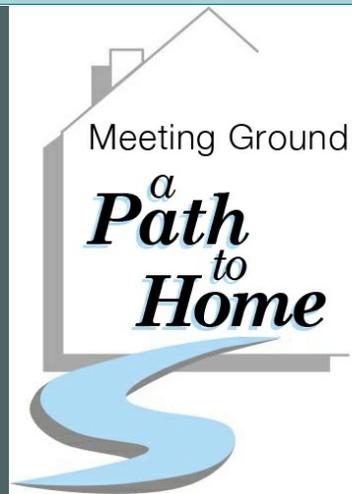


Meeting Ground

E-Newsletter

March, 2016



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Update on Fire at Mary Randall Center

Our faith is being sustained by the care and concern of so many in the community as Meeting Ground continues to deal with the fire that occurred in February. While the newspaper reported an initial estimate of \$10,000 in damages, estimates being received at this time come closer to \$25,000. An insurance claim is being filed, and a



deductible must be met. We are especially heartened by the extraordinary generosity of the congregations of Limestone Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Newark who have stepped up with gifts -- gathered through special collections -- to help sustain Meeting Ground during this time of trial.

The recovery process reminds us of the repair and recovery that Meeting Ground staff and volunteers facilitate each day with the souls who search us out. Progress can seem slow; damages deeper and more extensive than first meets the eye, but faith and determination bring all of us ever closer to wholeness.

Farewell to our C & S Wholesale Volunteers

JOIN US FOR 3RD ANNUAL

Taste of Meeting Ground Wine & Food Tasting Fundraiser



May 6, 2016
Elk Forge B & B Inn
807 Elk Mills Road
Elkton, MD 21921

Tickets: \$50 each

Great Food!
Terrific Wine!
Wonderful Friends!
Live & Silent Auctions!

On March 24, 2016, we bid our dedicated C & S Wholesale workers bittersweet goodbye. They came to us just prior to the Thanksgiving holidays as "paid volunteers" from the company when the warehouse was experiencing some staffing issues. Rather than lay off some of their staff for the holidays and potentially re-hire them, it was easiest to find them temporary volunteer jobs within the community. What a blessing for Meeting Ground, right around the holidays and coldest of the season, to have extra helping hands. We were so happy to be involved in this partnership with C & S.



*Thank you, Melissa Loveless,
Josephine Rodriguez and Patty Lee!*

As the weeks went on, we learned that many C & S workers would indeed ultimately be laid off or offered transfers out of state, as the North East warehouse would eventually close. Thus, our initial 15+ volunteers decreased to three lovely, dedicated and very dependable ladies over the past two months, as so many others took offers and moved.

So here's to C & S! Best of luck to you and your staff as you find your way through this rough transition. Here's to Patti, Josephine and Melissa for being such a vital part of the Mary Randall Center for the past few months. You most definitely made your mark on the hearts of our guests and staff! We wish you Godspeed in the next chapter of your careers, and please know you will be sorely missed by us all!

Partnership: Men's Shelter and APGFCU

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union (APGFCU) in Elkton partners with Cecil County Men's Shelter (CCMS). APGFCU believes that helping CCMS residents build their credit and become financially stable is one of the most important goals in their lives. Nancy Hill, an APGFCU employee, sets appointments with CCMS residents to pull credit reports, open savings accounts, checking accounts, and give seminars teaching how to

Purchase Tickets:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Only 150 tickets are available, so don't delay!

The Word

Psalm 134: "Praise the LORD, all you servants of the LORD who minister by night in the house of the LORD. Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the LORD. May the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth, bless you from Zion."

As we look forward to Easter, we raise our hands in praise especially for those "servants of the LORD who minister by night in the house of the LORD" as noted in Psalm 134. Those servants are the many volunteers involved in the Emergency Rotating Shelter who welcomed, fed, fellowshiped with, and provided hope for the guests each night. Throughout the winter season we have seen growth and development and progress on the Path to Home. Several guests have secured housing along with other services and are thankful to recognize how far they have come. Others are still seeking services and stable housing. The Emergency Rotating Shelter Season will end in the next few weeks and yet the work continues through the provision of case management services at the Mary Randall

budget and spend money. These budgets can then be used by case managers at CCMS to help residents save money, pay bills, pay debt, look for identify theft, and responsibly spend their money. Residents will then start the process of paying off their debt, and seeing their credit ratings rise, which in turn helps them find housing.



Thank you, APGCFU!

We All Have Time to Offer

Volunteers contact us every month to offer a small piece of themselves to serve others. This past month, with the ugly fire at the Mary Randall Center, we received so many calls offering help. These calls came from former guests, contractors, scout groups, and local civic groups. Individuals calling us formally or friends of Meeting Ground staff, calling personally offering their help, were all so good to receive!

From re-construction labor to simply planting a few flowers, these calls from our neighbors and partners have not gone unnoticed. We feel like this is a testament to our place in the community that so many have stepped forward to offer their time and talents to help us recover from this sad event. We are truly blessed to have such good and faithful people think of us in **our** time of crisis, so that we can continue to be a blessing to those in our community in the midst of their own crises.

Yes, there is still so much work to be done. If you are feeling inspired to join the efforts of helping us recover, and even work on other projects that also urgently need our attention, please reach out to us. Thank you so much for your always faithful support of what we do.

~Robanne Palmer
Volunteer Coordinator
volunteer@meetingground.org

Center and the transitional housing programs at Wayfarers' House and Settlement House. While there is still so much to be done, our residents and guests are grateful for all the hope and help the staff and volunteers provide. Thank you for giving them and us the hope, the strength and the resources. We praise God for you and for all the blessings He provides.

Patricia N. Marks
Executive Director

Upcoming Events

March 19:

[North Elk Coffee House](#)
Featuring Pam Ortiz Trio
Doors open at 6:45
Proceeds benefit Meeting Ground

April 16:

[North Elk Coffee House](#)
Featuring The Levins
Doors open at 6:45
Proceeds benefit Meeting Ground

May 6:

[Taste of Meeting Ground](#)
Elk Mills B & B Inn
Tickets: \$50 each

Quick Links

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