



Hello and happy Spring??? Is it finally here? It's been a busy winter at Nick's Place.

We've had anniversaries to celebrate and God willing there will be more to come. Right up front, I want to thank everyone who chooses Nick's Place to receive support including grateful family members, friends and organizations like **TD Bank, Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, Bank of America, PMG of Columbia, Maryland and Overhead Door Company** to name a few.

In order to continue to bring a high level program to these deserving young men and their families, we need the support of people who believe in our mission, vision and goals. Thank you, many times over!

In this newsletter, I have the pleasure of sharing with you a piece written by Nick S. a recent alum. Nick's was one of the one year anniversaries we celebrated. His mom, dad and brother were very proud of Nick's accomplishments and the many kind words offered by his new friends.

"The truly unique experience of Nick's Place was an amazing time for me. From the bad times and punishments to the great friends and life lessons, I wouldn't change anything. Today I am truly grateful for Nick's Place and everything they did and still do for me.

During my stay I had my times of frustration and disappointment. At first I didn't like the rules and guidelines until I talked to alumni and my sponsor. They pointed out to me that I signed up for it and that my way clearly wasn't working. They couldn't have been more right. In the months that I was a resident I became close friends with the guys I lived with. This was great for me because I had no real friendships for the five years before. Not everyone that I lived with is still clean today and some of them I don't know where they went. It's something that will always happen and it was hard to deal with knowing that I may never see a friend that I got close with ever again.

Getting and staying clean was all I wanted back in January of 2013. Later I started to want more out of life, like the relationships with my new friends, family, and the staff of Nick's Place. When I was using I was always scared about making any trips because I



couldn't go without using. I got to go on a few trips while I was a resident of Nick's Place. The annual NA convention in Ocean City that Nick's Place pays for and sends all the residents to was an experience I will never forget. Also the paintballing trip and rope swing at Beaver Dam Swim Club were a lot of fun with alumni and other NA members.

At the age of 23 and upon arrival in Beltsville I had no idea how to live life successfully. Nick's Place taught me many things like making my bed, doing laundry, and cleaning up the house. All things I still do today (most of the time). I've learned a lot of lessons as well, such as being honest, accountable, reliable, trustworthy, and open minded, which the staff practice as well. Also, on my own I probably wouldn't have gone to meetings every day, found a sponsor, or worked steps.

Today I still talk to the owners, Rhea and Barry, who are more than willing to help me and talk to me anytime I need to. Recently I have become a buddy to help one of the new members of the house get used to the changes, to have someone to talk to, and to introduce them to others. I'm grateful that I have been asked to be a buddy and it has helped me to remember what it was like for me so I can see the changes and progression in my own life. I just want to say thanks to Nick's Place and the staff for helping me make my recovery program strong and giving me the tools needed to finally live a great life."

As Nick mentioned, the convention has proven to be a terrific event for energizing recovery, meeting new people and networking with new and old friends. Of course the guys are accompanied by a manager and are surrounded by thousands of people who demonstrate that recovery brings a healthier, happier lifestyle.

Some other stuff

Happy to report that [Austin H](#) has been working at Overhead Door Company for the last five of his eight months with us and has recently received a promotion. He will now run service calls for the company in his own truck. [Jason S](#) is also a part of the Overhead Door Company team. He is an assistant to the warehouse manager.

[Jeff T](#) who has been with Overhead Door Company for four years recently completed building a new home and moved in mid-February.

We are happy to tell you that two of our former residents are working as weekend managers for Nick's Place. They are [Jim Alderson](#) and [Adam Holmes](#). Managers have to have a minimum of two years clean and sober and be active in their recovery programs. It's always a pleasure to have "our guys" work for us. They are able to relate to the current residents and put them at ease.

[Andrew M](#) an alum with six years clean and sober has been instrumental in helping us in all facets of the organization. Our goal is to assist Andrew in becoming a certified Peer Support Specialist. It's a role he's been playing at Nick's Place already!

PMG of Columbia, Maryland has selected Nick's Place once again to be one of their community support programs. They continue to surprise with household goods and funds that are greatly appreciated. Thanks to PMG we now have a color printer at Nick's Place that actually works!

Finally, we recently had an article published that you can [Read Here](#) and we've also been invited to submit a proposal to once again be included in the prestigious Catalogue for Philanthropy as "one of the best" non-profits in the metro area based on our financial efficiency and impact on our service population, known to us as "our guys".

Final Thoughts Through the years you have been interested in and supportive of our program. We hope that we can continue to count on you for your support. We have an ambitious year ahead of us. We are always thinking of how we can better serve our guys, their families and our community. If you would like to continue to show your support, here are a few ways:

How you can help

- **Nominate us for your workplace giving program.** We accept and are grateful for everyday use household items. If your employer has a matching gift program, your donation can be doubled!
- **Gift cards - Costco, Giant, Safeway, Target, Walmart, etc.** - these are used to supplement our food and household item costs. They really save us money.
- **Your general roperating support helps pay for food, utilities and staff salaries as well as our Relapse Prevention Education Program.**
- We do a lot on a small budget. Our guys receive comprehensive aftercare, not just a place to hang their hat.
- Volunteer to cook a meal or prepare a dinner ahead of time for us. We love that!

You can make a gift online at our website:

www.nicksplace.org

and select the Ways to Help Tab.

By Mail

Nick's Place, c/o Rhea McVicker, 4604 W. Caroline Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705 - 301-937-0455

P. S. If you, or someone you know needs help, but you don't know where to start, please feel free to call us. We can at least point you in the right direction. I can be reached at the number above and LaToya Nkongolo, Deputy Executive Director can be reached at 301-937-4356.

RECOVERY WORKS!