

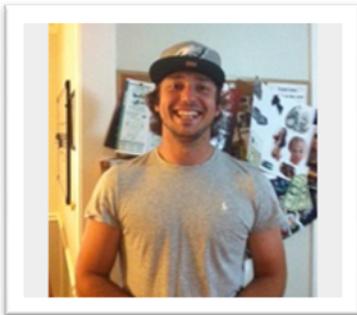


July 2014

Hi all. Here's a Nick's Place update that will bring a smile to your face. Let's start with the numbers one, twelve or three hundred sixty five as they relate to our **Austin H. He just celebrated 1 year or 12 months or 365 days clean and sober and he's spent all of that time here with us at Nick's Place!** To commemorate this accomplishment, his mom, dad and Grandma came to dinner. Then we all piled in our cars and drove to the twelve step meeting. There were over 50 people in attendance; 10 OF THEM being Nick's Place alumni!

Austin has a remarkable story to tell. His last few years were filled with rehabs, halfway houses and jail. He was never able to put together 90 DAYS clean. In fact, shortly after he arrived at Nick's Place he had a court hearing; the judge ordered him back to jail for 15 days. We knew when called to ask if he could return, that he might finally be ready to give recovery a shot. We are proud to say that Austin is a valued team member of Overhead Door Company...well I'll let him tell you. Here's what he wrote when asked to reflect on the last 12 months.

My experience at Nick's Place has been life changing. When I left Father Martin's I thought that I was going to yet another halfway house just like the rest. This house has been anything but that. From the tender care of the staff, to the life long memories that are born within its walls, this house is nothing like any other recovery house I've attended. The most essential component in my opinion is the alumni's continued involvement. They have and do give me hope that we, as young adult men, can live full, vibrant, and meaningful lives.



My life has done a complete 180 since I walked into the doors of Nick's Place. I came in a scared, lonely, hopeless 20 year old boy. Now, I'm leaving a hopeful, grateful, debt free, employable, loving, CLEAN, 21 year old man. I cannot thank the staff and volunteers enough for everything they have done and continue to do for me and the other guys in the house. I am blessed to have had the experience of staying at Nick's for the entire year. Guys have come and went. Some on good terms, others not so much. Regardless, I have learned something from each and every one of them. This house will always have a special place in my heart. My hope is that Nick's stays open for many

more years so other young man can experience the miracle I have through choosing to come here.

Barry and I love going to weddings and hearing about births of babies. In fact, Matt H who was with us a year ago, just had his first child Ryan with his fiancée Jacqueline. Ryan was born on July 7, 2014. Actually, Ryan is 1 of 5 Nick's Place babies coming up in the next 7 months! Barry (my husband) and I are still thrilled when we see "our guys" become responsible and loving husbands and fathers.

Recovery affords everyone who seeks it a rich and fulfilling life. Here I am at a wonderful celebration standing between two of "our guys". The event was the wedding between Tony W. (6 years sobriety) and his beautiful new bride Michelle. They just returned from a two week honeymoon in Italy and moved into their new home in Northern Virginia. Tony graduated a couple of years ago from George Mason University, with a degree in Economics.

Groom Tony, Rhea McVicker, Andrew Malone, Nick's Place alum and program coordinator



In other news, [Nick's Place is happy to announce that our speaker for our 1st Annual Recovery Walk, is the author of "The Interventionist" and "Painkillers, Heroin and the Road to Sanity: Real Solutions for Long-Term Recovery from Opiate Addiction". You may recognize Joani Gammill from](#)

her frequent appearances on the "Dr. Phil Show". Joani has helped hundreds of people find their way to recovery. We are excited to have the opportunity to hear her important message.

Please come out on Saturday, **September 27, 2014 to Greenbelt Park in Greenbelt Maryland. We will be at the Laurel Pavilion from 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM. It's a rain or shine event.** Bring the family and friends. And, you don't have to walk, if you don't want to. Just enjoy a beautiful autumn day.

We often reflect on the last 14 ½ years and the guys that Nick's Place has been privileged to help. It's hard to imagine that about 200 guys have come through our doors and we know that at least 50 of them are thriving in sobriety. They have lives. They play sports, attend school, socialize together, help others and contribute to their employers and communities. Their families have their son back.

As Austin said earlier, we hope that everyone we come in contact with knows **that Nick's Place is not just a home; we are a full-fledged program.** There is so much going on behind the scenes. Such as 1 on 1 weekly check-ins, our nightly dinner program, Relapse Prevention Education programs, employment counseling and health and mental health referrals. We help residents apply for driver's licenses, identification cards and replacement social security cards. We help them prepare for court appearances and resolve credit issues. And we do all of this without receiving any state funding.

We have always been proud of the fact that our program is affordable for our residents. We can do this because we have your support and the support of our local foundations and corporate supporters. And, for the 2nd time, Nick's Place was selected by the Catalogue for Philanthropy as "one of the best small charitable organizations in the Greater Washington Area." Their reviewing team of over 120 professionals reviewed 184 organizations. They base selections based on the charity's impact and cost effectiveness. We are thrilled to know that the impact we are having in the lives of the young men of our community has been recognized.

I'll close by saying a sincere thank you. We are so very lucky to have friends and supporters that recognize the work we do of changing and saving lives. We absolutely cannot do what we do without your support!

With much gratitude,
Rhea McVicker

If you would like to make a donation you may do so by mail to: Nick's Place, c/o Rhea McVicker, 4604 W. Caroline Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705 or on-line through our website, www.nicksplace.org, choose How You Can Help tab. We also welcome gift cards and employer matching gifts.



Nick's Place is a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization
Your gifts are tax-deductible.

If someone you know is struggling with Substance Use Disorder (addiction) or you just need more information, please feel free to contact us.

Rhea McVicker – 301-937-0455 or LaToya Nkongolo, Deputy Executive Director, 301-938-5876

Look forward to seeing you in September. Recovery is Possible!