

Reclaiming self-determination, stability, and economic dignity

WEARING DONATED THREE-PIECE SUITS

before an audience of volunteer teachers and fellow classmates, seven men celebrated the completion of their first three months enrolled in the Christopher Place Employment Academy, a long-term residential program based at Our Daily Bread. It's in this portion that they take an intensive series of educational classes.

All of the men are re-engaging in the community after years in prison, substance use programs, or homelessness.

They range from 27 to 47 years old, and share the common struggle of a complicated life, from being abandoned at the age of 12 to escaping religious persecution in Iran to spending 25 years in prison.

Hadi Sadeghiasl found himself living in a Baltimore shelter after struggling to create a base in the city.

"I wanted to work and take my life back," said Sadeghiasl.

An adviser at Healthcare for the Homeless told him to enroll in Christopher Place at Our Daily Bread.

The first three months at Christopher Place, he said, allowed him to "slow down and think before he acts."

He also changed his outlook to remain positive thanks to teachers and staff.



Hadi Sadeghiasl receives his certificate from case manager and Christopher Place graduate Jerry Pryor.

He credits that positive outlook with helping him secure a job cleaning floors at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

"It is how you deal with failure – by continuing to try – that leads you to success," Our Daily Bread Employment Center Program Director Lee Martin told the men as they graduated from the three-month education portion of the program.

Repeatedly, the men will tell you that coming to Christopher Place is the best decision they've ever made. For 18 months, they volunteer with Our Daily Bread; participate in classes including computer, math, English, fitness, cooking; attend support groups to manage substance abuse; and receive mental health counseling. They can stay six months more, but the 18-month program prepares them for a lifetime of drug-free self-sufficiency. ■

For more information, visit cc-md.org/cpea



Graduates of the 79th Capstone Class of Christopher Place Employment Academy, including (l-r): Tarrey Saunders, Hadi Sadeghiasl, Vernon Smith, Corey Williams, Qymaine Harden, Dartanian Byrd, and Charles Cole, present a mosaic they created as part of their hands-on learning in Art with a Heart.

April

NATIONAL

Like mother, like daughter



DRESSED IN THEIR DISTINCTIVE, hand-embroidered green aprons, Randallstown mother and daughter **Debbie Scott and **Donna Stockett** wipe tables, welcome diners, and serve a hot lunch**

to hundreds of guests every Tuesday. It's a routine unbroken since 2011.

Donna first came to Our Daily Bread in 2000 when volunteering with her employer at the time, MBNA. Smitten with the spirit and people of Our Daily Bread, Donna returned on her own as often as she could. Finally, in 2011, she retired from her full-time position and made volunteering at the meal program a priority. She also enticed her mother, Debbie, to join her each week.

What attracts Donna and Debbie to the meal program? They'll tell you in unison that they love helping people and that there is no place like Our Daily Bread. ■

Members of **The Alliance for Catholic Charities**, a young professionals group, volunteer at Christopher Place Employment Academy. (l-r) Kristen King, Callai Reed, Jack Linehan and fellow volunteer Keith.



Dominic and Concetta Corriere (right) along with Donald Welch and his wife Brenda Ashworth.

Remembering Dominic Corriere

February 4, 1938 – March 10, 2019

“ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS about Dominic Corriere was his devotion to Our Daily Bread,” said Dom’s lifelong friend and fellow Friday volunteer, Don Welch. “He came every Friday for more than 18 years. Dom worked every week in the kitchen making sure the food was delicious and healthy. He was respected and loved by all he encountered. He was also funny, warm and welcoming.”

Just hours before his passing, Catholic Charities Executive Director Bill McCarthy spoke of Dom’s devotion to Our Daily Bread Employment Center at the 2019 Taste of Maryland dinner, an event that he sponsored for many years.

Nick Rudomin, volunteer manager at Our Daily Bread, has very fond memories of Dom.

“Mr. Corriere had great expectations from Catholic Charities and always asked us to be better, because he cared so deeply for those we served,” Nick said. “We will miss him, and think of him every Friday, when he used to serve with us.”

