

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### The difference a smile makes...

The men of Christopher Place Employment Academy (CPEA) are grateful recipients of Dr. James Tanneyhill's free dental care offered every Wednesday at Our Daily Bread Employment Center (ODBCEC).

After years in private practice, Dr. Tanneyhill retired in 2012 and partnered with ODBEC, to provide his dental services free of charge to those less fortunate.

"I live my life in accordance to the Jesuit motto of 'Men for Others,'" said Dr. Tanneyhill, a graduate of Loyola Blakefield High School and Loyola University.

During his weekly office hours, Dr. Tanneyhill greets his patients by name and gently relieves their pain by filling cavities, repairing cracked teeth, fitting them with partial dentures and removing decaying teeth. Once a month, cleanings are provided by a dental hygienist.

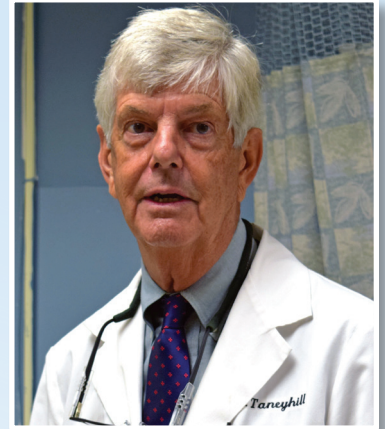
Dr. Tanneyhill donated all the equipment for the dental office and assisted ODBEC in obtaining a grant from Healthcare for the Homeless to purchase an x-ray machine.

"His work transforms lives," said ODBEC Program Director, Penny Lewis. "Many of our Christopher Place men have lived for years with missing and decaying teeth. They are truly transformed when they receive this dental care. Their smile gives them confidence to get their lives on track."

Dr. Tanneyhill and his wife, Karen, are members of St. John the Evangelist Long Green Valley in Hydes, Maryland. Through his parish, he volunteers with Baltimore for Haiti to bring dental care to St. John's sister parish in Haiti. He has travelled to Haiti more than 20 times.

In their free time, the Tanneyhills visit their adult children and grandchildren who live in Dublin, Ireland; San Francisco, California; and Greenville, South Carolina.

Perhaps because of his towering stature or his years in military service, Dr. Tanneyhill's family affectionately refers to him as Chief. But to his ODBEC patients, he's the capable and kind dentist who gives them the confidence to smile.



Dr. James Tanneyhill, DDS

## IT'S A FACT In 2017...

**CPEA** trained 49 formerly homeless men for careers – 36 obtained jobs, 82% make \$12 per hour or more.  
CHRISTOPHER PLACE EMPLOYMENT ACADEMY

**ODBEC** assisted 544 clients with employment services – 282 secured jobs, 43% make \$12 per hour or more.  
OUR DAILY BREAD EMPLOYMENT CENTER

**MEALS** 242,185 nourishing meals were served by ODBEC staff and volunteers.

# FROM FARM TO FOOD PANTRY

*First Fruits Farms supports ODBEC to feed people in need*

It starts with the gift of fertile fields and plantings and ends with a feast for the eyes and tastebuds.

The lush fields of Freeland, Maryland are home to First Fruits Farm, a non-profit Christian ministry that donates all of its produce to feed the hungry, including those who receive meals at Our Daily Bread Employment Center.

On a hot August afternoon, Michael Holland, a Christopher Place graduate and a newly hired cook for ODBEC, joined Dennis Schmitt, a parishioner from St. Francis Xavier in Hunt Valley, Maryland, and a Board Member of First Fruits, to unload sacks of green beans, fresh corn, boxes of tomatoes and dozens of eggs into the kitchen.

This year, the Farm will harvest two million pounds of tomatoes, green beans, sweet corn, cabbage, carrots, apples, onions, potatoes, eggs and beef. All of the produce goes to large and small food banks and soup kitchens throughout Maryland and in surrounding states.

