

At Jacob's Well

Recognizing Brokenness, Restoring Dignity



Reflection

As I was humming *Silent Night* this morning, I was thinking about how the words apply to current events and to At Jacob's Well.

Silent Night: In the silence of a late evening, a kind person reached out to give money to a panhandler. The silence was broken as the kind woman was stabbed to death by the panhandler's accomplice. That silence has been broken for many days since. Many of those who gave to panhandlers will no longer do so because of their fear that the same fate may befall them. Angry voices break the silence and speak out against the continued wave of killing in our city. What can be done to make our streets safe again? What will happen to any truly needy panhandlers?

Holy Night: What is holiness? I think that holy people are those who care as much about others as they do about themselves. There are many holy people who support At Jacob's Well. They are passionate about doing something to fight homelessness. We don't have an "official" position on panhandlers. Some of us give them money; some of us don't. We do share a common belief that we can help stop homelessness by generously supporting At Jacob's Well and other charitable organizations in Baltimore. Supporting those groups provides shelter, food, health care and other necessities to those who might otherwise be panhandling.

All is calm: These words make me think about mental illness. What a struggle it must be sometimes for those afflicted with this disease to find "calmness". How wonderful it must be to achieve that finally, even if for a few fleeting days or weeks! Mental illness does not disappear in a week like a cold or the flu; it is a lifelong illness. I am thankful for the people and the organizations who help those with mental illness whether professionally or personally. I am thankful for the treatments that have helped so many to find that oasis of calmness in their lives.

All is bright: The residents of At Jacob's Well have a brighter future because of our supporters. They have a place to stay on cold evenings. They have friends and a supportive staff. That doesn't mean that every day is bright for them. We all have good days and bad days. Many of our residents have a very small income and life can be a struggle. We welcome new supporters and volunteers who can assist our residents financially or with their time. We can always use household goods and food, people to help out at our dinners and people to provide programs that can all make those days brighter.

Sleep in heavenly peace: On a cold evening, our Jacob's Well residents have their own rooms with a warm bed in a peaceful place that shelters them from the streets. It may not be heaven, but it is a gift of caring from a group of fortunate people to their fellow human beings who are less fortunate.

The residents, staff and board of At Jacob's Well wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

November-December 2018

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Residents Wish List

Toilet Paper /Paper Towels
Toiletries
Bleach & Household
Cleaners, Dish Detergent
Bug Spray, Large Trash
Bags, Dry Goods (Mac and
Cheese, Pastas and Sauces,
Peanut-Butter, Canned
Meats etc.)
Brooms & Mops
Twin Size Sheets &
Blankets,
Towels and Wash Clothes
Board Games, Coloring
Book, Jigsaw Puzzles
Small Kitchen Appliances
(Coffee Makers, Toasters,
Microwaves etc.)
Curtains, Dishes,
Silverware, Glasses/Cups



At Jacob's Well's 2018 Hope Lives Here Event

On a beautiful Friday in October, about 125 guests enjoyed our 2018 "Hope Lives Here" gala, an evening of food, drink, music and fellowship. The event was held at the Volmer Center at Cylburn Arboretum in Baltimore and included food from Charm City Catering, music from Chris Luciano of Starleigh Entertainment, as well as Boordy Vineyard wine and beer from local craft brewers. This year's event also featured a greatly expanded Silent Auction and included a travel pass from Southwest Airlines, several bottles of valuable Scotch donated by Robert Briggs, restaurant gift certificates from Bowman Restaurant and Medial Times among many others, wine from Boordy Vineyards and items from the Orioles, Ravens and Capitals. Especially popular were two gift baskets of handcrafted items created by AJW residents with an Orioles and Ravens theme.

Guest speaker Crista Taylor, CEO of Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore gave a very moving speech about behavioral health issues. Fred Trenkle spoke about At Jacob's Well's history and Matt Bjonerud gave an update on the current status of the organization. Awards were presented to Galen Smith and Condict and David Martak for their long-time support of the organization. A special award was presented to Board President, Matt Bjonerud for his outstanding leadership of AJW over the last 5 years. The evening grossed more than \$15,000, but even more importantly, helped us to connect with many new and long-time supporters.

Our AJW community was saddened by the passing of one of our long time residents, Mr. Douglas Hood in July of this past year. Mr. Hood had been a resident since 2005, was much loved by our AJW family and will be greatly missed by all. Mr. Hood always had a kind word for everyone and a ready smile that no one could resist. He attended AJW monthly dinners and often stopped by the office to visit.

