

At Jacob's Well

Recognizing Brokenness, Restoring Dignity

Spring 2020



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At Jacob's Well's Response to the Corona Virus

I think we can all agree that we are currently living in difficult times and while the corona virus has made normal day to day activities a bit more stressful, it does not take away our responsibility to continue to provide for those that are under our care.

At Jacob's Well as an essential service provider has remained opened during this time to ensure that our residents have access to food, cleaning supplies, toiletries, hand sanitizer, gloves and masks (when we can get them) and the peace of mind to know that they are not alone. I have found that we as a society often forget that forced isolation can be just as unhealthy as a physical illness. Our staff reach out daily to all of our residents to ensure that they are safe, well and stable.

Of course we have taken steps to try (as best anyone can) to prevent the spread of the virus while at the same time providing for the residents. Only one resident is allowed to use the laundry room at a time, all who enter the office must use the hand sanitizer at the door and we are constantly disinfecting all surfaces several times a day. Another change has been to our monthly dinners. They have continued but as take-out meals. I must give special thanks to our volunteers who provide, prepare and help to serve at our monthly dinners. It means a great deal to our residents to know that they are not forgotten but are loved and cared for during these times.

My grandmother had an old saying when I was growing up. Whenever there were problems such as winter blizzards or bad storms that caused normal day to day activities to be curtailed, she would always say "Well the chickens still need to be fed." That was her way of saying that no matter what happens we still have to get on with life. As always, all of us at At Jacob's Well want to thank our supporters, volunteers and churches that continue to assist us. You are all in our prayers and please be safe. Charles L. Smith

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The Parable of the Good Samaritan

As Jesus was talking to His disciples, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.” But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”



Sharing What We Have

When she recently downsized to a smaller house, **Leslie Mallon** donated her “no longer needed” household goods and furniture to At Jacobs Well. This has been almost a lifelong habit for Leslie, a long-time board member who has been donating these and other items to AJW since the organization started more than 30 years ago. “When I am no longer using something, I give it away to Jacob’s Well or some other organization,” she says, “and I encourage my friends and co-workers to do the same.” She remembers that a recent donation of a friend who was downsizing provided 3 pickup-truck loads of household items for AJW. Like Leslie, many churches and other friends of AJW continually donate toiletries, food and cleaning materials. These are essential to the survival of our residents, many of whom have very meager incomes and cannot afford to buy many things on their own. If you can share any items on our **“Wish List”** (particularly food, cleansers and toiletries), please contact our office at **410-235-8877** or email **ajw@atjacobswell.org**.

Residents’ Wish List

- Toilet Paper /Paper Towels
- Toothpaste/Tooth Brushes
- Floss
- Soap Bars
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- 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 Washcloths
- Board Games, Coloring Books, Jigsaw Puzzles
- Small Kitchen Appliances (Coffee Makers, Toasters, Microwaves etc.)
- Curtains
- Dishes, Silverware, Glasses/Cups

Facts about Homelessness in Baltimore

- A “point in time” census counted almost **2300** homeless people living in Baltimore City (unsheltered, in emergency shelters or in transitional housing.)
- The number of children who are homeless continues to grow. For example, of about 1200 people in shelters, **142** are children under 18 and **55** are age 18 - 24.
- Of those who were unsheltered, **53%** sleep on the street or sidewalk. Another **15%** sleep in abandoned buildings.
- Nationally, **27%** of the homeless are “Chronically Homeless” and **12%** are Veterans.

Source: *Baltimore City 2019 Continuum of Care Point in Time Count Report*

AJW News Items

SAVE THE DATE: AJW’s annual fundraiser is tentatively scheduled for Friday, October 2nd. We will again feature a combination Variety Show and Dinner. Stay tuned for updated information about time, location and performers.

RENOVATIONS were recently completed at our 303 E. 25th St. building. This opens up 3 beds for our Transitional Housing program. Currently, the rooms are unfilled in case we need to use the space for Coronavirus quarantine.

Our 2019 Annual Report, which provides information on our finances and program, has been sent to our many supporters. If you didn’t receive a copy, you can find it, as well as our IRS Form 990, online at atjacobswell.org/2019rpt

Many thanks!! We are very grateful to all who continue to support At Jacob’s Well’s Housing Programs.

Be Safe





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At Jacob's Well Spring 2020 Newsletter

Spring

By William Blake

from

Songs of Innocence



Sound the flute!

Now it's mute!

Birds delight,

Day and night,

Nightingale,

In the dale,

Lark in sky, -

Merrily,

Merrily, merrily to wel-
come in the year.

Little boy,

Full of joy;

Little girl,

Sweet and small;

Cock does crow,

So do you;

Merry voice,

Infant noise;

Merrily, merrily to wel-
come in the year.

Little lamb,

Here I am;

Come and lick

My white neck;

Let me pull

Your soft wool;

Let me kiss

Your soft face;

Merrily, merrily we wel-
come in the year.