



News from Rhea

Summer has flown by here at Nick's Place. It's been a good summer that included cookouts, family activities and just hanging out on weekends.

It's hard to believe that on October 1st, we begin our 12th year of providing a clean, safe, sober home to young men beginning their recovery from the disease of addiction. I want to take a moment to thank you for your support and good wishes. We could not have gotten this far without your financial support and your commitment to helping us provide the guidance and love to our residents.



As you look at this picture taken at our July alumni/resident pizza meeting, you see the faces of recovery, young men who have rebuilt their lives. Families have been

restored, they are building careers, returning to school, have gotten engaged, married and are starting families of their own. Their recovery started the minute they committed to try something different; and their journey toward wholeness, started here at Nick's Place. Nick's life and struggle with addiction was the inspiration for Nick's Place; but you have given us the opportunity to continue to serve. Thank you for making it possible.

Since our last newsletter, a grateful parent, Bev Wood a Vice President at Willis, a national insurance solution provider, responded to our call to action and the Willis Foundation's call to its associates to nominate and vote on the charity they would like to receive support from the Willis Foundation, the grant making arm of Willis.

Bev shared her family's story with her associates at Willis and out of eleven charities nominated the Willis associates in Potomac, Maryland selected Nick's Place to be their beneficiary. Earlier this month, we met with the associates to educate them on our mission and accomplishments; and on September 8, we were invited to participate in their fundraising Texas Hold em' tournament that attracted about 125

players and a wonderful group of sponsors. Proceeds will go into the Foundation pool and will be distributed to the charities selected by Willis associates. I just want to give a shout out to Bev for taking action and having the courage to share her story. By the way, Bev's son Justin is enrolled in Montgomery College and made honors his first year!

Another parent who deserves a shout out for heeding the call to action is Tom G., who wrote to his business associates on behalf of Nick's Place and secured a gift of \$1,000 from one of his banking partners. Both of these examples represent ways to help us to open up new relationships within our community.

Current Residents

We have got a great group of guys (I seem to always say that, don't I?) [Rio and Ike](#) who told you about themselves in our last newsletter are still with us. We have asked both to step up to the plate as leaders at Nick's Place. And, at the same time, they are facing challenges associated with moving on in the next few months. Our job is to help them prepare for the transition from protected recovery to maintaining the healthy lifestyle they've learned with us.

Recovery is not a straight line process. It involves leaving old friends behind, it involves avoiding places that are associated with using and changing things about your old life that don't fit in with your new one. It also involves every member of the family. It takes sacrifice on their part. They are

challenged to learn as much about the disease and the recovery process as possible in order to support their son.

Other members, [Wes and Chip](#) joined us in June and July and [Jim](#) just joined us in August. Everyone is employed and in this economy it is a truly a blessing. It's not easy to secure employment, but I think our approach of in-person approaches and follow-up gives our guys the edge. In fact, Jim told me that our practice interview questions really helped him stay calm when the exact questions were asked!

Former Residents

We've been having terrific participation to our weekly in-house resident/alumni meetings and our monthly pizza meeting. Our alumni have really stepped up to help our residents. I always tell them that they are the future of Nick's Place. We rely on them to help our residents and to help us stay on target. Whenever we can we ask one of our alum to help interview potential new residents.

Other big news: We are happy to announce that [Jason B and his wife Janice](#) have just had their second child, Tyler. [Colin B and his wife Karin](#) are [expecting their first child](#) and just purchased their first home. [Jeff T and Jon F](#) have moved into their own apartments after spending a couple of years in a sober house with four other guys. [Jeff R](#) has been promoted to sales at his place of employment and [Andrew M](#) is engaged to be married next year to his fiancé, [Christen](#). [Justin W.](#) completed his first year at Montgomery Community College.

Who says recovery isn't possible for young people!

Closing Thoughts

I know I've said this a thousand times, but it is worth repeating. We are grateful for Nick's life and we are grateful for the opportunity to serve the other "Nick's" in our community. If we can help save another family from experiencing the grief and pain of losing their son to the disease of addiction, we will. Although we always like to report the good news, we need to accept that not everyone "gets it" the first, second and third time. Just like Nick, some run out of time before recovery takes hold. Our role is to be here to at least give them a chance.

Thank you for your love, support, generosity and prayers on our behalf. Remember there are many ways to help in addition to a cash gift. We can always use household products such as paper towels, napkins, trash bags, zip lock bags; food storage containers (they go to work and NEVER come home); all-purpose cleaning products; we will accept boxed and can food products as well as fresh meat, fish and poultry. We are still looking for chest of drawers and a freezer. And, I might as well say it if you have a working generator...we'll take that too. Guess who lost power during the hurricane? Or, if your style is a gift certificate, we will happily accept those as well.

Please tell your friends and colleagues about Nick's Place and why you have chosen to support us. You and your friends can sign up as a monthly donor through our website www.nicksplace.org. If your company

has a charitable giving committee or foundation and Nick's Place meets its

funding area of interest, you could sponsor us to be a recipient of a corporate grant or a company fundraising initiative (that's what Bev did); and don't forget the matching gift! Third, you can give to us through the United Way member #9659 or the Combined Federal Campaign for federal employees.

We'll bring you more news later this year. Until then, *thank you, thank you, thank you.*



Pizza at Nick's Place - From l-r, Colin, Rio, Chip, Ike, Jeff, Jeff, Andrew, Oscar and Sean

To mail a donation: Nick's Place, c/o Rhea McVicker, 4604 W. Caroline Ave., Beltsville, MD 20705 or for more information, please call Rhea McVicker at 301-937-0455. You can help sponsor pizza nights!

