



## What's going on at Nick's Place

Hello and happy Summer to you. We are charging into summer and the second half of our year.

### **BIG NEWS**

We have hired LaToya Nkongolo as Deputy Executive Director. LaToya will work with me in learning every facet of our organization. Here is what LaToya shared about joining us.

"I'm so excited to be serving as the Deputy Executive Director of Nick's Place. I have always valued and respected what Nick's Place has contributed to the field of substance abuse and I believe my experience has given me the right set of skills and strategic thinking to build on their many successes."



I'm thrilled to have LaToya on board. For the past five years, LaToya was the Family Program Supervisor with Pathways Alcohol and Drug Treatment Center, where she was responsible for developing and leading a comprehensive family counseling program. We look forward to working with LaToya in introducing new programs for our guys and their families.

LaToya holds a Master's Degree in Organizational Management and Leadership and a Master's Degree in Social Work. LaToya also serves as Secretary of the Maryland Addictions Professional Certification Board and Vice President on the Board of Directors for Services from the Heart, Inc.

Already we are having a blast sharing ideas and working hard to ensure that Nick's Place continues to provide our guys with the best possible opportunity to begin and continue their journey of recovery.

### Our Guys

Our guys attended the Narcotics Anonymous (NA) convention in April. For the past six years or so, Nick's Place has paid for them and a staff member to attend this event in Ocean City, Maryland. It is a great way for a newcomer to see thousands of people in recovery having fun while clean and sober. Thank you for your financial support which allows us to offer this benefit to our guys who could not afford to attend on their own.

During the convention they spent time with each other and some of our alumni who continue to enjoy seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

Two of the residents Nick S and Matt H have signed on to help with planning next year's convention. They'll meet once a month with the central Maryland planning committee. It's a great way to jump in and meet new people to add to their recovery network of friends.

Finally after much procrastination and finally some planning, the guys also took their paint-balling field trip! Some of our alumni helped plan the event which lasted all afternoon. I wish they had taken some pictures I could share with you, but despite my asking, no pictures. From their description, it was a great, fun filled afternoon.

A couple of the guys have begun playing softball on a "Recovery" league on Sunday afternoon.

They have also enjoyed a couple of fishing excursions with one of their sponsors and a pool party in Annapolis organized by an NA group there. And on the 4th of July, the guys joined Matt H's family for a cookout, swimming and boating.

Next on the agenda is an amusement park. No reason that can't happen with good planning and coordination. We encourage them to have fun and experience life clean and sober.

Finally, in addition to having fun, everyone is working hard, attending meetings, working with their sponsors and moving on with life. That's the beauty of clean and sober living.

## Alumni News

In the next two months Barry and I will again get to celebrate two Nick's Place marriages. **John S and his fiancée LaShawn** will marry in a small private ceremony in July and off to their honeymoon in Mexico. Later in August they are having a barbeque celebration for friends.

**Jason S and his fiancée Jaime** are tying the knot on August 18th. Just a couple of years ago, Jason worked for Nick's Place as a weekend and weeknight manager. He told us about reconnecting with Jaime. So being able to celebrate this wonderful event with him and his family is a delight!

**Andrew M** has been promoted to a position as an estimator for Overhead Door Company. For several years Andrew worked as an installer for the company. This is a great opportunity for him to advance.

Barry and I went to a couple of softball games that **Jason B, Jon F and Oscar P** participated in last month in Salisbury, Maryland. Their team "Damaged" ended up in 2nd place.

**Jim A and Chip S** have bought their first cars. **Adam H and Chip** both work for Healthy Back. **Adam** has been promoted to the corporate office of Healthy Back and if you ever need a bed or chairs, visit **Chip** in the Beltsville, Maryland store where he was promoted to sales manager.

**Max S** is living in Florida and owns his own marine electronics business which has been very successful. He now has two employees. Max loved fishing when he lived at Nick's Place and carried that passion into his clean and sober life.

## Final Thoughts

We love that we are able to provide an affordable, caring home to our guys when they need it the most. Some programs similar to Nick's Place cost thousands per month which would be out of reach to our guys.

Everything they need is provided - food, counsel, support, a caring staff and a built in network. From the outside it all looks pretty simple, but there are lots of challenges from learning new life habits to managing money.

It's sometimes hard to remember that some of them came to us so worn out and beat up, by the disease of addiction. The process of recovery is not easy for them; we just help reduce the stress they experience early on as they adopt a new lifestyle. We make the process easier to manage

## How You Can Help

We cannot do all that we do without your help and the help of others like you who believe in our mission. I want to thank you for your continued financial support, prayers and good wishes.

If you want to help there are several ways you can do so. As with any small organization we can always use your financial support. We also welcome gift cards that will help us purchase food and other household items.

Something that is really easy to do is to set-up Nick's Place to receive a monthly gift from your bank account or through Network for Good on our website. This is a welcome source of consistent revenue for us each month. We have several people already doing this and it's wonderful! It really helps to know that we have consistent revenue coming in each month.

- *Nominate us for your workplace giving program. If your employer offers a matching gift, then all the better. We are one of 4 charities that PMG of Columbia supports through their program and we continue to be part of Overhead Door Company's charitable giving program*
- *Gift cards - Costco, Giant, Safeway, Target, Walmart, etc. - these are used to supplement our food and household item costs*
- *Your general operating support helps pay for food, utilities and staff salaries as well as our Relapse Prevention Education Program.*

**You can make a gift online at our website:**

**[www.nicksplace.org](http://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

## Volunteering

If you'd like to discuss a volunteer opportunities, I can be reached at 301-937-0455 or rheamcvicker@verizon.net.

P. S. If you, or someone you know needs help, but you don't know where to start, please feel free to call. I can at least point you in the right direction.

All donations are tax deductible. Nick's Place is a 501 (3) 3 non-profit. We do not receive any state or local funding.



P. S. S. I have also sent an e-newsletter for the convenience of forwarding or saving electronically.