

SUCCESS 40 Years and Counting

2014 marks Project PLASE's fortieth year in service to homeless and marginalized persons in Baltimore. This has been a blessed and amazing journey. Over these forty years, we have served a diverse and changing population, amid the changes in the American culture and economy. We have seen the increase in the numbers of mentally ill men and women on the streets. We have witnessed the interplay of poverty, homelessness, lack of access to adequate medical care, HIV/AIDS and more. We have welcomed gay, lesbian, and transgender persons, long among the most neglected segments of the nation's homeless. Most recently we have partnered with the federal government to mitigate the harsh reality of unemployment and homelessness among our nation's military veterans. Through all of this, Project PLASE has sought to combine compassion and professionalism so as to help those most in need as effectively as possible, affirming the inherent dignity and worth of each individual we serve. We experience how unique is each person, even with the common experience of many.

We serve only as partners with each person, as they define and sharpen goals --- given particular need, experiences, and life circumstance. Our motto of "Housing & Hope" remains the foundation for transformed lives, these 4 decades!

PLASE has provided transitional and permanent housing for homeless persons in Baltimore City, with the longest term commitment of any housing provider. PLASE has been able, concretely and effectively, to assist men, women, and families deal with problems ranging from socioeconomic dislocation to mental illness, addictions to the lingering traumas of life and the battlefield, physical disabilities, to the often invisible scars of abuse and neglect. We have been able to positively touch 500 lives each year for these 40 years. This along with linkage to needed community resources, movement not just from homelessness to housing, but from isolation and insecurity at the margins to full community-based lives, occurs daily. Accordingly, our efforts have expanded over time, incorporating more direct and on-site services.

We could not have walked with so many and witnessed their transformed lives for forty years, nor could we continue our efforts, without all of you---dear friends, volunteers, staff, donors, board members, guests and clients of PLASE. But, You, residents, are our inspiration—showing that the human spirit endures and thrives. As we look to build on what we have accomplished we are profoundly grateful to each of you--all of our supporters. We still believe we can create the will to overcome such poverty. We go forward together, and are a community. Onward and forward, with the gratitude of 40 years!

Dr. Gregory Branch, Board President and Mary C. Slicher, Executive Director



The PLASE Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) team

THANKS TO OUR JOB FAIR VENDORS!

Our sincere appreciation goes to the businesses, and potential employers and organizations that participated in the Employment Fairs this Summer. (*Read article back page.*)

Americorps
Assist Wireless
Baltimore City Career Program
Baltimore Health Star
Boston Market
Center Line
Charm City Clinic
Chimes
DePaul Industries
Eastside Career Center
Enterprise
Enviro Test
Erickson Living

Horse Shoe Casino
Just Temps
Labor Ready
Leadership, Inc.
M & T Bank
MD Commitment to Veterans
MD Depart. of Budget
MD Depart. of Juvenile
MD Div. of Labor Licensing
Maryland New Directions
MD Office of Employment
Maryland State Government
Mayor's Office of Employment

McRoberts Protective Agency
Millennium Health Human Svcs.
My Brother's Keeper
National Civilian Comm. Corps
NSA
PEI Medical
PKW
Primerica
Randstad
Shop Rite
Sojourner Douglass College
St. Agnes Hospital

Stevenson University
The Arc Construction
The Parking Authority of Balto.
TMD Temporaries, Inc.
Total Health Care
Tracey Lynn Jewelry
Tradesmen
Trustworthy Staffing Solutions
Union Memorial Hospital
University of Maryland
Veteran Network
Veterans Administration Health

BEACON HOUSE SQUARE

Beacon House Square is our housing development at 3601 Old Frederick Road, a former Archdiocesan school now owned by PLASE. Our goal is the creation of new permanent and transitional housing units in a humane and supportive setting.

A home. A room of your own. Secure space for your belongings. Safety. A clean, comfortable bed. A bathroom, with a shower and hot water. A community. Men and women, who, like you, are moving forward with their lives. A kitchen and a place to break bread together. A library. Computers. Classrooms. Space in which to meet, to share, to learn, to relax, to grow. A home.

The increased housing Beacon House Square will represent is our response to the clear need for expanded affordable housing in Baltimore. Beacon House Square will provide forty (40) transitional housing units, fifty-six (56) permanent housing units, and an array of case-management, counseling, educational, and supportive services. Once renovated, this facility will be 100% handicapped accessible making PLASE the only 100% handicapped accessible homeless housing program in Baltimore. The goal is to create a healing environment, as a place of life and hope for all those who come, as well as a beacon of light for the entire community.

