



NEW DAY



Spring/Summer 2019

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome our new Board Secretary, Dawn Wootten-Saffran, a member of Liberty Grove United Methodist Church in Bur-



tonsville, MD. She graduated with an AA in Business and a BS in Accounting from the University of Maryland. She has held many different positions in the accounting field from Bookkeeper, Payroll Professional, General Ledger Accountant, Fixed Asset Accountant, Accounting Manager, to her current role at a non-profit at Athelas Institue Inc. as

the Director of Accounting. She has joined the board to become a more active volunteer and to help make a difference in the lives of people who need it most.

Your continued compassionate support will allow all our programs to continue. We also need volunteers to help with tasks such as administrative and office support, fund raising, running a charity event, grant writing, helping clients to get to appointments, operational tasks, and other general tasks. For more information check out the volunteer opportunities at www.newdaymd.org/VOLUNTEER.

Published by:

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CITYGATE[™]
NETWORK

Our Mission

New Day relentlessly helps homeless and vulnerable people transform their lives through personalized services and Christ-centered relationships.

Our Vision

New Day's friends are housed securely, healed in body, hopeful in spirit, and leading the new life God offers.

Our Motto

There is no better exercise for the heart than reaching for and lifting people up.

Our Opportunities

Housed: We are actively working to provide a permanent homeless center for our region - and have long term goals to develop supportive housing for those friends who will never be able to provide sustainable housing for themselves.

Healed: We routinely assist our friends to enroll in Medicaid and other health services, just as we routinely assist them in securing treatment for addictions of every kind.

Hopeful: Our most fundamental conviction is that homelessness is a result of relational poverty. By providing enduring friendship and unconditional love of Christ, we help our friends find hope. For many, this friendship includes walking the difficult journey of getting treatment for mental health issues that have isolated them for so many years

New Life: New Day is an unapologetically Christ centered mission of the churches of our area. We believe that a personal relationship with Jesus is the most important thing we can offer to our friends. We never coerce, but rather invite our friends to make an informed decision to follow Jesus in the context of our friendships - as they become acquainted to know others whose lives have been radically transformed by the gospel.

The Triumphant Trail from Hell's Kitchen to Healing

While the weekly New Day breakfast welcomes a crowd of “First Friends,” the arrival of one spry woman elicits more notable enthusiasm than most. Miss Nettie is an endearing friend to our community’s vulnerable population and to those who regularly come alongside to encourage and be encouraged by them. Miss Nettie’s contagious compassion first graced participants at the women’s breakfast, but the palpable affection she elicits from men and women at the combined First Friend’s breakfast reveals a vast community influence and impact warranting further exploration.

Antoinette (aka, Miss Nettie) came to Maryland after adventurous beginnings in New York City. Her family lived in a Manhattan apartment above the Hell’s Kitchen restaurant for which her mom worked. Reveling in the “city that never sleeps,” Nettie began social drinking at age 12. She met her much older husband in a bar and moved to the Queens Borough village of Bellerose after marriage. Though she envisioned starting her own family as the next step in life, pregnancy was not to be. Her means to motherhood came unexpectedly – through her husband’s illegitimate daughter. The other woman eventually became a friend, and the daughter fulfilled Nettie’s nurturing nature. The situation helped to fill a void, but it did not quench marital strife. When substance and domestic abuse, infertility, and infidelity challenged domestic bliss, Nettie escaped by opening a Manhattan restaurant. She returned to her culinary roots.



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Miss Nettie's Story (cont.)

Nettie's delicious cooking and personality drew a devoted crowd of famous (and infamous) New Yorkers to her restaurant. Actors, actresses, businessmen, and designers from the NYC garment district frequented the establishment, expecting the jovial manager to join them for drinks, dinner, and late-night frivolity. Nettie obliged, often closing the restaurant to join the gang in dancing, drinking, and drugs and taking an apartment above the restaurant to further her independence. Her rebellion deepened the violent divide in her marriage, but her new friends filled the void as she drew them into the drama. When life's conflict hit a dangerous climax, Nettie walked away from her business and her husband to go into hiding.

A call from the daughter about her husband's failing health led to Nettie's New York return. She stopped at her restaurant on the journey home, alerting her friends of plans to visit her husband in case things went south. Concern for her safety was cut unexpectedly short, however, when her husband suffered a massive heart attack. He embraced Nettie at the door, asking her to come home, and immediately collapsed when she declined. This traumatic life event evoked tremendous guilt in Nettie. "I thought I caused my husband's death," she recalls, "until I got sober and realized I didn't have that power."

