?" was posed long before New



Year's Day, the actual board was a New Year's Eve project which the Emergency Rotating Shelter guests worked on all weekend as they reflected on the new goals on their horizon. Currently, several guests are working, interviewing, volunteering and making decisions to walk in sobriety and be in recovery -- to be new creations! Several recognize that this is a daily walk and one that requires a faith walk with the Lord. Hence, we nightly share and discuss a verse during check-in. One verse serves as a reminder of these new things and the guests as new creations to leave the old ways behind.

1 Corinthians 5:17-- "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come."

Pray for and support our guests and clients as they daily behold the new.

New Beginning for One of Our Guests

Cecil County Men's Shelter has had another success with one

The Word

Isaiah 65:17-18. "Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy."

The greatest joy of my job as Executive Director is to see God at work as he changes lives and circumstances. Some changes are noticeable and come with great celebration; some are more subtle—for example another day of sobriety or the mending of broken or strained family relationships. One of my favorite things at Meeting Ground is the small address book at the Mary Randall Center which contains the addresses of folks who no longer need to use the center or the

of our veterans, RL, who has obtained permanent housing.

RL was here for a little over a month, and he inspired others by showing how a person does not give up on one's life - being productive even after spinal surgery. He was not one to just sit on a couch doing nothing, feeling sorry for himself, but stayed active and helped others whenever someone needed. RL also availed himself of services that Cecil County Men's Shelter offered, saved his money, and actively looked for housing.

The Cecil County Men's Shelter is a transitional housing program that is partnered with the VA. The shelter is designed to give our residents a chance to get off the streets and housed within 3 to 6 months, as long as the resident follows the service plan the case manager helps the resident formulate. Residents work on their goals, and these goals consist of being successful in saving money, budgeting money, fixing credit, finding employment, seeking treatment in mental health and/or physical health if needed, finding housing, seeking connections, and reconnecting with family and friends. RL truly is a wonderful person, and Cecil County Men's Shelter is proud to have him as part of our family.

CCMS would also like to acknowledge C&S Wholesales for helping Meeting Ground. For the last 6 weeks, C&S has sent CCMS 8 volunteers twice a week. The volunteers have been a great help with different projects. They have helped with some remodeling, painting, cleaning, running errands, assembling furniture, helping in our Hot Lunch Program, and other small. We truly are grateful for the hard work and help of C&S Wholesales and their employees. We would also like to thank other people who have volunteered and donated the different supplies and food to our shelter. Thank you!



C&S volunteer installs new industrial size can opener.

Lunch Ministry

shelters as their mailing address. Because the Post Office does not track each person using Meeting Ground's services, the Post Office does not forward their mail, thus, we forward the mail as we sort it each day. While forwarding the mail, I think about the many small, sometimes almost unnoticeable, changes that occurred in someone's life and circumstances to make them ready to obtain and maintain stable housing. As we add entries to the address book, we rejoice in all new beginnings.

*--- Pat Marks
Executive*

Director

Wish List

Copier paper
Socks
Pillows-must be new
Sponges with scrubbies
13 gallon trash bags
Shower curtain liners
Contact [Shenise](#)

New refrigerator and a new stove for the Lunch Program: contact [Jeanne](#)

Ok...while we're asking...heat for the program room at the Mary Randall Center.



Always smiling! Members of Journey Church prepare and serve lunch.

The Lunch Program at Cecil County Men's Shelter serves a hot lunch four days a week to anyone in need of a meal in the community.

Our volunteers who come into help serve and/or prepare the food are a vital part of this important part of this important ministry. We have volunteers who come in on a regular basis and groups who come in on a weekly basis and groups who come in periodically.

This month C&S Wholesale has sent volunteers who have been a great help. The employees of C&S are very respectful and hard workers. They are a blessing to us and our guests, and we are always grateful for any help we receive.

Upcoming Events

February 18: [Cecil County Chamber of Commerce Business Card Exchange](#) at Meeting Ground. 401 North St, Elkton. 4:30 - 6:30 pm.

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

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

Van Fund Update

As a reminder that God provides all we need, including time, Meeting Ground received a wonderful end of the year gift: Two completely refurbished vans! This allows us time to find the best possible vans we can for our needs. The two vans will no doubt look very familiar to you, as they are the vans we recently sold when the costs of repairs far exceeded their blue book value.

However, a very generous donor paid to have them repaired and donated back to Meeting Ground. We realize this is a stop gap measure as the refurbished vans will have a limited life span. Meeting Ground will continue to work toward a permanent solution and will direct the contributions to the van fund toward that solution.

Thank you all so much for your contributions and your prayers.

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