



December 2015

Providing Hope by Supporting Recovery

Dear Friends:

What do you need to make this a memorable holiday season?

- Lydia needed a chance to reconnect with her teenage children.
- Joanie, an orphan in her early 20's, needed to know she wasn't alone in the world.
- Rick needed special support after a workplace injury. Mark needed a safe place to recover from surgery.
- Conrad needed more structure to support his continued recovery. Connie needed to learn more about codependency.
- Lindsey needed a safe place to heal after the death of a friend.
- Amanda needed to discover the depth of her disease without judgment. Kelly needed to remain as far from her family as possible
- Tarik needed to own his part in recovery and face entitlement issues. Kathleen needed a path forward without parental interference.
- Tommy needed to prove himself - not to his family this time - but to himself.



Here at James' Place we provide financial support for those needing continuing care.

Many of us may have a lovely list of things we'd like to receive to make our holiday memorable. Others need a safe haven. This is what we do at James' Place.

Now that the holidays are here, please remember James' Place for your holiday giving. To better understand where your gifts go, please read "After Detox and After Treatment" below. Make the world safe for those working hard to be contributing members of society.



Donations may be made via PayPal through our website www.jamesplaceinc.org/get-involved/donate. If you prefer, send a check to James' Place Inc., 8325 Fall Chill Court, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043.

On behalf of all our grantees and those to come, thank you for your generosity!

We wish you and your loved ones a memorable holiday and truly blessed New Year!

Barbara Allen
Jim's mom, Bill's sister, Amanda's aunt

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After Detox and After Treatment - What's Next?

The road into substance use disorder is rarely a short or straight route. There is much to unravel, to let go of. Then the relearning...the rebuilding begins. The downward spirals often sound similar but the path to wholeness varies greatly. There is no one-size-fits-all solution. There are common denominators and money is almost always a problem. Merely writing checks is too simplistic as "the answer". One focus is sober/transitional housing needs.

We collaborate with various treatment and sober/transitional programs, getting to know counselors, establishing relationships and trust first and foremost. Donor dollars are precious and need to be invested wisely.

When James' Place receives a scholarship application, we already know the source. Knowing the treatment program and the sober/transitional house, we invest time getting to know the applicant. With confidentiality agreements in hand, we establish a strong collective understanding of the needs of each applicant. Are they doing what they need to further their recovery process? Do they have a good grasp on their next steps - not only a month out but six months...five years? How strong is their support system that will help insure success in the long term?



What constitutes a scholarship for sober/transitional housing? The most common is the need for a security deposit and two weeks of rent. This averages \$450 per person.

Typically an applicant has burnt many bridges, has immediate financial demands. i.e. vehicle repair/inspection, insurance payments, court fees. Women often have a more difficult time getting jobs, are paid less and have additional medical expenses. All men and women seeking sober housing are broke. Money for food, for bus fare...for the basic needs of life is very either limited or non-existent. Housing? Ouch! Some have employment; all are required to seek immediate employment.

When they find sober housing but have no means of a scholarship, they start out behind, in the negative. Providing two weeks of rent allows for breathing room. This helps them know they matter - that others care by donating to provide a safe roof overhead. Are there times when a bit more support is needed? In some cases, yes and we extend the weekly rent support for a week or two.

Do we approve every application? No. Sometimes along with the counselors and/or sober house managers we determine a candidate is not being realistic. Perhaps by denying their application more growth is discovered than if they had been approved.

The majority of our recipients are working hard to be independent. They have effective plans in place and are out every single day either working or seeking full time employment. They are freed up to attend Intensive Outpatient Treatment (IOP), support meetings and work their recovery plans.

There have been other types of scholarships granted, too. Rick was doing very well 2 ½ years into his sobriety when he was injured at work. His employer failed to follow the workplace injury laws of the state resulting in Rick's unpaid rent. A lawyer was engaged; the sober house needed some assurance of his continued contribution towards his rent. Working with the house manager and lawyer, we provided a scholarship ensuring Rick could remain in his home while the litigation was completed. He was doing everything

right; he could have lost his place and his sobriety through no fault of his own. James' Place was glad to help keep him in his safe recovery zone.

James' Place also accepts applications for educational scholarships and emergency repair needed by sober/transitional houses. Typically run on very lean budgets, a water leak, a broken staircase or other immediate safety concern can put residents in jeopardy. Being able to get an applicant back in school or repair a water heater keeps the wheels of sobriety moving forward.

In Their Own Words

From two of James' Place scholarship recipients...

Hello Barbara,

It's been a while since I wrote and I apologize for that. But I wanted to let you know that I'm 4 months clean now and I've never had so much hope. I've been paying my rent and it's almost 100% debt free and paid back. I'm working at Sports Authority and last month I was the top sales associate in the region. I've also applied for a scholarship to culinary arts school and am waiting on a reply. I want you to know without James Place and your personal support none of this would have been possible. I have court Friday and although nervous, I'm truly in a spiritual place to deal with whatever happens. I hope all is well with you and I'll be letting you know about good things to come in the future.

Much love, Conrad

Miss Barbara,

I would like to thank you and James Place for the help financially and for the many services that you offer. It is with sincere thanks from my heart to know there is (sic) people who understand the pain and misery of addiction. I plan on donating to James Place here in the near future and also attending the rally near the mall. Please stay in contact as I will also.

Best always, Rick

News and Events

A National Night of Conversation.

[Facing Addiction](#), along with [Dr. Mehmet Oz](#) and [Drugs Over Dinner](#), sponsored a national awareness project on November 19th called "A National Night of Conversation".

Although November 19 has passed, you can still have a conversation about addiction with the people around their dinner tables. The Dr. Oz Show team developed an excellent parental discussion guide to help with the conversation. It can be found at www.doctoroz.com. The guide was created with assistance from Facing Addiction, SAMHSA, NIDA, and the National Council on Behavioral Health.



Now it's time to fill the empty plate with your conversations; the dinner is not about food but about taking part in the new national dialogue around finding solutions for the addiction crisis.

Whether your conversations take place in a restaurant, a school or other public venue, or simply around your family's kitchen table, please talk. Your meal-time conversation could be the most important one you have all year! Even Dr. Oz had a family talk; he writes about it [here](#) and you can watch it [here](#)!

Wristbands: No Shame or Blame - Just Love®

These popular wristbands are a means of sharing hope, respect and compassion with others. With a society oriented to shaming and stigmatizing that which scares the uninformed, we choose to spread hope, dignity and respect. To order wristbands, click here:

<http://jamesplaceinc.org/get-involved/wristband-order>



James' Place Inc., a 501(C)3 nonprofit, provides financial support for those needing assistance towards long term recovery. Through our "Shatter the Stigma" initiative, we embrace the work of advocacy and education necessary for hope.

www.jamesplaceinc.org



www.shatterthestigma.com

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