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AJW NEWS

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF AT JACOB'S WELL, INC.

*current STATS >>>*

On January 25, 2011, the City of Baltimore yielded a count of 4,094 homeless individuals.

That's more than four times the number of beds at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

In 2010, programs for those experiencing homelessness in Baltimore served 23,902 people.

In 2010, the average attendance per game at Oriole Park at Camden Yards was 21,662.

In Fiscal Year 2009, there were 20,085 occasions on which people were refused shelter in Baltimore City due to lack of space or funds.

That number of people could fill the Comcast Center for a Terps basketball game.

For More Information Visit:
www.journeyhomebaltimore.org/

Journey Home Baltimore

As the weather turns colder and I put on my gloves before going outside, sometimes I remember a person that I met almost 20 years ago.

At that time, I volunteered with a soup kitchen in downtown Baltimore. One experience that I will never forget involved a homeless man whom I will call Joe and occurred during the coldest part of January. Joe came to the soup kitchen for food and decided that he wanted to stay outside behind the building. So, each night he would bed down with his winter coat. Some of us contributed gloves and other items to keep him warm. For some reason, Joe was not able to speak. He made sounds and said a few words, but they didn't make sense. Joe seemed to feel a connection with the soup kitchen.

There was a continual debate among the staff about whether to call the police about Joe, but he wasn't causing any harm and the administration was afraid that something might happen to him in the prison system. However, we finally reached a stretch of extremely cold weather (temperatures in the single digits) and the administration had no choice. The police picked Joe up and tried to find someone to help him. They happened to check their Missing Persons roster and found the description of a missing man which seemed to match Joe's description. The missing person did indeed turn out to be Joe and his friends came and picked him up and brought him home.

This story goes a full circle. Joe, you see, was a Catholic priest, who suffered from mental illness. He had neglected to take his medication, became disoriented and went out on the streets. The soup kitchen triggered something in his memory and it caused him to want to stay there. Once he was back on his medication, the illness and its symptoms diminished. I met Joe twice, once as a homeless man in a worn winter coat and then 4 months later when Joe was serving as a volunteer, helping homeless people as a Catholic priest at that same soup kitchen.

No one chooses to be mentally ill and homeless, especially during a cold Baltimore winter. And it is virtually impossible for someone to overcome mental illness or homelessness on their own. These folks desperately need the lifeline that At Jacob's Well extends to them. This is why I and the other members of the Board volunteer and support our organization and why it has continued to operate for 25 years. With your help during this holiday season, we can continue to assist people like the man that I met so long ago.

Sincerely,
Fred Trenkle,
AJW Board President



Transitions >>>**In Loving Memory****AJW Remembers Victor Mason (1958-2011)**

On September 15, Victor Mason, a staff member, friend and former resident of At Jacobs Well passed away. Victor performed maintenance duties for our properties and was well known and loved by his fellow staff members, our residents, our volunteers, members of the Board of Directors and friends. In July 2005, one of our houses, 333 E. 25th Street, was renamed "Victor's Home" in his honor.



Victor Troy Mason was born February 11, 1958 in Washington, DC; he was the seventh of eight children born to the late Romaine E. Mason. While battling mental illness and spending several years living on the street, he eventually settled in Baltimore where he met Sister Margo Thomas, who helped him find the proper support he needed to cope with his illness. Shortly after, he proudly graduated from our transitional housing program and obtained employment with At Jacobs Well. Victor was a "man among men". He was a quiet and enduring presence that brought a sense of hope and comfort to those afflicted with various maladies and troubles. He listened more than he spoke; and expressed true empathy for those who were suffering and in pain. Victor gave of himself unselfishly and seemingly chose to serve God by "loving his neighbor" in a most compassionate way. We honor Victor, as he was a true and genuine embodiment of the Good and Loving spirit of Christ. Because of the life he lived we are confident that Victor is now watching over us in heaven. **May he rest in peace.**

**WINTER WISH LIST**

Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Household Cleaners
Disposable Latex Gloves (Large)
Dish Detergent
Bug Spray
Large and Small Trash Bags
Twin Sized Box Spring and Mattress

THANK YOU!!!!

VISIT US AT:
www.ATJACOBSEWELL.ORG

For more information

Executive Directions >>>**Fourth Quarter Highs and Lows**

Much has happened in the last 90 days on the programmatic level at AJW. We've said our final goodbyes to Victor Mason-our friend and co-worker. We have welcomed a new maintenance person, Mr. Patrick Wright and new Deputy Director, Mr. Brandon Swails. We have also hired a new Resident Case Manager, Ms. Cecilia Woodard, promoted former Case Manager, Leah Dixon to Program Director, and established a partnership with the Morgan State University School of Social Work.

Our Board of Directors has experienced change as well. We are happy for the addition of a new Board Member, Dr. Samuel Enos, Deputy Director of Manna House, Inc. Dr. "Sam" brings concrete experience in grant writing and a shared passion in actualizing our mission. AJW is also saddened to say farewell to Mr. Galen Smith, who resigned from the Board due to personal illness. Galen has served AJW for many years. We wish him well and will miss him dearly.

With the recent repair of our properties due to unforeseen weather damage, we find ourselves in need of monetary donations. Please encourage your friends, family members and co-workers to support our mission to provide housing and supportive services for mentally ill men and women.

From now through February 2012, we will host a variety of events to benefit AJW. A donation of \$20 or more from friends like you is all that it takes to provide a homeless person with a bed for a night.

Thanks for your support,

Doreen Toran,
Executive Director

THE SEASON OF "OPEN HEARTS"

In the midst of Federal and State budget cuts, At Jacob's Well, Inc. relies on the contributions of our friends during the holiday season.



