



PAUL'S PLACE

Strengthening Lives, Transforming Community

PAULSPPLACEOUTREACH.ORG

FALL 2023

# The Pulse

## A Plan for the Future: Our Place on the Continuum

In our last newsletter, we announced the development of our new strategic plan and the priorities it identified. *Paul's Place's mission is to improve the quality of life in Southwest Baltimore*, so it is fitting that **Priority 1, Our Place on the Continuum, focuses on strengthening our ability to meet basic needs and facilitate critical steps toward stability.** This is at the heart of our work and the goal for each guest interaction. For those who turn to Paul's Place, having basic needs met can often lead to the steps toward a better life, and James's story on page two of this newsletter is proof of that. Through your encouragement and support, we hope you'll be part of the many such stories yet to come.

### GUESTS ARE SAYING...

"I love you all for the hand up! I am so grateful that at my lowest Paul's Place was there to remind me I do indeed matter in this world and I am not invisible."

— DONNA

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends of Paul's Place,

I write this on my last day as Executive Director of Paul's Place, having decided a few months ago that I was ready to retire. Like many milestones, retirement gives a chance for reflection, so I ask for your attention one last time as I share my thoughts and observations.



When I arrived in March of 2022, I knew that I was joining a dedicated and talented group of people fully committed to the mission of Paul's Place. The goal I set for myself was to support the staff as they worked each day to make life better for those seeking assistance to meet the basic needs of life.

By listening to and observing my new colleagues, the following became clear:

- Economic stability will always be elusive when wages are too low, childcare is too expensive, access to health care is limited, public transportation isn't reliable, and housing isn't affordable.
- Experiencing homelessness isn't a reflection of one's effort, but of the circumstances in which any one of us can find ourselves.
- And, the mental health and substance use disorders seen each day stem, so often, from the gap in basic needs and the stress that results from that reality.

The conversations throughout my tenure centered around the ideas and hopes my colleagues have for the future of Paul's Place and Southwest Baltimore. I begin retirement today certain about several things:

- Mark Mittelman, who becomes the Acting Executive Director after having served for two and half years as this organization's Deputy Director, has the skills, professional experience, and expertise to lead Paul's Place. (See page 2 for more about Mark.)
- His team remains fully committed to the mission of Paul's Place.
- The positive change that so many in Southwest Baltimore have experienced for over 40 years would not have happened without the donors and volunteers who built and sustained Paul's Place.
- I retire today with hope for and confidence in the future of Southwest Baltimore because of Paul's Place.

Thank you for the support you have shown me and Paul's Place. I am simply grateful.

Sincerely,

Tim Regan  
Executive Director

## JAMES'S STORY

September 8th was a day to remember for James. **After living unsheltered for three years then staying in a city shelter for almost two years, on that day he received the key to his own place!**

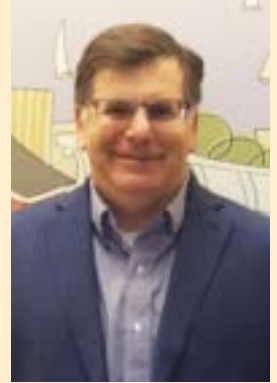
It was special, too, for the Paul's Place case managers who worked with him to achieve this important goal. We even provided essentials needed for his move-in, including furniture and household items. James first came to Paul's Place for our day programs, such as lunch, clothing, and showers. A year on, he turned to case management. **We helped him apply for SNAP food benefits, replace his health insurance card, search for a job, get dentures, and find stable housing! His commitment paid off: James received a Rapid Re-housing offer and worked with TIME Organization's housing coordinator to locate his new home in the Forest Park neighborhood.** This offer not only covers the security deposit, it also provides rental assistance for the first nine months, giving James time to get used to budgeting for rent so he'll be better prepared. But he won't be on his own, as case management support will continue through Paul's Place and TIME Organization to give James the best chance for success—and a more secure way of living!



Welcome home, James!

## Meet Mark Mittelman ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mark Mittelman knows what makes Paul's Place run. Deputy Director since May 2021, he is responsible for the operations at Paul's



Place. Programs related to case management, peer recovery, health and wellness, food, and clothing—most of what we do—he oversees it all. Now, with the departure of Tim Regan, Mark adds Acting Executive Director to that list. With his depth of knowledge of what makes Paul's Place operate effectively to meet our guests' needs, combined with 12 years as Executive Director of New Pathways, no one else could be better positioned for it.