Please see renderings to the right showing how typical rooms will look once Beacon House is renovated.

Thanks to sponsorship from local, state, and national partners, both private and public, Project PLASE has made a great start in turning the dream of Beacon House Square into a reality. But we have a long way to go and we need your support and encouragement. Call Project PLASE, 410-837-1400, ext 111 or Tim Munshell at munshell@munshell.com or visit our website for ways you can help make this dream come true.

Capital Campaign Goal for PHASE 1 (Transitional Housing for 40 and Permanent Housing for 20, with commercial kitchen and more): \$7,550,334

Raised to date (including approved but not received): \$4,580,374

Request pending: \$1,500,000

Gap in funding still needed for Phase 1: \$ 1,469,960

Only 19.5% still needed for Phase One.

See our next newsletter for more information on PHASE 2 renovation and construction costs – which will create 36 new one bed room permanent affordable housing units.



Bedroom



Lounge

Renderings Provided By:



MR. AB LOGAN: MEMORIAL TO OUR FRIEND AND FORCE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

We mark the glorious life and recent death of Mr. Ab Logan. We feel the weight of our shock and sadness at his death, after just a short 3 week diagnosis of cancer--- a huge loss for all of us. We know Ab from his work improving community in a myriad of roles, as Director of Greater Homewood Community Corporation, in advocating for rent control, and in organizing South Baltimore Communities, and more. But we know him mostly for his deep passion for social justice, as an advocate for those without a voice and a change agent combatting the systemic causes of poverty and injustice. We first met him in the 1970's as a volunteer organizer for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development-CCHD (the social justice arm of the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference). He worked tirelessly with CCHD, over the past 40 years up until nearly the moment before his death. Indeed PLASE would not exist today if it were not for the CCHD's local and national funding received in the 1970's. 1000's of lives have been changed,

new resources have been created and policies tweaked because of CCHD and Ab's work therein. This very month, PLASE received notice of funding to better organize and help self-empower our residents. Ab's role in this was crucial, and inspiring, as well. He came to meet with our residents in February, and we mean meet. This busy man met for 3 ½ hours, with about 30 men and women! For such an intelligent man, he was very down to earth and accepting of all persons, from every walk of life. He was wise, articulate, profound and very comic, all at once. All of his interactions demonstrated his innate compassion, humor and, of course, his indomitable spirit. His legacy is his active caring life. All of us who knew him are better off having known him, and many more will be better in the future because of his organizing and the positive changes in society he helped to create. WE all Thank YOU Ab. Rest in great Peace.

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERAN FAMILIES

Project PLASE is proud to have expanded our long-term relationship with the Department of Veterans Affairs with a third program, the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program (SSVF), assisting veterans in Baltimore City and County. SSVF is the first VA program designed specifically to provide services for homeless veterans and their families. The primary purposes are two fold: the rapid re-housing of veterans and their families who are already homeless and the prevention of homelessness for those at imminent risk of loss of housing, with supports to ensure maintenance of this housing. PLASE employs a Housing First model, helping veteran families secure rental housing as quickly as possible, and then facilitating access to work, income, other resources and support systems needed to sustain that housing, and to move on to greater self-sufficiency. In its first eleven months, PLASE's SSVF program has assisted 400 families, 30% represent those who were able to retain housing and the remaining 70% were "rapidly re-housed". Rapid Re-housing has occurred as quickly as the same day for some families and up to several weeks, for others.

At an average cost of under \$2500 per veteran household, Project PLASE is able to help veteran families retain or access housing through our



relationships with landlords, through temporary cash assistance, for rents, security deposit, utility assistance, work related costs like childcare, transportation, vocational training, uniforms, and a variety of supportive services. Each family develops a Housing Stability Plan to ensure long-term stability. Currently we are training 15 veterans in Environmental and Housekeeping Arts where they will receive certification and shortly move on to employment. Additionally 179 persons have already been employed

through PLASE's Veteran program.

This program is a perfect match for the mission and philosophy of Project PLASE. Housing, employment, case-management, peer and professional support--- these are all life-giving. Meeting the families "at ground level" is what PLASE has been doing for forty years. We are honored to be partnered with SSVF in serving veterans and their families in Baltimore, making homelessness a "rare and brief experience." PLASE has also been fortunate enough ourselves to hire two of our former SSVF recipients!

