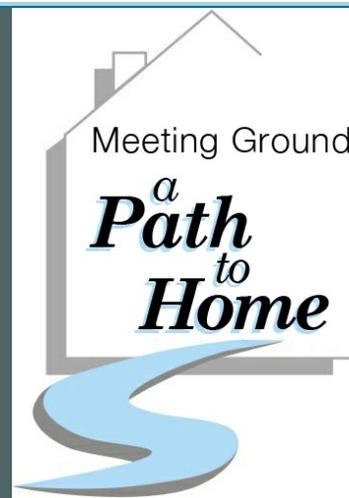


# Meeting Ground

## E-Newsletter

November, 2016



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## Veterans Day Dinner at CCMS

November 11 is a special day in our country when we honor and thank those veterans who have served in the armed forces of the United States. That is no more true than at the Cecil County Men's Shelter, a 15 bed transitional housing facility where more than half of the beds are dedicated for use by veterans.

At CCMS men are assisted with gaining the tools necessary to help them move on to self-sufficiency and permanent housing. The staff works closely with the Veterans Administration in helping veterans attain their goals.

With the veterans and this special day in mind, George Altevogt, a real barbecue expert, prepared a wonderful meal for the residents, staff and volunteers. As you can see from the pictures, plates were piled high and there were plenty of smiles as everyone enjoyed this terrific meal.

Thanks to George for all of his hard work! Special thanks for your service to all of our veterans at CCMS.

## The Word

*Psalm 36:7-8 "How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights."*

On November 17, 2016 I will celebrate one year of unbridled gratitude.

When a group of friends got together to say, "I will acknowledge God's saving grace and my reliance on Him by writing a daily list of blessings," I promised that I would write one blessing each day and never again repeat that blessing as there are so many blessings in my life. So each evening, as part of my spiritual disciplines, I write in a special book one of the blessings that I recognized that day. Sometimes as I review the day it is difficult to select only one blessing among the many. Rather than recount all the blessings listed this year and the many that went unrecorded, I want to highlight a few blessings which we and our guests have experienced:

[What a blessing](#) that Meeting Ground is beginning its eleventh season of Emergency Rotating Shelter. There is not enough ink or space to thank everyone involved in this effort.

**What a blessing** that the men at Cecil County Men's Shelter



*George Altevogt (r) and Samuel (L), CCMS resident and veteran, preparing to place BBQ out for guests.*

## Home Sweet Home

"LB," one of the veterans at the Cecil County Men's shelter, has been looking for housing in the Baltimore area. His family is from Baltimore, and he wants to be closer to them. After much searching with help from the staff at CCMS and the Veterans Administration he was able to find a nice apartment just minutes from his family. LB really appreciated his stay at CCMS, but certainly had a broad smile on his face when he moved in to his own apartment.

## An Abundance of Love

The Emergency Rotating Shelter season begins at the end of the month. We never know who or how many will come through our doors. However, if I could gauge by the number of people asking about it and by the sheer numbers coming to the Mary Randall Center, we will have a busy shelter season.

The Mary Randall Center (MRC) is busier than it has ever been. Last month, we served **243** individuals -- higher than our 205 per month average. This month, our numbers have already soared with **NEW** people seeking services. Some days, seats are scarce. Abundance may not be the word these scenarios bring to mind, other than an abundance of people. In fact, if we may talk honestly, there is an abundance of stories, need, and brokenness among our guests. This is the hard reality. But **THERE...IS...HOPE**. Like with fighting fires, an intentional and controlled fire can thwart these daily flames. As staff and volunteers, we have to intentionally fight with the fire of love -- and abundance of love.

enjoyed a special feast of George's BBQ on Veterans' Day.

**What a blessing** that Larry is enjoying his new home, and what a good reminder to all of us that the simple pleasure of home is one of the greatest gifts of all.

**What a blessing** that Abby Huffman and her mom Leslie are spending hours re-designing and decorating the children's play space at Wayfarers' House.

**What a blessing** that the Mary Randall Center is serving so many people and guiding people on their way on the path to home.

**What a blessing** that so many people are working tirelessly and giving generously to sustain the services of Meeting Ground and the Cecil County Men's Shelter.

**What a blessing** that the community is supporting and sustaining Meeting Ground. The North Elk Coffee House at St. Mary Anne's is a special delight as was the amazing Empty Bowls at Art Space on Main.

**What a blessing** that each and every day I witness the incredible outpouring of love and grace.

~Pat

Follow Pat's blog at [www.meetingground.org](http://www.meetingground.org)

## Upcoming Events

November 19: [North Elk Coffee House](#) with Michael Johnathan. Doors open at 6:45. Proceeds benefit Meeting Ground.

## Quick Links

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This month's verse says God's love is *priceless* and *unfailing* and *needed* no matter where we are in the social hierarchy. It is an indiscriminating love, a personal everyday kind of love, which transforms and gives life. This is the consuming fire for the brokenness, and it is no coincidence that we are all sharing in this very time and space together. It is on purpose. If we are to really serve, we ought to really love, Christ's way, and in God's strength. Why? Because our guests, who are homeless, hungry, hurting, and - sometimes - a hand full, **NEED IT**.



As we prepare for the upcoming season may we also prepare our hearts and repair our lens to see what only love can see and do what only love can do. May love be evident in our actions and interactions, and may it lead our guests to a place they call **HOME**.

If you are interested in serving and loving our guests, there are plenty of opportunities. Contact Shenise at [shenise@meetingground.org](mailto:shenise@meetingground.org).  
**#Allhandsondeck #Abundantlove**