

Executive Director's Letter

Finally, it's summer! No matter how difficult the economic climate, there is a certain joy when the weather begins to improve, flowers bloom, the kids are out of school and families make their plans to enjoy even a brief summer vacation. And, as you can see from this issue of **The Messenger**, it is no different here at Paul's Place. We look on with hopefulness as a growing number of children and young people become engaged in our year-round programs—as they set sail for a summer full of fun and learning while they visit our “summertime partners” in Baltimore County and throughout the City.



This is a good time to look forward with hope. There are signs that our economy, rough as things have been, may slowly be turning in the right direction. We know that will take time, but we are hopeful. Our hope is based in the experience we have had for nearly three decades, working to change a seemingly “hopeless” situation, and knowing that with our determined effort on a daily basis, we can change things for the better for our community, and for the individuals and families whose lives we touch.

As we look forward, I want to warmly thank you for the time, talent and treasure that you have contributed to Paul's Place during this difficult year. And I am excited to report in this Executive Director's letter that we are now poised to launch our next “strategic plan”—after a year of work with our long-range planning committee that includes volunteers from our community, our Board and our hard-working staff members. The plan for the future will take Paul's Place to the “next level”—we will strengthen and reinforce our core programs—and at the same time we will build our capacity to meet new challenges ahead.

With your important help, over the next three year period (2009-2012), we intend to fulfill these visionary goals:

- Children and youth served by Paul's Place will be healthy and prepared to succeed in school and beyond;
- Individuals and families served by Paul's Place will have opportunities to develop skills to improve their self-sufficiency and stability;
- Ward Street will be stabilized, and we will expand this stabilization to adjacent blocks;
- Paul's Place capacity will be expanded and strengthened;
- Our clients and their families, neighbors and the community as a whole will become healthier and have an increased sense of well-being;
- Paul's Place will assume a leadership role in the Pigtown Community—leading the implementation of a community planning process to develop a new system of services and supports and develop an advocacy plan in partnership with neighborhood leaders and residents.

I look forward to working together with you to accomplish these important goals—and hope you will continue to support us, helping to make our dreams for Pigtown come true.

Happy Summer!

Bill McLennan

William J. McLennan, Executive Director

cont. from pg. 1

their lives. They all agreed with one of their peers, who said, “This program is an excellent opportunity for youth. I would recommend this to all youth at my school and other Baltimore schools. I can honestly say that this is helping me to pass my classes and become very successful in school. Without Paul's Place I would not have had my eyes opened to many opportunities. When I step out into the real world, it will make my life easier to be able to use this knowledge.”

These students are determined to be the pride of Baltimore. They want to go on to college to become nurses, doctors, computer specialists, FBI agents and teachers. In the meantime, they will be spending this summer working, looking for scholarships for college, and joining in the Paul's Place summer programs.

As the school year comes to an end, all of the students have said that they will be back next year and that they will “never take Paul's Place for granted.”

Special thanks to the Paul's Place Youth and Children's staff members: Cintra Harbold, Director; Loretta Brown, Youth Programs; Jen Bernhard, Youth Program Coordinator; and Shirley Kollin, Elementary Program Coordinator.



Paul's Place is proud to be a Standards for Excellence organization. Standards for Excellence is awarded by the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations and shows that Paul's Place operates with ethics and accountability in our program operations, governance, human resources, financial management, and fundraising practices.

THE Messenger

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The Mission of Paul's Place

Paul's Place is a catalyst and leader for change, improving the quality of life in the Washington Village/Pigtown neighborhood and the surrounding Southwest Baltimore communities. Paul's Place provides programs, services, and support that strengthen individuals and families, fostering hope, personal dignity and growth.

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PAUL'S PLACE INC. | BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF HOPE | SUMMER 2009

Messenger



Summer in The City—With Paul's Place Children and Youth



This summer, children and youth from Pigtown/Washington Village will once again experience an enriched set of activities, recreation, education and cultural opportunities that would otherwise be unavailable to them. Thanks to your kind support of Paul's Place through the years, we have been able to see our programs for Children and Youth growing by leaps and bounds—along with the children we serve!

From June through August, more than 150 young people, from 6 to 18 years of age will be involved in our ongoing youth programs, as well as Summer Outings and Elementary and Middle School Summer Camps, Arts Entrepreneurship Camp—programs that will take them on excursions throughout Baltimore and beyond!

We want to thank our faith-based partners who are once again providing space, equipment, volunteers, food and fun to Paul's Place kids—especially The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer (Charles Street), St. Thomas Church (Garrison Forest), St. James Academy Church (Monkton) and St. John's Episcopal Church (Glyndon), where parishioner Don Donovan has invited the kids for a day at his scenic farm (complete with karaoke in the barn)!

Focus on High School Students:

Many of you are familiar with our programs for younger children, but you may not know about an important new program we have been developing over this past

year. Under the leadership of Jen Barnhard, Youth Program Coordinator and Cintra Harbold, Director of Youth and Children's Programs, we have been intensifying our efforts to work more closely with high school age young people who live in Pigtown.

Anyone who watches local Baltimore TV knows about the plight of our teenagers—with high drop-out rates, low test scores, delinquency and too-early parenting—many are faced with nearly overwhelming challenges before their lives have really begun.

