



United Ministries
NEW BEGINNINGS THROUGH HOUSING.

2010 Annual Report



**It is in the shelter of each other
that the people live.**

- Irish Proverb

A Message from the Board Chair

Dear Friends,

What do you dream of? Something big, like a new house, or a more fulfilling career? Or something smaller, like having just a little more money to spend around, or a bit more time with the ones you care about? The men that we serve at Earl's Place have the very same dreams, and thanks to your support over the last year, we've seen their dreams become a reality.



As you will read, eight men successfully completed the program and Luke, a former resident, [purchased](#) his own home. Several men completed educational programs while others obtained full-time employment. A few dreams even came true for us as well – our residents and case manager, Jim, created a beautiful garden in the back yard, our full-time volunteer Ryan created a great new web site (albeit still in progress), volunteers from the University of Baltimore gave us a new image with some new marketing materials, and we held a Resolution Run that out-did all the others! We also added some new and unique ways to raise funds for the program and began to dream some new dreams of how we can expand the marvelous work of Earl's Place by acquiring another facility.

During 2010 Earl's Place continued to provide the top quality programming for which it is known. This is evidenced by the number of men served, 32, and the number of people we didn't have space to serve, 470. Hence, the need for additional space – imagine the difference that could be made if the program could serve more people!

One of our major accomplishments in 2010 was expanding how we connect with you – especially with our great new website and e-newsletters. By sharing our information on Facebook and passing on our e-newsletters, you are helping to get the word out about the incredible things our residents are accomplishing at Earl's Place. Also, did you catch our advertisement on the local Christian Radio station, Heaven 600? We look forward to reaching even more people in 2011.

Our program is "holding its own." However, even with all the good work continuing to be done in the lives of the men at Earl's Place, we know we could be doing so much more. It is through the contributions of faithful friends like yourselves that Earl's Place continues to provide men who are homeless with a path to their own dreams. [But, even more support is needed to enable us to go beyond holding our own to thriving and growing.](#) We hope you will help us reach even more individual and corporate donors by sharing with them why you care about Earl's Place, and of course we rely upon your personal gift. Please send a check in the enclosed envelope or contribute online at www.earlsplace.org. As always, we remain ever grateful for your support. Without your loyalty and faithful contributions to Earl's Place, we could not continue to do the good work that was begun so many years ago.

Want our monthly e-newsletter in your inbox?
Sign up at earlsplace.org!

Sincerely,
Jill White
Board Chair

The Facts

Your support provided a home and opportunities to 32 men in 2010. Nevertheless, it was a challenging year. **Eight men successfully completed the program** and obtained their own housing, and fourteen continued in the program. Unfortunately the most difficult part of our job is that some will not succeed and 10 did not for various reasons including relapse and unmet mental health needs.

The need for housing continues, with a total of over 470 individuals turned away from Earl's Place for lack of space.



Michael G. &
John T.

Making Dreams a Reality



Luke, Proud Home Owner

A former resident, **Luke, purchased his own home** and moved in on June 11th, 2010. Sheila was almost as excited as he was when

he called to tell her. He said, "Now you will know where to find me for the next 30 years." He has come a long way from living in an abandoned building (where he kept bottles at hand to throw at the rats) to a newly renovated townhouse near his place of employment.

Luke shared his story as part of the Stoop Storytelling program. Visit earlsplace.org to hear a recording of his incredible journey from homelessness to home ownership.

Eight men attended job training and educational programs. Michael obtained his GED, Scott enrolled in college and ten men obtained employment including **Arthur who did so well during his Goodwill training, they hired him!**

Lucky for us, our case manager, Jim, is also a gardener. He and several residents have **transformed our backyard** into an oasis! Now, in the heart of the city the men have a beautiful and serene spot to commune with nature.



Summer 2010



Earl's Place is on Facebook! "Like" us at [facebook.com/earlsplace](https://www.facebook.com/earlsplace) for updates and quotes from our residents.

"You watch the news, and you think it's a cold world that we live in today. But living here at Earl's Place, and interacting with the men here, as well as the staff, and meeting the donors who give to keep this place open, I see that people still truly care."

– **R.C., current resident**

In the Community

Earl's Place residents have dedicated themselves to bi-monthly service at **The Supper Club Soup Kitchen at First United UCC**. On the first Wednesday of the month you can find Jacob or Bruce preparing a meal for 100+ guests and several of the rest of us serving and cleaning. After one of our visits, Sammy said, "I get a lot out of helping people, because that used to be me."