'Tis the season for generosity and kindness. Around the holiday season, more people tend to open up their hearts and their wallets to help those in need. People particularly tend to focus on the homeless and homeless shelters when it comes time to donate to charity.

Over the years, as I've thought more and more deeply about the holidays, and as I see them becoming more and more commercialized, I've had to ask myself what they're really all about and how I want to spend them - - what traditions I want to create for myself and my family. Do I

want to become lost in the commercialization? Or do I want to emphasize the giving and love? Do I want to concentrate on my family, or do I also want to look beyond to others in the world? Do I want to shun all the commercialized aspects, or can all these different elements somehow be intertwined?

You may have considered similar questions.

What's ultimately important to me is giving and love, not only for myself and my family, but for people in need around me. So why not intertwine it all? Why not build family celebrations, but at the same time, start traditions that involve the bigger picture - - people in need around us? There are so many homeless people in our world . . . in our own communities . . . who, for various reasons, don't have the experience of that huge Thanksgiving feast or those much-anticipated Christmas gifts or that warm home atmosphere.

Open up your hearts and help those in need. Homeless shelters are a great place to focus your charitable efforts. You will feel happy for helping someone else. There is great need out in our world. Take a look around and see how you can help change it and make it a better place. All it takes is one person to make a change.

Peace,
Brandon J. Swails,
Deputy Director

@ Jacob's Well >>> Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER:

- ◆ Resident Feast: 11/22/11 @ 5:00 PM
- ◆ AJW ALL DAY Fundraiser @ Bill Bateman's of Towson (7800 York Road, Towson, MD 21204)
- ◆ **AJW Social Fundraiser and Raffle @ Bill Bateman's of Towson: 11/30/11- 7:30-10:30 PM (7800 York Road, Towson, MD 21204)**

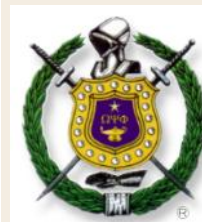
DECEMBER:

- ◆ AJW'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE: 12/21/11 @ 12-4:00 PM



NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Supports AJW: "The Gifted Life Raffle"



In support of AJW and National Homelessness Awareness Month, the Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Pi

Omega Chapter, have pledged to sponsor the prize money (totaling \$500) for our 1st annual fundraiser raffle. **TICKETS ARE ONLY \$2.00 AND \$10.00 PER BOOK OF FIVE.**

1st prize is: \$300, 2nd prize is: \$150 and 3rd Prize is \$50. Raffles will be sold all month long by our Board members and office staff. Raffle winners will be drawn **November 30, 2011 at our ALL DAY FUNDRAISER at Bill Bateman's Bistro of Towson.**

For more information, please contact us at the office: (410) 235-8877 or email, Brandon Swails, Deputy Director **AT: BSWAILS@ATJACOBWELL.ORG**

For more information about Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Visit: www.omegapsiphifraternity.org Or www.piomega.org

At Jacob's Well, Inc.

PRESENTS

Homelessness Awareness Month Seasonal Fundraiser 2011

@

Bill Bateman's Bistro



7800 York Road, Towson, MD 21204

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2011

NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH!!!

Homelessness is a concern that affects many urban communities in America today and a social and public health priority. Nationally, it is estimated that at least 800,000 people are homeless on any given day in the United States. Baltimore's homelessness situation is on an upward trend. In eight years, the homeless population swelled from 2,681 in 2005 to 4,088 in 2011, an increase of 1,407 individuals.

RECOGNIZING BROKENNESS... RESTORING DIGNITY

At Jacob's Well, Inc. has been working to end the cycle of homelessness for the mentally ill by providing supportive services which promote dignity, accountability and resiliency.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Join us, November 30th, 2011 **ALL DAY** as we raise money to support the mission of At Jacob's Well, Inc.

PRESENT THIS FLIER TO YOUR BARTENDER OR SERVER
10% of your total bill** will go towards our fundraising efforts for At Jacob's Well, Inc.
May not be used in conjunction with any other discount, offer, or coupons



At Jacob's Well, Inc. is a certified charitable organization with related tax status. Operating funds come from private and public donors, churches, government and foundations.

Contributions to At Jacob's Well, are tax deductible. Contributions may be sent to:

At Jacobs's Well, Inc.
323 East 25th Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21218
(410) 235-8877
www.ATJACOBSEWELL.ORG

United Way, Maryland Charity Campaign, and the Combined Charity Campaign of Baltimore City number: 5238

Combined Federal Campaign number: 85557



OUR MISSION: "Recognizing Brokenness, Restoring Dignity"

At Jacob's Well, Inc. was founded in 1985 and incorporated in 1986 to serve the poor of Baltimore City, especially the homeless and mentally ill. At Jacob's Well takes on human scale projects that meet a need not being directly addressed by other agencies. In particular, At Jacob's Well, Inc. provides housing and supportive services to homeless, mentally ill men and women.

For over 25 years, we have remained committed to providing more than safe, decent, clean, and affordable housing for those in need. We believe, that by making a better community for people, we can improve the quality of life and residential stability of our clients.



"Recognizing Brokenness, Restoring Dignity"

*At Jacob's Well, Inc. is a charitable 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization in our 25th year of operation. Our funding comes from private and public donors, churches, federal and local government, foundations and **supporters like you!***

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AT JACOB'S WELL, INC

323 East 25th Street,

Baltimore, MD 21218

Consider supporting AJW by donating through United Way, Maryland Charity Campaign or the Combined Charity Campaign of Baltimore City. Our organizational number is: 5238

You can also donate to AJW through the Combined Federal Campaign. Our organizational number is: 85557