For information about Supportive Services for Veteran Families at Project PLASE, contact Michael Brown at 410-837-1400, ext. 123 (mbrown@projectplase.org) or Jeff Johnson at 443-802-5823 (jjohnson@projectplase.org).



FOOD GIVEAWAY EVENT

On the second Thursday of each month, at Beacon House Square 3601 Old Frederick Road, 21229 Project PLASE hosts a Produce Giveaway of food, donated by local farms in cooperation with the Maryland Food Bank. A team of more than twenty volunteers distributes an amazing variety of fresh produce to the community. This feeds more than 1,000 people, 300+ households.

Project PLASE, designed to address homelessness, knows its active role in the fabric of the city, as a proud and passionate member of the community. The good of our city and the health and well-being of our neighbors in the community are of tremendous importance to and impact on our mission.

As a community of concern, hope, and action, PLASE's food giveaway averages 18,000 pounds of healthy organic produce, each month. PLASE's healthy food give-aways have occurred now for over a year. They are always the second Thursday of the month 3-5 PM. Come join us!

Both the Employment Fairs and Food Giveaways address basic needs, but also strengthen ties among the business community, churches, community associations and our southwest Baltimore neighborhood and service providers. We are blessed that this new site, Beacon House Square, has ample outdoor and indoor space for such joint activities.

At the August 14 event also 100 bags of school supplies were distributed to children in need for our "back to school" initiative. Additionally, there is a free clothes give away for men and women, the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10-2. Contact Rev. Nameaka Roney at 443.635.4697, to learn more, donate or volunteer.

Special thanks go the Maryland Food Bank, a myriad of local farmers, the Food Depot Supermarket for grocery bags, the Mid-Atlantic Gleaning Network, and our volunteers for wonderful food and a well run program.

Connect with Us:

Monthly Email: sign up at www.projectplase.org

Find us on:



PLASE needs a van! To help please go to www.projectplase.org and click "donate." Thank you!

Donate through these campaigns!



Please designate Project PLASE at your workplace using the following codes:

United Way
of Central Maryland
141

Combined Charity Campaign
8141

Maryland Charity Campaign
8141

Combined Federal
Campaign
56982

Our Mission

Project PLASE, Inc. addresses homelessness by providing transitional housing, permanent housing and supportive services to homeless adults. We serve the most vulnerable and underserved, including persons with mental illness, HIV/AIDS, addiction, developmental disabilities and ex-offenders.

Our Vision

To eliminate homelessness.

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STANDARDS FOR
EXCELLENCE



3601 Old Frederick Road
Baltimore, MD 21229
410.837.1400
www.projectplase.org

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2014 SUMMER EMPLOYMENT FAIRS

Who says summer is a lazy hazy time, a time to slow down? At PLASE we work hard all year 'round!. This summer is proof as PLASE exhibits just how serious we are about helping persons find work.

On June 12 and August 14, 2014 Project PLASE hosted our fifth and sixth Employment Fairs at our "new" facility, the former Archdiocesan St. Joseph's Monastery School Building, and future site for PLASE's Beacon House Square Housing Program, in South West Baltimore. Businesses, nonprofits, and various government agencies gathered to meet with job-seekers, take resumes and applications, and conduct preliminary interviews. Basic health screening services were also offered by area medical providers.

Although the job fairs are undertaken and presented by Project PLASE's SSVF program, they are open to all comers, veteran or civilian, current PLASE clients or members of the wider community, since we are mindful of the need in our new South West community. The job fairs, the food programs, the back-to-school give-away, and Project PLASE's open doors are all ways of



affirming the connection between our mission as an agency and our identity as community member and neighbor. As a colleague says: "We all win or lose together." PLASE chooses to win together!

The fairs have been a huge success. Fifty prospective employers have met with 315 job-seekers over the course of these two summer Thursday afternoons. Eighty-five individuals (fifty-three veterans and thirty-two civilians) were confirmed as hired from these fairs, with connections made and possibilities established by many others. 179 persons have gained employment from all 6 Employment fairs hosted this year. In fact, the job fairs have been so successful; we're planning to hold our next on Thursday, October 9, 2014, from 1:00PM to 5:00PM.

For information about the job fairs, contact Jeff Johnson at 443-802-5823 (jjohnson@projectplase.org) or Diana Hood at 410-837-1400, ext 154 (dhood@projectplase.org). To see the video of the June event go to the PLASE website, www.projectplase.org.