The Farm is the brainchild of Rick and Carol Bernstein who



Michael Holland (l), a Christopher Place graduate and cook for ODBEC, assists Dennis Schmitt of First Fruits Farms, in unloading the produce at ODBEC.

“ God wants your availability, not necessarily your ability. ”

Rick Bernstein



Rick Bernstein

started it 20 years ago after Rick retired from a career in finance.

Initially, the Farm consisted of a third of an acre. It has grown to 200 acres on six different sites. The Farm is named after a Biblical reference calling upon all people to devote the “first fruits” to God and the poor.

Just recently, the Archdiocese of Baltimore, which owns acreage in Sparks, Maryland, donated 25 acres and contributed \$50,000 for supplies. That land was slated to be used as a Catholic cemetery, but Archbishop Lori wanted to provide the land to First Fruits to help the poor, according to the Office of the Archdiocese.

“Rick is an amazing guy,” said Mr. Schmitt. “His farm brings like-minded people together to cultivate the earth and serve the poor.”

The farm relies solely upon volunteers from religious and community organizations. “We’re not farmers by trade,” said Mr. Schmitt. He quoted Rick (Bernstein) as saying “God wants your availability, not necessarily your ability.”

## BLESSINGS!



FROM THE DESK OF Penny Lewis, Director of ODBEC

## The Power of Transformation

*Believing in someone’s ability gives them confidence to transform their life.*

The men in Christopher Place Employment Academy (CPEA) grapple with many significant challenges including substance abuse, incarceration, homelessness, inadequate education and unemployment.

Through CPEA, the participants learn to emphasize their assets and improve life skills, behavioral modification, reading and math skills, GED preparation, addiction recovery, computers, healthy relationships, parenting, leadership, occupational research and career development training.

Christopher Place is a two-year program. The average class size is 55 men per year. The first stage is assessment and preparation, the second level is referred to as academy, the third is job

readiness and the fourth phase is applying for work. Of those that graduate, 86% hold a job for at least one year.

Our program provides structure, routine and training. During the first 30 days of their stay, the men refrain from using their cell phones.

The first 60 days are the hardest. They must comply with our schedule, stay on campus, take classes and do chores. This creates an atmosphere where each man can focus – unhindered by outside distractions.

Along with the ability to focus, we build confidence by repairing broken glasses, arranging for dental visits, writing resumes, holding mock interviews, assisting them to obtain a driver’s license, tracking their birth certificate, modifying child support and continually saying “Yes, you can move your life forward.”

# Welcome Chef Robert Blanchard

**BLOWS INTO BALTIMORE FROM THE WINDY CITY OF CHICAGO**

**to serve as Chef for ODBEC and CPEA**



Chef Robert Blanchard

**ROBERT BLANCHARD WORKED AS A CHEF FOR A DECADE** in Hyde Park, Chicago, the former neighborhood of President Barack Obama. In 2016, he moved to Baltimore and began working at ODBEC in 2017 as chef.

## Q. What brought you to Catholic Charities and ODBEC?

*I was interviewing near ODBEC and I saw this long line of people. The staff at the front desk told me about ODBEC's mission. They needed a cook. I applied online and here I am today.*

## Q. How did you get into working as a chef?

*I trained at Cordon Bleu in Chicago, which was originally called the Chicago Hospitality Institute. My first position was at the Marriott as a sous chef in 1992.*

## Q. What attracted you to being a chef?

*I was raised by three generations of Southern women – my mother, grandmother and great grandmother. They were always in the kitchen and their love of cooking passed on to me. It's a gift.*

## Q. You do a fantastic job of meal presentation. Why?

*Eating and dining should be an experience. Your first bite should blow your mind! I've made Caesar salads, chicken, mashed potatoes and bread pudding for more than 600 people. It was a challenge, but I did it. They loved it. I've even received a standing ovation from the CPEA men!*