The death of her husband amplified Nettie's self-destructive actions. Alcohol and drug use led to her loss of stable housing, forcing her to shelter in the basement of bars and clubs and to share space with others down on their luck. She began hearing voices and was eventually admitted to a Queens psychiatric center. She was there until one of her brothers moved her to Maryland.

Nettie's substance and mental health difficulties continued in Maryland. She recalls wandering the streets, talking to the voices in her head, recurrent blackout periods, and being a frequent flier in Ann Arundel hospitals. She also recalls the romances that marked the end of each psych ward stay. The vicious cycle was straining and draining, spurred on by Nettie's guilt and a feeling that she didn't quite belong *anywhere*.

Miss Nettie's Story (cont.)

During one of her hospital stays, a doctor connected with Laurel's residential treatment center identified 43-year-old Nettie as a candidate for Reality House.

Reality preceded Laurel's current Hope House rehabilitation center, treating clients with mental illnesses and substance abuse problems. Nettie began her road to recovery within its walls, refusing to step outside its safe boundaries during her first three weeks as a paranoid, terrified client. She spent two years in the halfway house (a typical six-month program) after graduating from the Reality House program. Through participation in individual counseling and group sessions such as the 12-Step program, Nettie discovered the recovery support she could not accomplish on her own. She developed supportive, healing relationships rather than the romantic relationships that had left her empty in the past. Reflecting on her past 30 years of sobriety, Nettie suggests that she's been "married to God. God did this for me since I couldn't do it for myself."

More significant than her recovery, Nettie has served as a catalyst in the healing of those battling addiction and mental health disorders for over three decades. She managed Reality's halfway house following her extended residency. When the halfway house was closed in 2013, she opened her rental residence as a sobriety home, offering furnished rooms to those learning to live soberly; she lost her recovery management job but continued her mission in the comforting confines of her own home. Though residents inevitably moved on, Nettie hosted holiday reunions for her sober family. Her renowned Italian cuisine complimented her comforting unconditional devotion. The death of her landlord required a move after eighteen years in her "sober house," but the foundation she laid within her recovery community has surpassed the confines of location and time.

Nettie attributes her 32 years of sobriety success and influence to God. In sharing her experience with those whose lives she impacts, she concedes that "No matter what you've been through or what you've done, He will never forsake us." (cont.)

Miss Nettie's Story (cont.)

She reinforces that message by attending multiple recovery meetings each week. Clarifying her role as a community icon for sobriety success, she explains that she shares leadership, sponsorship, and participation with other recoverees at the meetings and throughout life's journey; "you've got to give it away to keep it, and you've got to share to let others know they can do it." To celebrate Nettie's triumph in breaking through past torments and terrors is to celebrate the healing hope that reverberates throughout Laurel and beyond.

By Karla Nemeec.

Wayne Becraft

We are honoring Wayne Becraft who passed away in January 2019, New Day pays special honor to Becraft Long and Foster, top level sponsor for 2018 and our inaugural 2017 golf tournament.



Wayne was a lifelong Laurel resident, dedicated to his community, family, and First United Methodist Church (a New Day church partner). Following a stellar career at the University of Maryland University College, Wayne and wife Nancy became realtors, introducing clients to Laurel and surrounding areas.

The fluid realtor schedule allowed them to spend quality time with family and to serve their beloved Laurel community. Beneficiaries of Wayne's time and treasure included an annual scholarship and American Cancer Society Relay for Life in memory of daughter Michelle, Side by Side (a faith-based nonprofit mentoring elementary school students and family), winter shelter, and New Day Maryland, Inc. New Day is eternally grateful for Wayne's legacy of faithful service and support to his community, family, and faith.

2018 Golf Tournament Sponsor Appreciation

New Day Maryland acknowledges the sustained support of 2018 Golf Tournament sponsors recognized in our Annual Report. Although autumn rains caused repeated rescheduling and ultimate cancellation of the tournament, these sponsors (and many golfers) donated their sponsorship/registration fees to the New Day mission. In light of the cancelled event, we are eternally grateful for compassionate generosity allowing New Day to assist our homeless and vulnerable friends, helping them transform their lives through personalized services and Christ-centered relationships.

New Day Maryland, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charity, so all donations are fully tax deductible. We are supported by the caring people of this area who desire to help the vulnerable and homeless in the Laurel area. We cannot continue to provide the services that are needed without your continued help.

Please consider signing up for a recurring donation that is above your regular church tithe on the Donate page on our website: www.newdaymd.org/DONATE.

A donation of \$40.00 per month will pay for breakfast for 6 people once a month.

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