



Earl Johnson

### MISSION STATEMENT

United Ministries is a housing and social justice organization dedicated to assisting homeless men who want to change their lives, and to changing community attitudes toward the homeless.

# EARL'S PLACE

a United Ministries project

**HOPE, HELP, HOME AGAIN!**

## BEHAVIORS—OLD AND NEW

Gordon Livingston, M.D. writes in his book, Too Soon Old, Too Late Smart, Thirty True Things You Need to Know Now, “*Most of the heartbreak that life contains is a result of ignoring the reality that past behavior is the most reliable predictor of future behavior.*”

Those of us who are working with people who have made a lot of bad choices and who have done a lot of bad things know that this is sometimes true. But we also know that it doesn't have to be. People can change; behaviors can be changed. The men have skills or they wouldn't have survived. It is time for them to learn how to use those skills in positive ways.

We have a thief in the house. Actually we probably have more than one thief in the house, but most are not practicing that old behavior.

Although we have “house” food and everyone states that if you need something just ask and you will receive, someone has been stealing other people's food. This is communal living at its worst.

Over the years we have minor incidents of something missing, but recently it has been consistent and has caused a lot of distress in the house.

So, much to my chagrin, we are putting locks on the refrigerators. This does not answer the question of who the thief is, but it will reduce the tension in the house and we will continue to discuss working on changing behaviors and showing respect for each other.

While this is disappointing, there are many signs of hope. The men continue to work toward their goals—housing, education, jobs. Several recently obtained their own apartments and, of course, others have moved into Earl's Place.

Charles, a former resident who left the program earlier this year, told me, “Sometimes I just feel like saying the heck with it all. Then if I am out driving and I go past this place (Earl's Place) I stop and reflect. I learned how to calm down, I learned how to breathe and I am learning to do good even though it is so much easier to do bad.

That is why this program is so important. One man at a time we are changing behaviors and helping them see that a new way of life is possible. With your continued support many more men like Charles will learn that doing the right thing is the right way of life.

*Sheila*

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that every has.”

-Margaret Meade

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

♥ Thanks to Josh Wesalo and his “Project Josh’s Garden” for providing us with fresh and delicious organic vegetables from his garden.

♥ Ravens Roost # 69 Security supports Earl’s Place as one of their charities. One of their popular annual events is a Crab Feast. This year the residents were thrilled when Sheila brought a box of steamed crabs back with her. One of the men said, *“The crabs were real nice. I had to call my sister and tell her about them!”*

♥ Eggs to order and all the other fixings for a delicious breakfast were provided by Rev. Jerry Fuss and members of Emmanuel UCC in Westminster. The intrepid group arrived at Earl’s Place on a Friday morning at 6:15 a.m. bearing goodies and a load of donations from our wish list. After feeding our bodies and spirits they continued on to spend the day at the Aquarium.

♥ Rev. Beth Cantrell and seven members of Immanuel UCC recently joined us for a cookout. We ate and engaged in a thoughtful conversation on ways to reach out to persons in need. Pastor Beth told the men “We seriously hope you succeed. We may not know all of your names or see you regularly, but we are rooting for you.”

## Congratulations

to:

- ◇ Art, Charles B., Clint, Glen H., Larry, and Willie on obtaining their own housing
- ◇ Charles D. who obtained his GED
- ◇ Glen H. on his recent marriage
- ◇ Mike who passed his driver’s license test
- ◇ Visionary, Glen C. on his graduation from Morgan with a Master’s in Social Work and subsequent employment with a treatment center



Willie and Art were especially vocal about their moves. Willie, “I feel a joy in my heart!” and Art, “I got my keys and my apartment is even better than I remembered!”

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### In Memory of

Kathryn Joellenbeck

### In Honor of

Sheila Helgerson  
 Dylan Karlin (Bar Mitzvah)  
 Lois Joellenbeck  
 David Schwartz

**Your generosity is appreciated!**

**THANK YOU!**  
 The support of these donors has helped us carry out our mission of helping men return Home Again!  
 If you have provided for United Ministries/Earl's Place in your estate plans, please let us know. If not, please let us show you how you can.  
 Call or write: United Ministries, Inc. 1400 E. Lombard Street Baltimore, MD 21231  
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A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by contacting United Ministries at 1400 E. Lombard Street, Baltimore, MD 21231 or 410-522-0225. Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary for the cost of copying and postage.

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# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**September 20: Macy's Shop For A Cause**

Discount shopping passes available—\$5

Contact Sheila at 410-522-0225 or

[umdirector@verizon.net](mailto:umdirector@verizon.net)

**November 9: Home Again! Reception &**

2 p.m. **Silent Auction**

Overhills Mansion 916 S. Rolling Road

**December 21: Homeless Person's Memorial Day**

5 p.m. Location TBA

**January 1: 2009 New Year's Resolution Run**

2 p.m. Patterson Park

For more information, call 410-522-0225 or check our website: [www.unitedministries-earlsplace.org](http://www.unitedministries-earlsplace.org)