



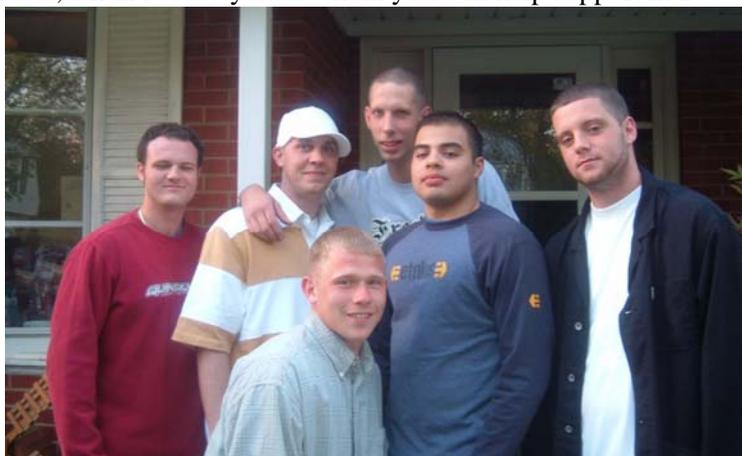
My Nick

Nick's

Place Newsletter Spring 2006

I am excited to tell you about the new group of young men who have joined us in 2006. They are truly an enthusiastic and energetic bunch of guys,. As the only transitional home to focus on providing a clean, safe, sober and supervised environment to young men 18-25 in early recovery from addiction and alcoholism, we have remained at capacity. Each week we receive calls from treatment providers asking if we have openings. We have established an excellent reputation with some of the most renowned providers in the country. Our goal is to deliver our resident's back to their families and communities with the tools to maintain long-term sobriety and the knowledge to better manage their lives; and we are successful. It is a tremendous gift to honor Nick's memory in this way. Of course, we thank you for believing in the mission of Nick's Place and your loyalty to our program.

Without further ado, I'll introduce you to whom you will help support in 2006.



From Left to right; Matthew, Jason, Danny, Oscar, Shiloh – Front: David

Jason S. – He's the oldest of our group at age 25 and joined us in January 2006. He works at a local sheet metal manufacturing business. He is the second resident to work there and the Vice President of the company has said on more than one occasion that he would absolutely give anyone at Nick's Place a chance if they have all the other skills they need to do the job. His quote is: "I don't know what you are doing with those guys, but keep it up, they are fantastic workers."

Oscar P. – Oscar was attending college on a baseball scholarship when his addiction derailed his life. He works as a cashier at a pizza parlor and admits that this is the first job he's ever held

outside of working for family members. He has interviewed for a job where Jason S. is working and it appears that the interview was positive. He should learn whether he's been hired in just a few days. Oscar is the Nick's Place clown has the ability to make everyone laugh. He can imitate people and is very quick witted. In fact, his humor reminds us very much of Nick's. I know they would have gotten along great.

Matthew M. – Matt also joined us in February. When I told him I was writing this letter he said he'd be happy to contribute. He describes Nick's Place this way. "No matter what troubles you may be having or where you are from, Nick's Place is the place to be. Serenity flows through the whole house and if you have lost your peace of mind, there is no better place to capture personal peace again. From the delicious home cooked meals to the great counseling, once you are here you will finally feel at home with your life." I think Matt's words perfectly describe the type of atmosphere we desire for Nick's Place.

David S. – David works at a local nursery and landscape company. He is a valued member of the construction and maintenance team as was one of our former residents, John S. who left us earlier this year. David has had to overcome some very difficult family challenges but meets them with great strength and fortitude. He easily talks about his faith and reliance on God to see him through the difficult times.

Shiloh B. – Shiloh is not ashamed to talk about and show his gratitude for Nick's Place. His eagerness to embrace our program and follow direction is readily evident. After spending his first two weeks looking for a job everyday, he got three offers in none day. He accepted a job at a local, family owned welding company that allows him to apply his welding skills.

