



April 2012

What's Going on at Nick's Place:

Hello and happy Springtime. It's the time of year that re-birth occurs all around us and that's part of the culture of Nick's Place all year long. It is my pleasure to give you a little hint about what's been going on at Nick's Place and what we have planned. Right now, we've got a house full of young men who are committed to re-building their lives day by day and our job is to help keep them moving forward, even when they get stuck. Here's what's happening.

Current Residents:



Wes V - Wes studied, took the test, passed it and was recently accepted into the Sheet Metal Union's apprenticeship program. Prior to that, he was the warehouse coordinator for our friends at Overhead Door Company. Since he's been with us Wes achieved one of his goals; he saved money to finance a car. Right now, we're working with him on developing his exit plan from Nick's Place in the next couple of months. The goal: find a sober home with other people who continue to practice a strong recovery program.

Jim A - Jim works for Beltsville Garage as an apprentice mechanic. This company gave Jim a job just based on his willingness to learn and they have helped him develop his skills and rewarded his work. Jim says his goal is to become a Maryland Automobile Inspector.

Jordan A - works for Healthy Back as an internet customer service representative. This is a newly created position at Healthy Back and Jordan has helped develop the customer satisfaction follow-up service. Jordan's goal is to resume his education at a sober university. Jase F, one of our alum is Jordan's 12-step sponsor; Jordan made a great decision in picking him.

Adam H - is employed by PETCO. Adam is specialized in maintaining the fish and aquariums. Adam is a talented musician and his goal is to play in a public venue. We're going to help him make that happen!

Matt M - is employed by Overhead Door Company as a mechanic. He is skilled in auto and small engine mechanics and Matt's goal is to return to school and study for a profession that allows him to work with troubled youth. Matt M (yes, another Matt M) one of our former residents with seven year's clean is current resident Matt's sponsor; it's wonderful how our alumni are committed to giving back.

Alumni News:



We've got a wedding to go to in August! [Andrew M](#) and his fiancée' [Cristen](#) will be tying the knot on August 11 in Havre de Grace.

It looks like our [Oscar P](#) is going to be a member of the Army Reserve! He's passed his physical and aptitude testing and is waiting to learn his reporting date.

[Baz F](#) and [Jon F](#) each going on four years clean and sober are now working as weekend managers for Nick's Place. It's really exciting to have them on board. They can commiserate when

the guys complain about having rules to follow and chores to do! Jon is working for University of Maryland and will graduate from their agriculture program in December.

[Chip S](#), [Andrew G](#), [Brian C](#) and [Ike W](#) recently celebrated their first year clean and sober with lots of friends from Nick's Place cheering them on.

Each week we have a group of alumni return to Nick's Place for an in-house meeting with the residents and on the 4th Wednesday of each month, Nick's Place provides pizza; this month pizza is on [Trudie F](#) one of our friends and donors.

Other Stuff:

Our guys just returned from the Narcotics Anonymous (NA) convention in Ocean City, Maryland. It is an event that we put in our budget each year, because our guys come back more committed than ever to continuing their own journey of recovery. Over 8,500 people attended this event. Two of our residents, Jim and Wes, participated in the clean-time countdown and worked the registration table. Jordan signed up for the hug squad.

Our friends at [PMG in Columbia, Maryland](#) selected Nick's Place as one of four local charities to support. Our first fundraising event will be a bowling night on June 16th from 7-9 PM at the AMF lanes in College Park. We are hoping to see a lot of our guys there and we'll be getting our alumni committee geared up for stirring up interest. I'll let you know the details for tickets as we get closer to the event.

A Glimpse of Our Program:

Although it's easy to think of Nick's Place as just a home, there is a lot that goes on each and every day. Even though everyone has been through treatment, their physical, mental, emotional and spiritual recovery from the disease of addiction is just beginning. It takes a lot of effort on their part and ours to work through the stabilization stage which is followed by early recovery. This period of time is crucial and sets the stage for the hard work to come.

Almost every young man who comes to Nick's Place has experienced the fear of getting a job. We work with them on completing applications, preparing for interviews and doing proper follow-

up. It's an arduous process but once the job is secured, there is visible relief and a sense of accomplishment.

Sometimes the young men coming to us are experiencing physical or mental health issues that need attention. For those occurrences we help them secure the proper medical and mental health services. Once established at Nick's Place our guys are going off to jobs, coming home to dinner, cleaning up and heading off to a 12-step meeting in the evenings.

In between all of that, they meet with us on a one-on-one basis to discuss their progress and receive new directives for the week. They have very full schedules that are geared to creating new healthy habits. In early recovery, routine and stability are very important. That's the foundation that Nick's Place provides.

Our goal is to prepare our residents to manage everyday life issues instead of turning to drugs and alcohol for escape. We describe Nick's Place as a simple program, but not an easy one. We see the potential in each young man we serve and we strive to help them see the potential in themselves.

Right now we are working on money management and goal setting. It's not always easy getting buy-in on either of these topics! Why? Because both require commitment and accountability, not usually two of the attributes you see in early recovery. But, if developed, these two attributes along with a healthy recovery program will lead to personal and professional growth in the future.

Please Help Us to Continue to Meet Our Goals:

There are many ways in which you can help; [financially, through volunteering, a workplace fundraiser and telling your friends and family about us.](#) We've found that if we ask, you respond. Your gifts pay for our food, salaries, utilities and Relapse Prevention Education Program.

To make a donation, you can send your check to:

[Nick's Place, c/o Rhea McVicker, 4604 W. Caroline Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705](#) or to make a donation on-line, please visit www.nicksplace.org and choose Ways to Help; it only takes a minute. You can also sign-up to be a monthly donor. Don't forget to check to see if your employer has a matching gift program where your donation can be doubled! Also, check to see if your faith community has a grant giving program. Two of our friends have introduced us to their faith communities and we have been selected to receive grants.

Also you can use GoodSearch as your search engine and GoodShop for your on-line purchasing and "free" money will come our way. Just choose Nick's Place!

If you'd like to discuss a volunteer opportunity please call me or send me an e-mail. I can be reached at 301-937-0455 or rheamcvicker@verizon.net.

Final Thoughts

My Nick, the inspiration for Nick's Place has been gone for 15 years now. I can hardly believe that so much time has passed and I still miss him every day and think of what might have been.

But, the good news is that Nick is alive and well in each and every young man we help. Look, this is not an easy job for them or for us, but someone has to do it. Each person associated with Nick's Place realizes the magnitude of their job:

Changing and Saving Lives!

We are so very grateful for the continued support we receive from grateful family members, friends, foundations and corporations who choose Nick's Place.

We'll bring you more news later this year. Many thanks for your generosity and prayers.

With gratitude,
Rhea McVicker, Founder and Executive Director

