

## Very Glad to Join the Nick's Family

By Dave Love

I am so very happy to be a part of the Nick's Place Family. First, I joined as a weekend manager back in the fall of 2008; and now I am the new Residential Director for the program – I am honored, grateful and amazed that I am here.

I first became acquainted with Nick's Place when I moved to Laurel, MD back in 2005 by getting to know the residents who were living here then. They were a very important part of my own recovery process and network. Throughout the last three and a half years, that part of my network continued and now many of the Nick's Place alumni are my very close friends. They help me continue my process one day at a time. I have always been attracted to the program and the results I have seen come through the Nick's Place doors. And when I met Rhea & Barry at one of the former resident's one year celebrations, the connection just seem to grow. The more time I spend around Nick's Place, the more concrete the vision, mission, purpose and goals grow in me.



On a very personal level, my involvement with Nick's Place is becoming the fulfillment of my God's promise through the Second Step of my 12 step program that He truly will restore me to sanity and restore my wasted years. Before my personal battle with addiction took over my life in the early 90's, I was working in New York City at a transitional home called Help House in the Bronx as a Residential Assistant and as a Senior High Youth Leader for Manhattan Bible Church in Washington Heights. I loved the work that I was doing back then but when I fell into my addiction, I thought I had lost the purpose of my life. I had. I had lost the hope that my God had instilled in me as a young man who wanted to help others not have to suffer the way that I had. I suppose I did have a glimmer of that hope back then from reaching out to other hurting people, but I ignored my own. But through my own process of heavy addiction and recovery, I have found that the best way to get that hope back is to share my experiences with others just like me. Not just from helping them with theirs, but sharing mine as well. It has been a long, hard road to get back to the sanity of hope that I once walked in. But my God has been faithful in bringing me to a place like Nick's where my passion for addicts and young people have mixed together. There is nothing parallel to the therapeutic value of one addict helping another. And as much as I hope to be a positive force in the lives of these young men, I also hope that the positive force that Nick's Place residents have had in my recovery will grow even more.

My primary goal in the role of Residential Director for Nick's Place is to provide every young man who comes through Nick's Place the opportunity to regain the hope of their own future by providing them a clean, safe, supervised, drug and alcohol free environment that enables them to grow in their own recovery as they begin to help one another. I truly believe that Nick's Place is a one of a kind recovery house, because it is a home. Dysfunctional and crazy at times – but a home!