



PAUL'S PLACE

Strengthening Lives, Transforming Community

PAULSPLACEOUTREACH.ORG

MARCH 2024

The Pulse

A Plan for the Future: Our Programming and Services

The last issue of *The Pulse* presented the first of four priorities in our new strategic plan, *Our Place on the Continuum*. This issue highlights Priority 2: **Our Programming and Services**. As a community resource that meets basic needs and facilitates steps toward stability, our focus is on **improving and expanding our capacity to provide those critical services, and strengthening our ability to bridge people to the next step**. Analysis of each program area will reveal where updates are needed, and development of additional partnerships that provide services we do not will ensure that our guests have every opportunity to achieve their goals. As our society experiences constant change, the needs of our neighbors grow and shift, too. *With your support, Paul's Place will be prepared to adapt to those changes.*

GUESTS ARE SAYING...

"It's a great place to go get things figured out with Case Managers."

— CARVILLE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends of Paul's Place,

When Tim Regan retired as Executive Director last fall, it presented an opportunity to step into that role, and I am grateful. *Continuing and deepening the work begun 40 years ago is an honor*. My career has given me many valuable experiences, and at each organization for which I worked there was a critical component to its success: the staff. *Paul's Place remains a trusted anchor institution for Southwest Baltimore because of the people who come to work each day with our mission to improve lives foremost in their minds.*



Since 2021, I have witnessed tremendous growth in both need and services. When I arrived in the middle of the COVID 19 pandemic, our resourceful staff had already implemented creative ways to deliver services to our guests. In the fall of 2022 we began developing a new strategic plan and, after careful review of programs, confirmed that the increased needs of the community required increased efforts. Significant progress has been made.

- **We added a second day of nursing care** through our partnership with the University of Maryland School of Nursing, and **we made our part-time peer recovery advocate full-time**. These expansions also supported the street outreach work that had greatly increased during the pandemic.
- Knowing that elementary school children had fallen behind, **we expanded our After 3 program to two and then to all three elementary schools in the neighborhood**. Reading and math scores and school attendance have all improved.
- In addition to helping with vital documents, employment, and housing, **our case management team has navigated the complexities of eviction prevention** to help families stay in their homes.
- **Our culinary training program graduated its 100th student** last month after two years of operating.
- While not an intentional expansion, **we served more meals last year than in the year before the pandemic, and that trend continues**. (See page 4 for the sobering numbers.)

You have made this work possible for over 40 years, and just as there have been challenges in the past, there will likely be more in the future. *The challenge we face now is the intersection of increases in the cost of food and basic supplies we need with increases in the number of neighbors who are turning to us because of those same increases. If you have been wondering if additional philanthropic support is needed, know that it is.* As you read this newsletter, please consider the difference we make for the many individuals and families who rely on us every day.

Thank you for your encouragement and support.