A clinical social worker for over 27 years, Mark has experience in critical areas including strategic planning, grant writing, outcome measurement, leadership development, and building strong relationships with stakeholders. Just as important, he has always been an advocate for guests, colleagues, and programs. "The two and a half years I spent as Deputy Director gave me a deep understanding of the incredible need in Southwest Baltimore. Now, as Acting Executive Director, I look forward to carrying on the 40-year tradition of meeting guests where they are and finding ways to meet the growing need."

## Share the Spirit of the Season

This time of year, the spirit of gratitude and giving to others is on our minds and in our hearts, whatever holiday you celebrate. Paul's Place honors that feeling with **DINNER IN SPIRIT**—an opportunity for **YOU** to share the spirit of the season with our neighbors in Southwest Baltimore.

**With your gift to Paul's Place, you will make the season brighter for those who rely on us for a holiday meal and so much more!** Through our many services, we offer resources that lighten the burdens and improve the lives of thousands of adults and children each year, creating hope for the days to come. That's certainly cause for gratitude and celebration!

In this newsletter you will find content that shows the great difference we continue to make with your support, and the great need that continues to grow. **To ensure we have the resources to meet the rising need, please consider an increased or additional gift this year.** The more we share the spirit, the brighter the season will be for everyone!



Thanksgiving lunch at Paul's Place

### DONORS ARE SAYING...

"Thank you for the great work you do!"

— GAIL



# Volunteers Make it Happen!

Volunteers make things happen at Paul's Place!  
 Since our founding, we have relied on them to make our work possible, and **we cannot thank them enough.**



RESCO



Greenmount School



Becton Dickinson (BD)



Garrison Forest School

## We Need You!

Volunteers are always needed, for one day or a regular gig. Winter break is a great chance for students to earn service hours! **Feel the spirit of the season by doing something for others at Paul's Place!**

Special skills are needed in January for:

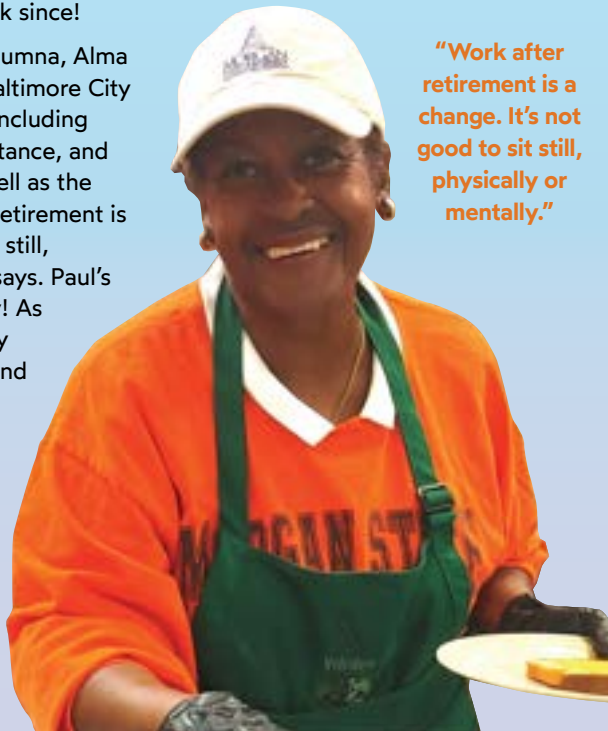
- Job Fair
- Resumé Clinic
- Beginner Computer Class
- Website Design

CONTACT VOLUNTEER MANAGER:  
 Chevonne Francois at [chevonnef@paulsplaceoutreach.org](mailto:chevonnef@paulsplaceoutreach.org)  
 or visit [paulsplaceoutreach.org/get-involved/](http://paulsplaceoutreach.org/get-involved/) today!

## VOLUNTEER VIGNETTE: ALMA BELL

Few people have been involved with Paul's Place as long as **Alma Bell**. When she heard what her friend and our founder, Helen Martien, planned to achieve in Pigtown in 1982, Alma was eager to help. She later reconnected to us through her church, St. David's in Roland Park, joining a small group that came every week. When the group suspended activities due to COVID, Alma decided to volunteer on her own — after all, the people who relied on Paul's Place would still need a meal. Alma has returned each week since!