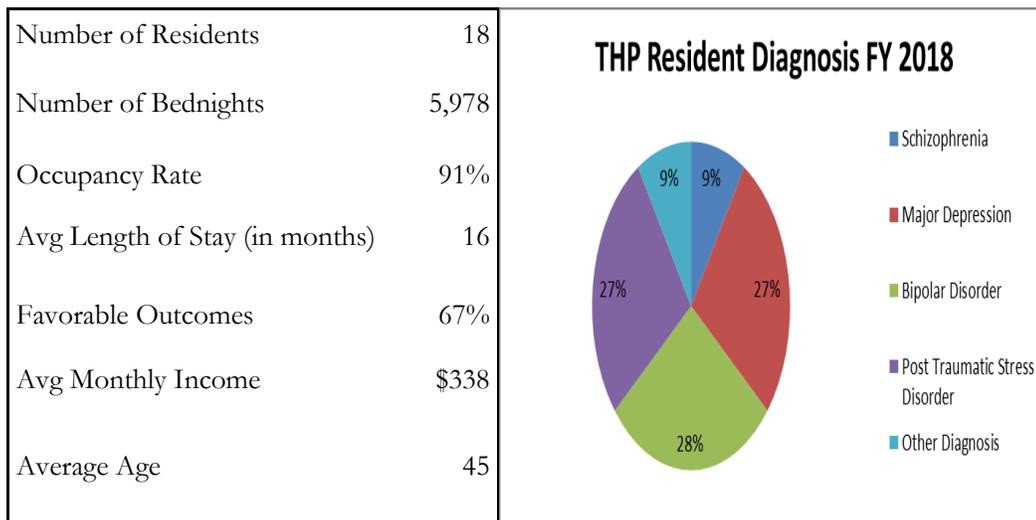
Many thanks we are very grateful to all of you that continue to support At Jacob's Well's Housing Programs. Have a Safe and Blessed Holiday!

Moving Forward

Due to the generosity of our many supporters AJW has been able to raise the needed funds to create four new units for our permanent housing residents. This will save us forty-eight thousand dollars in rental costs each year and will allow us to house these residents close to our offices in Baltimore City. AJW is now halfway to our goal of creating a total of eight new permanent housing units so that we will no longer have to rent units to house our residents.

The saved funds will be used to support our housing programs and to add an additional case worker that will allow our case workers to spend more time with each resident. Our case workers are the very back bone of our AJW family. They are the ones who make sure residents are remaining stable and their needs are being met. The more time a case worker can spend with a resident the better the chances that they will be able to identify problems before they become life threatening and also give encouragement and listen. Ensuring that residents are not isolated and are able to continue to function is independently is very important to their mental and physical health.

AJW 2018 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING STATS



Ways to Support At Jacob's Well

For Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) our number is 85557.

For Baltimore City Employees that support the Combined Charity Campaign our number is 5238

AJW would like to acknowledge and give a special thanks to the following who have supported AJW throughout the 2018 year

- The Progress Family Foundation
- The Baltimore Community Foundation
- The France Merrick Foundation
- The PNC Foundation
- The Knott Foundation
- The Bearman Foundation
- The Abel Foundation
- The Goldseker Foundation
- Church of The Resurrection
- Saint Stephen's Anglican Church
- Galen J Smith
- Catherine A. Walsh
- Rev. Timothy Grayson, Church of the Messiah
- Pastor Jay Baylor, Church of the Apostles in the City
- Lay Pastor Patrick Baranuskas, Church of The Resurrection
- Saint Mark's Lutheran Church
- We also want to thank the many volunteers that give their time and fellowship and the AJW Board of Directors!



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Happy Holiday's From At Jacob's Well



Homeless Man and the Coat

I thought it was very cold
That December night...
While driving to my warm
Home.

Until I saw that man, alone,
By the side of the bayou.
He had lit a fire...
Standing too close
In a shirt and pants...
Holding out his hands to
The warmth.

I drove to a place to turn
Around...went back, thinking
There might be danger if
I stop. I stopped...

Gave him my coat.
It was too large on me.

When I drove off, he was putting
That coat on.
Now, he may have done drugs,
May have drank,
May have been a crazy,
Old sort...
But, he wouldn't be cold again
With
The coat.

By Elysabeth Faslund