Sincerely,

Mark Mittelman
Acting Executive Director

A LETTER FROM BRUCE

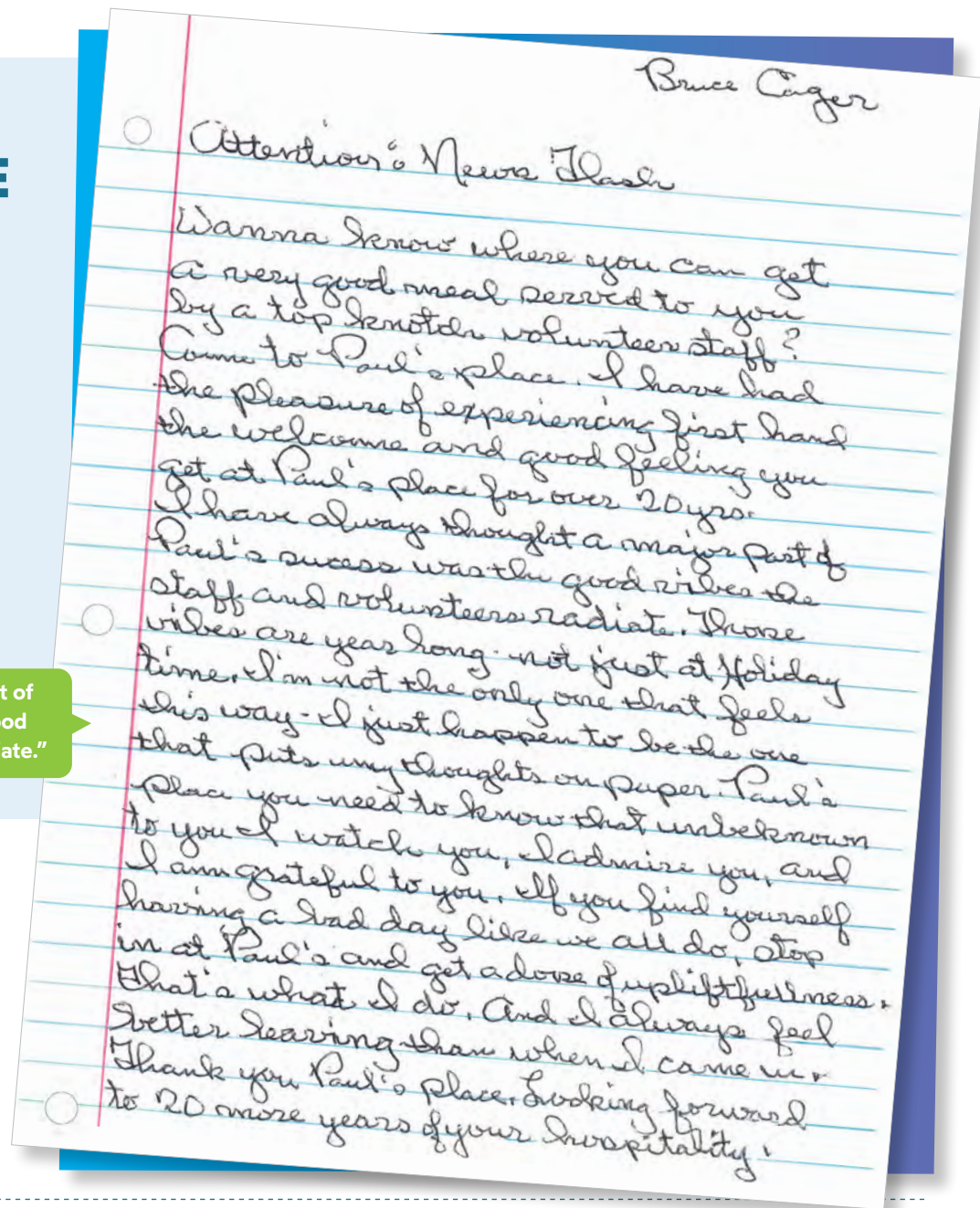
One January evening, **Bruce** came to Paul's Place for our weekly Thursday night dinner, provided in partnership with **Hephzibah Mission** since last June. As a regular guest for two decades, Bruce has been not only a recipient of our services, but a witness as well. That Thursday night, he decided to write this letter to share his experience and encourage others to "get a dose of upliftfullness" at Paul's Place. We are touched and gratified to have played such a positive role in Bruce's story for so many years!

"I have always thought a major part of Paul's [Place's] success was the good vibes the staff and volunteers radiate."

DONORS ARE SAYING...

"I really appreciate all the work that Paul's Place does for the city of Baltimore – it's a great organization for a great city."

— PRESTON C.
supports Paul's Place through recurring payroll deductions



A Rewarding Experience

Skeptical about whether you'll enjoy volunteering at Paul's Place? Worried it will be boring or a bummer? You don't have to take our word for it – just read what one of our President's Day volunteers had to say about her time here with her young son!



Thank you so much for giving me and my son such a rewarding volunteer experience yesterday. At first, he was unsure of what to expect, but your energy and enthusiasm during the morning meeting immediately made us feel so welcome. When you arm wrestled that high school kid (and won!), Eli turned to me and said, "ok, this is going to be fun!"

Your whole staff was so great with him, and it was a such a good call to put him in the

kitchen service line and give him a job to do. He had some great interactions with the guests, and it led to meaningful discussions at home about social justice.

We will absolutely be back next time he has a day off from school, and please keep us posted about weekend events too! I included some fun pictures of the happy volunteer.

All the best and thanks for what you do,

Rena



An enthusiastic thumbs-up from Eli!

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.**



Green Street Academy sophomores



Amazon



The Krauss Family



Cushman & Wakefield with our staff

VOLUNTEER VIGNETTE: CHIP MOREHEAD

More than a "regular," **Chip Morehead** is here four days a week – every week – to help in the kitchen in any way that's needed. Such a commitment of time is unusual, even for retirees, and we are thankful for the benefit that brings. But if you asked him, the benefit is entirely his: "I get so much more out of it than I put in." Being here, he says, "has completely changed my perspective in so many ways." Chip is grateful for the understanding he's gained by talking with our

guests – not just understanding of their situations and how they got there, but of himself, too. He appreciates that Paul's Place is a safe space where people can share their issues. "I've learned so much from everyone," he says.