A Morgan State University alumna, Alma had a 30-year career with Baltimore City in a variety of departments including anti-discrimination, job assistance, and anti-poverty programs, as well as the Mayor's office. "Work after retirement is a change. It's not good to sit still, physically or mentally," she says. Paul's Place helps to keep her busy! As part of the regular "Thursday Crew," Alma helps prepare and serve lunch and is the go-to person for making fresh salads. **We are certainly grateful that she chooses to continue our long-term relationship!**



**"Work after retirement is a change. It's not good to sit still, physically or mentally."**

## Winter Gear Needed

A kid walking to school. A woman waiting at a bus stop. A man with inadequate shelter. Freezing temperatures are a serious danger. **You can warm the heart and body of a neighbor in need!** We are still short of our goal of 500 winter coats by the end of December! Cold-weather clothing, hats, gloves, scarves, and boots also are in demand. Visit [paulsplaceoutreach.org/donate/](http://paulsplaceoutreach.org/donate/) for guidelines, links to our Amazon wish lists, or to schedule a drop-off.



Baker Donelson donation of coats

## VOLUNTEERS ARE SAYING...

**"You learn different things and abilities that you can apply later in life."**

— DEVAN  
 CRISTO REY STUDENT  
 CLASS OF 2025

# Increasing our Impact with Community Partners

**YAY, TEAM!** Last March, Paul's Place began working with a **GIVE Fellowship team from Business Volunteers Maryland**, a nonprofit that connects people, businesses, and nonprofits to strengthen the community. Each GIVE team paired with a nonprofit "client" to create strategies that build capacity and tackle issues to help them achieve goals. A video was created by each team about their nonprofit and then voted on at graduation in November. Our GIVE team won 1st place! The prize? A donation of more than \$8,000 to their nonprofit — lucky us! Paul's Place thanks Business Volunteers Maryland and our GIVE team for a wonderful experience and their generous support!



Our GIVE team (left to right): Megan Donahue, *Brown Advisory*; Chaitra Gowda, *Baker Donelson*; Meghan Culbertson, *Paul's Place*; Tim Thornton, *Fulton Bank*; Tyler Audet, *Aston Carter*; and Rachel McCue, *Humanim* (not pictured)

**A HAPPIER THANKSGIVING!** Nearly 200 students in Paul's Place's **After 3 program** received a pleasant surprise before Thanksgiving — a holiday food basket! Each group of After 3 students in all three elementary schools in our Pigtown neighborhood was "adopted" by an organization to make their family's holiday meal more special. Food baskets were donated by **Mercy High School** for George Washington Elementary, **The Calvert School** for Charles Carroll Barrister Elementary, and **Trinity Episcopal Church of Long Green** for Southwest Baltimore Charter School. We are thankful for their spirit of giving!



**RING THE DINNER BELL!** **Hephzibah Mission Foundation** has partnered with us to serve a *free dinner open to all every Thursday, 5:30PM-6:30PM, at Paul's Place*. From June through October, 783 dinners were served! We are grateful for their help in addressing hunger in our neighborhood!

**STUDENTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE!** **Baltimore Hebrew Congregation's 5th grade Sunday School class** is collaborating with Paul's Place on their projects about food-insecurity. We visited the class to discuss this challenge and its impact on the people who face it every day. The students made these warm scarves that we distributed to people experiencing homelessness!



## PARTNERS ARE SAYING...

"I had to take a client to Paul's Place and they were incredibly nice, efficient, helpful, and so quick... Bravo to the ladies who work in Case Management!"

— MARIA

## By the Numbers: JULY THROUGH OCTOBER

### DAY PROGRAMS



LUNCHES SERVED  
**11,672**



LAUNDRY LOADS DONE  
**402**



SHOWERS TAKEN  
**382**



VISITS TO MARKET PLACE FOR CLOTHING  
**914**

### GUEST SERVICES



SNAP APPLICATIONS  
**73**



VITAL DOCUMENT SERVICES  
**187**



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES  
**59**



HOUSING STABILIZATION SERVICES  
**12**



PEER RECOVERY ADVOCACY SERVICES-OUTREACH  
**135**

Based on this 4-month-period, this fiscal year\* **we expect an increase of 5,114 lunches, 169 visits for clothing, 98 vital document services, 22 housing stabilization services, and 78 peer recovery advocacy services during outreach** compared to fiscal year 2023.

\*Actual counts for the remaining fiscal year may vary due to a variety of factors.

**YOU can make sure that Paul's Place can respond to the increase by making a gift online at [paulsplaceoutreach.org/donateonline/](https://paulsplaceoutreach.org/donateonline/) or mailing a check in the enclosed response envelope. We are grateful for your support!**