Danny G. – Danny is the youngest of the group at age 20 and admits he has a long way to go. He still insists on doing things his way even though they don't usually work too well. So we are working with him to CHANGE. We remind him that the definition of insanity is "doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result."

Nick's Place is all about change, growth and enrichment. We challenge our guys to develop their strengths and positive character attributes. When you've been in the throes of addiction for so long, it's easy to only see yourself as the disease. It is vital that our guys begin to remember who they were before the disease took over. They are just like Nick was; kind, funny, talented and smart. Now they have the opportunity to reclaim themselves.

We meet with our guys on a one on one basis to focus on issues specific to that individual. It is a time where we can follow-up with them on the progress of their program or help them with a difficult family problem, a job related issue or something else. We hold them accountable to follow-through on previously assigned tasks such as opening a bank account.

Also when tackling a problem, instead of just providing the solution we walk through the problem with them and help them come up with possible solutions.. It is part of helping them develop confidence and good decision making skills. We also use a group setting during dinner hour to discuss topics such as goal setting, prioritizing, budgeting and decision making. We discuss current events, cover topics such as what it means to have integrity and generally challenge our young men to become thoughtful, polite and respectful men.

In April Nick's Place paid the registration fee to send our residents to the Narcotics Anonymous (NA) convention in Ocean City, Maryland; a father of a house member donated a property he owns for their lodging. All of our house managers attended as well. Evidence supports that

staying connected to others in recovery, especially during the first year is key to maintaining recovery. The convention provided round the clock meetings, dances, and social events. It provided an opportunity to meet and network with others, both young and old, committed to long-term recovery. From all reports our residents see this as a life-changing event for them.

Our alumni are doing well. Former resident, Jason B. along with a good friend of his has started an in-house recovery study meeting at Nick's Place after the relapse prevention meeting on Thursday nights. This was launched in late April and the feedback from the residents has been positive. It is just "the guys" and they have the opportunity to open up to each other about personal and program issues. Typically, each week we have a dinner visit from our alumni. I think the home-cooked meals are the thing they miss most about Nick's Place! We love receiving phone calls from them and having them return for visits.

I asked **Pat S. the mother of recent graduate** if she would share her thoughts about Nick's Place for this letter, here's what she had to say:

My son, John, had been a resident of Nick's Place since March, 2005. He has recently moved to an Oxford House, which is an unsupervised recovery house. I believe that much of the recent success that John has attained is greatly due to the year that he spent at Nick's Place.

Previously, John had frequent relapses, and spent time in jail. However, during his year at Nick's Place, he was able to secure and maintain full time employment, become involved in NA., open a bank account, and with the help of his father, purchase a car. As the parent of a recovering addict, it is so difficult to be objective about our child's recovery, and what is best for him or her. I am so grateful to Nick's Place for providing John with the supervision, structure, and support, which has assisted him in developing the self-confidence, self-respect, and determination which helped him begin to have faith in his own direction. John is now trustworthy, and we are so happy to welcome back our son in participating in our family activities.

Barry and I look forward to the evenings we spend at Nick's Place; this bunch is entertaining. It is really hard to capture on paper the mood, humor and teasing around the dinner table. At least one night a week a couple of our alumni join us for dinner. We love it. There is no better reward than seeing the success of our guys. It also helps the current residents stay motivated and see that if they work with us, we really can give them the jump-start they need to get on with life.

Your support plays an important part in our ability to provide affordable housing and healthful meals to our residents. Your support allows us to have a live in addictions counselor. Your support allows us to continue to bring passion and commitment to what from the outside looks like just another home. But I think Matthew got it right in describing Nick's Place. We literally are changing and saving lives and your generous gifts have helped make that possible. We believe that as long as we continue to deliver on our mission, will continue to provide your support and recognize the important role we are playing in returning our guys to our communities as well adjusted, hardworking and capable young men. Please tell your family and friends about us. If your workplace has a matching gift program, we would love it if you would make a gift to Nick's Place.

From all of us, thank you for all you allow Nick's Place to do for our young men.

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We rely exclusively on foundation grants and individual donations.