Like some of our other helpers, Chip first became involved in the 1980s through a friend at his church, St. David's, volunteering on Sunday nights and making casseroles that the church provided every month. The pandemic put a pause on that until last May, and when he returned, he returned with gusto, four days a week ever since!

"I get so much more out of it than I put in."



We Need You!

We still need volunteers! Spring break is a chance for students to earn service hours, and Federal holidays are an opportunity for parents to share the experience with their children (see Rena's message on page 2). No experience necessary, but special skills can be put to good use! Handyman? Office skills? Website savvy? **Your help is needed!**

CONTACT VOLUNTEER MANAGER:
Chevonne Francois at chevonnef@paulsplaceoutreach.org or visit paulsplaceoutreach.org/get-involved/ today!

In-kind donations help us run.

Donated items stretch our budget. Some basics are always needed, like t-shirts, underwear, and toiletries. But there are many items you might never think of, so we created our Amazon wish lists. **Ordering from these lists makes the process easy for you, while ensuring we receive what's most needed!** For links to the lists, visit the Donate page on our website at paulsplaceoutreach.org/donate/ and scroll down to Guidelines for Donating Items.



Ellin & Tucker donated hygiene kits

VOLUNTEERS ARE SAYING...

"I thought the environment would have not been as positive as it was...some of the guests took time to ask me how my day was!"

— GINA M.
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Increasing our Impact with Community Partners

HELP FROM A RAVEN WHO CAN RELATE.

That's what **Arthur Maulet, Baltimore Ravens cornerback**, brought to Paul's Place on January 8 with his "Coats and Cuts" event, sponsored by **Morgan Stanley**, to give out winter coats and treat guests to a haircut! Fellow Raven Bravvion Roy also was there to lend support. *Maulet's drive to help others is truly personal; it grew out of his own experience with homelessness after 2005's Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.* He understands how hard it can be to find stability and feel "normal." Other cities like Baltimore, where the effects of poverty impact so many communities, also have benefited from this initiative. We thank Arthur Maulet and Morgan Stanley for their generosity!



HOLIDAYS ARE SWEETER THANKS TO CORPORATE PARTNERS!

Guests of Paul's Place enjoyed a sweet surprise at Christmas and Valentine's Day with candy canes and conversation hearts with messages of encouragement attached courtesy of **Baker Donelson**, and Valentine's Day baked goods from **Gilbane**. We are grateful to these and other partners for their tremendous support!

PRATT POP-UP LIBRARY AT PAUL'S PLACE!

While the Washington Village branch of the **Enoch Pratt Library** is closed for renovations, *some library services are available here at Paul's Place!* On Mondays and Wednesdays, 10AM-12PM and 2PM-4PM, you can browse a selection of books and DVDs, pick up books on hold, and get assistance from library staff. Thanks to this partnership between two community resources, library patrons don't have to miss out!



The Doldrums of Giving

Like the doldrums of winter, Paul's Place is in the doldrums of giving.

The rush of end-of-tax-year donations has long passed, but as our numbers show, the issues that shadow our community are still growing. *Paul's Place is challenged to keep up with the increasing need without increased resources.* Despite the program expansions already made (see page 1), more must be done. *Your gift to Paul's Place can help us meet the need!*

MAKE A SECURE GIFT ONLINE AT

paulsplaceoutreach.org/donateonline/

or use our reply envelope. **Your support means everything to the individuals and families we serve – thank you!**

By the Numbers: JANUARY-DECEMBER 2023

DAY PROGRAMS



LUNCHES SERVED
36,174



LAUNDRY LOADS CLEANED
1,493



SHOWERS TAKEN
1,257



VISITS TO MARKET PLACE FOR CLOTHING
2,589

GUEST SERVICES



UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED BY GUEST ENGAGEMENT
905



VITAL DOCUMENT SERVICES
563



VISITS TO ONSITE NURSES' CLINIC
534



PEER RECOVERY ADVOCACY SERVICES-COMMUNITY OUTREACH
336

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
249



CULINARY TRAINING PROGRAM STUDENTS GRADUATED
42

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

It means that Paul's Place must do more every day. In 2023, we saw a significant rise in the need for our programs and services. Over our 2022 totals, Paul's Place:

- provided **30 more individuals** with guest engagement services (3.5% increase),
- received **193 more visits** to Market Place for clothing (8% increase),
- conducted **176 more vital document services** (45% increase),
- provided **52 more peer recovery advocacy services** through community outreach (18% increase),
- graduated **5 more students** from our culinary training program (14% increase),
- and, most revealing of all, served **8,749 more lunches (32% increase)!**