## Q. What is your day to day experience at ODBEC?

*My daily goal is to ensure that people receive an enjoyable and nourishing meal. In the Christopher Place dining room, we journey the world with food – Mexican, Asian or good 'ole American barbecue.*

## Q. What is the best thing about your work?

*The CPEA men look forward to meals. It offers them a break from chores, classes, study and searching for work. They are training for a better life, and it's my job to energize them through food.*

*Working with the guys at Christopher Place is gratifying. The men assist me in the kitchen which allows me to make the food they love, like bread or banana pudding.*

*And I share life's lessons and listen to them when they need to talk. A very wise man, my pastor, supported me during difficult times in my life and I just try to pass it forward.*



Chef Robert Blanchard hard at work preparing a meal for the men at CPEA.

## Q. How do life experiences assist you to accomplish the work you do today?

*I've faced serious health issues. I kicked renal cancer, lived through open heart surgery, and I was wounded by random gunfire in Chicago. Despite those challenges, I'm here for a reason and that's to do good for others when I can.*

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CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL



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# OUR DAILY BREAD EMPLOYMENT CENTER

CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN ACTION

## Catholic Charities of Baltimore

Communications Department  
320 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201-4421

Address service requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Baltimore, MD  
Permit No. 5595

### SAVE THE DATES:

- October 7: Ten Oaks Cup Polo Match for ODBEC
- October 10: Ryder Cup Golf Tournament
- October 11: Catholic Charities Annual Celebration
- November 8: My Sister's Place Women's Center 35th Anniversary Breakfast
- November 10: Irish Singer, Declan O'Rourke, Concert
- December 14: Christmas Festival at the Baltimore Basilica
- March 10, 2018: A Taste of Maryland – ODBEC Annual Dinner and Auction at the B&O Railroad Museum

## ODBEC WELCOMES STATE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers make it possible for ODBEC to serve countless individuals and allow them to realize their potential. Through Governor Hogan's Day of Service in September and October, hundreds of state employees

from the Maryland Departments of Education, Mass Transit, Human Services, Labor and the Transit Authority, will volunteer at ODBEC. We welcome them to our family of volunteers.

## WISH LIST

Your generosity makes a difference in the lives of ODBEC participants.

Please consider volunteering, offering financial support and making in-kind donations:

### ODBEC Wish List:

- Breakfast cereal and oatmeal
- Coffee and coffee creamer
- Napkins
- Family-sized frozen macaroni and cheese casseroles (Visit our webpage: The Classic Casserole Program)
- Tea bags with strings
- Sugar, salt and pepper

- Canned vegetables (XL)
- Pasta (large quantities)
- Ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise
- Salad dressing
- Cooking spray
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Canned soup
- Spaghetti sauce
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Gravy mix
- Dish detergent

### CPEA Wish List:

- Bedding (twin sheets, pillows, pillow cases and blankets)
- Shower shoes (flip flops)
- Boxer briefs (all sizes)
- Undershirts (sizes L, XL, XXL)

- Dress and white socks
- Men's shirts (large sizes)
- Personal hygiene and toiletry items
- Men's shoes sizes 10-13

### Deliveries:

Donations are accepted seven days a week from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Enter through ODBEC's rear parking lot to access delivery entrance. Push call button to enter gated parking. Unload donations at delivery door on the left. For assistance, press intercom button at delivery entrance door. There's no need to call ahead unless you need assistance or if you have questions. Our number is 667-600-3000.

## SAVE THE DATE TEN OAKS CUP POLO MATCH

12th annual event benefiting ODBEC

Saturday, October 7

Congressional Polo Club  
14660 Hughes Rd  
Poolesville, MD, 20837

For tickets, go to  
[cc-md.org/polo](http://cc-md.org/polo)

Inspired by the Gospel mandates to love, serve and teach, Catholic Charities provides care and services to improve the lives of Marylanders in need.

# CATHOLIC CHARITIES

CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL



## Our Daily Bread Employment Center

725 Fallsway  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
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of Central Maryland  
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