Sheila and the men are always **willing to travel to share information about Earl's Place** and the need for safe, supportive housing. Some of the opportunities we had last year included Arthur and Ray sharing their experiences with Emmanuel Baust United Church of Christ (UCC) and Towson Unitarian Universalist Church and Andre, Jacob and Carl attending the AIDS awareness service at Immanuel UCC.

The Tradition Continues...

The **2010 New Year's Day Resolution Run** was fantastic. Even though the morning started out wet, by the 2 p.m. start time the weather had cleared up and the runners and walkers were ready. Thank you again to our volunteers who worked the registration tables, set up, cooked, served, and cleaned up, the **over 500 participants** and Skinny Water for providing water to wash down the delicious chili and cornbread! Thanks to all of you, over \$20,000 was raised for our program to continue to assist the men as they reclaim their lives.



Former residents of Earl's Place prepared the post-race chili and cornbread.



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STAFF

Sheila Helgerson, Executive Director

James Carey, Case Manager

Mike Rambo, Resident Manager

Gary Champ, Relief Resident Manager

Ryan Collins, Outreach Coordinator and LVC Volunteer

Sophie, Official Greeter

Our Growing Family



In April, we welcomed **Jim Carey** as our case manager. Jim has over nine years of experience in the field, previously working at The Department of Social Services Homeless Unit. "Having previously worked the 'front lines' of homelessness, where individuals and families are struggling to find shelter and food for that day, coming to work at Earl's Place has been quite a change," Jim says. "Now, I find myself working with individuals who have surpassed the daily struggles of homelessness and are focusing on their future, taking incremental steps toward reaching their goals."

Sheila says she is thrilled

to have such a great team of co-workers. Champ, Mike and Jim can all be counted on to provide support to the residents.

Ryan Collins joined us as our outreach coordinator last August. As a full-time volunteer through Lutheran Volunteer Corps, Ryan came just in time to help pull together the Interfaith Forum on Homelessness Forum presented by Baltimore United Congregations, a coalition that Sheila co-chairs with Rev. Beth Cantrell. Ryan has also updated our website, assisted with revamping our print newsletter, and he developed and sends



out our e-newsletters. He will be sorely missed when his year of service ends in August of 2011.

In October, a stray cat began showing up in our backyard. She was emaciated and clearly had no one caring for her, so one of our residents took it upon himself to feed her. The next thing we knew, she had moved in! Thanks to the love and attention she gets here and a wellness visit to Brenner Animal Hospital, **Sophie** is now a much healthier weight, and she dutifully fulfills her chores by catching mice, greeting visitors and keeping us entertained.

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Thank you for providing hope and a home!

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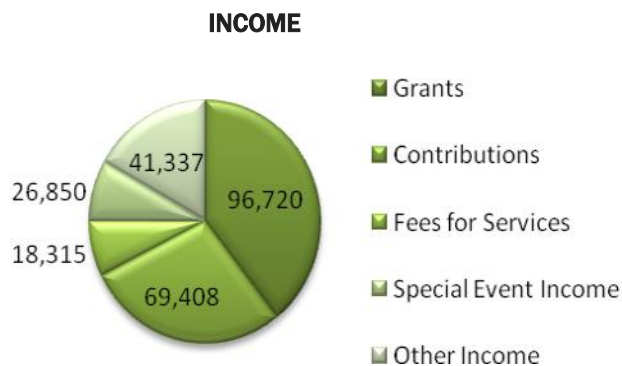
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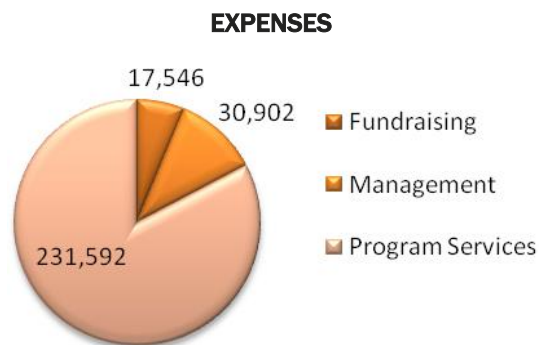
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2010 Financial Overview
 (unaudited)



2010 (unaudited)
 Total Income: \$252,630
 Total Expenses: 268,213
 Net Income: (\$15,583)



2009
 Total Income: \$267,532
 Total Expenses: \$285,141
 Net Income: (\$17,609)



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United Ministries: Earl's Place

2010 Annual Report


Our Mission

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.

Thank you for joining us in our commitment to helping men achieve better lives.

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Effective 6/10/10

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