We are grateful to Dom, his family, and all who have supported Our Daily Bread with him in the decades that he was part of our family. ■



Dominic Corriere with fellow Friday volunteer

To volunteer, call 667-600-3438 or register online at cc-md.org/volunteer

VOLUNTEER MONTH

THE INSPIRATION OF “UNCLE BERNIE”

Our Daily Bread’s 97-year-old volunteer

By Nick Rudomin, Our Daily Bread Employment Center Volunteer Coordinator

BERNIE FARACE HAS BEEN VOLUNTEERING

at Our Daily Bread Employment Center for over 20 years. While that’s impressive for anyone, it’s especially impressive for Bernie who, at 97 years old, is the center’s oldest volunteer.

“Uncle Bernie,” as everyone tends to call him, volunteers the fourth Wednesday of each month with his niece, Marion. Before his shift, he will sit down with a cup of coffee and indulge anyone with conversation. Then, he plates bread and dessert for the guests. It’s a gift that seems more special because Uncle Bernie is doing it.

Then after each shift, Uncle Bernie will ask, “How many did we do today?” Much to everyone’s delight, he’s always surprised by the number, saying: “Is that it? Thought we might be busier.”

Bernie started volunteering with his late wife, Eleanor. “She used to make tuna macaroni and cheese for the guests,” Bernie recalls. “I come here still to honor her.”



“Uncle Bernie” Farace with his niece Marion Romans

Uncle Bernie has a soft spot in my heart. If I’m lucky enough to make it to my 90s, I hope I am mobile enough to do something like Bernie. I used to think my 92-year-old grandfather reading a book every day was impressive, but then I met Uncle Bernie.

Uncle Bernie has no plans to slow down anytime soon. Volunteers are inspirational at any age, and all have their stories to tell. But Uncle Bernie reminds us you can make a difference at any age. ■



Confirmation students from **St. Mary of the Assumption in Pylesville, Maryland** assist with serving guests on the weekend. In addition to serving food, designated volunteers are appointed to go table to table greeting guests.



GREETINGS FROM LEE MARTIN

Our Daily Bread
Employment Center
Program Director

I’M TRULY HONORED to be the new program director of Our Daily Bread Employment Center. As a Calvert Hall alumnus and the former director of the Weinberg Housing and Resource Center, I am humbled to be part of an amazing, passionate, dedicated, mission-driven staff that help to make **Our Daily Bread more than a meal.**

Marylanders in need may start at breakfast or lunch here, but then they have the opportunity to experience a wide variety of services such as mail and phone service, our computer lab, workforce development with job placement, benefits enrollment, parole and probation, Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics

Anonymous meetings, legal record expungements, dental care, and behavioral health services. For men transitioning from homelessness and other significant challenges, Christopher Place Employment Academy is the ideal opportunity to make a change in their life.

I plan on continuing the long-standing traditions of Our Daily Bread Employment Center, as well expanding and improving services to include case management, a new hard-skills training program, and additional support for individuals at Christopher Place Employment Academy who have substance use disorders.

I value your support and look forward to meeting you. ■

The difference *you* make

Volunteers and supporters served **238,123 meals** last year at Our Daily Bread Employment Center. Thank you!

Diamante Savino, 17-year volunteer



Job programs help people with advanced degrees, too

LOOKING FOR WORK? You'll want Darlene Dunn, job readiness trainer at Our Daily Bread's Work 4 Success, on your side. Dunn relishes the chance to help job candidates find steady work and hone their skills.

Each person's work experience and education within Work 4 Success varies drastically. Cheryl Paschall enrolled in Work 4 Success in October 2018, immediately after she was laid off from her government job. She had work experience, a bachelor's degree in psychology, and a master's in public administration. Still, she needed a résumé upgrade and mock interview training.

With a goal to find work within a month, she began Work 4 Success on October 8, 2018.

"She was open minded and possessed a lot of skills," said Dunn.

Paschall participated in mock interviews and graduated on schedule October 18. She met with an employment specialist on October 22 and gathered job leads from various government agencies throughout Maryland. On November 21, she was hired full-time by the Maryland State Department of Health and began work. ■



Cheryl Paschall (l) with Our Daily Bread Job Readiness Trainer Darlene Dunn

Our Daily Bread
Employment Center

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667-600-3400

PLEASE GIVE NOW!



A BIG THANK YOU

to all of the guests, sponsors, and committee who helped to make the Taste of Maryland Annual Dinner and Auction a great success. The evening raised more than **\$282,000** to support the life-changing work of Our Daily Bread Employment Center. View photos of the event at cc-md.org/tasteofmdphotos2019. ■