But come visit Paul's Place on any Tuesday or Thursday evening, and our High School students in the “3 to 7 Academy” will tell you the whole story. This January, we expanded our after-school programming for the ages of 14-18 and since then, a core group of students have consistently been attending two evenings each week to work on homework, study for the SAT, hone their computer skills, learn etiquette and job skills, visit colleges, explore various careers through “job shadowing”, and participate in personal enrichment. Provided in an atmosphere of fun and safety, the new High School program at Paul's Place is designed to provide teenagers with the support they need to stay in school, become strong members of the community, graduate and plan for their future.

After just one semester in the program, the students as a group already feel it has made a big difference in

My Name

My name is not important because it does not make me, it's just another letter, a code, a symbol. Many definitions but never a meaning. Always mentioned but never needed. Forced to follow me like a branded shadow. Filled with memories sometimes regrets. Just words to a song that I dare not sing. So who am I, they often ask? I am who I am, and that's not my name.

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Antoinette Brown, Paul's Place High School program participant, age 17



SUMMER READING

Our Paul's Place kids are gearing up for another summer of fun and learning—and you can help! We have discovered that many of our children and youth are not prepared to keep up with their summer reading suggested by the Baltimore City public schools—simply because—they do not have the books!

You can help bring the joy of reading to these kids this year—by simply sending or bringing any book from the following “web-linked” book lists to Paul's Place.

Here are the links for the books we need:

<http://www.bcps.k12.md.us/news/pdf/K2Summer09.pdf>

http://www.bcps.k12.md.us/news/pdf/3_5SummerLearning.pdf

<http://www.bcps.k12.md.us/news/pdf/MiddleGradesSummerLearning.pdf>

<http://www.bcps.k12.md.us/news/pdf/HSSummerLearning.pdf>

If you mail books to us, please mark the package: Attention: SUMMER READING, Paul's Place, 1118 Ward Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21230, and we will make sure the books get to the children. If you bring the books, please just drop them off in the box provided in our Youth program—mark attention: Jen Bernhard, Paul's Place Youth Staff.

Helping to keep our kids learning over the summer is one of our greatest goals—and we thank you for any books you contribute.

A TOUCHDOWN FOR PIGTOWN GALA!

Kudos to our Gala Co-Chairs, Katherine and Charles O'Donovan, III



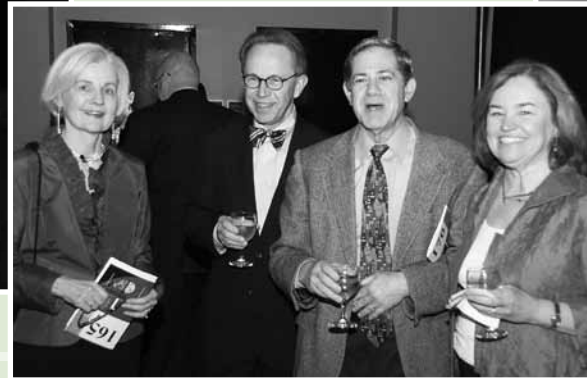
Dr. David J. Ramsay accepts Commitment to Community Award from Paul's Place



MC Keith Mills looks on as Gala co-chairs Charlie & Katherine O'Donovan say thanks!



Rev. Caroline Stewart & Bill G. Stewart



Kathy Hudson & Greg Otto with guests David and Sharon Tufaro



Paul's Place Children drumming up a storm!

On March 28, 2009, Paul's Place hosted more than 500 friends at M&T Bank Stadium for "A Touchdown for Pigtown!", netting more than \$100,000 to support programs and services in Pigtown this year. The Gala event, which takes place every two years, was co-chaired by Katherine and Charles O'Donovan III, whose leadership brought in more new corporate sponsorship, table hosts and participation than ever before. Major sponsors for the evening included the Ravens ACT Foundation, VPC, and the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB).

A heartfelt invocation from the Reverend Caroline S. Stewart, recognized the importance of creating community where communities are broken, and the opportunity all who support Paul's Place have to bring connection and comfort to our Pigtown friends and neighbors. Keith Mills, WBAL announcer extraordinaire, was our MC for the evening, and Charles C. Billig, Auctioneer, from A.J. Billig and Co., cheered the crowd on to contributing thousands of dollars toward an array of live-auction items that included *A Ravens Experience* (tickets for the Skybox and pre-game festivities), two original works of art, an antique sapphire and diamond ring, and two amazing trips to Ireland. Attendees also enjoyed and purchased more than 100 silent-auction items.

Dr. David J. Ramsay, President, University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), received the

first "Commitment to Community Award", from Executive Director, Bill McLennan, recognizing the longstanding partnership between Paul's Place and UMB in our shared commitment to improving the quality of life in Pigtown/Washington Village. In his compelling remarks, Dr. Ramsay noted that, "As our economy remains fragile, more people will undoubtedly rely on the services of Paul's Place. We should not waiver, but rather reaffirm our commitment and do what we can to benefit others."

A brief video, produced by Maribeth Cox and Eli Eisenberg of VPC, showcasing this vital community partnership was presented. UMB has for many years supported our work through the School of Nursing program to sponsor the Nurses' Clinic on a weekly basis at Paul's Place—and through the other professional schools that provide mentoring, consulting, evaluation

and other assistance to Paul's Place programs. Our heartfelt thanks go to the many generous UMB supporters who filled more than 7 tables at the event from the Schools of Law, Medicine, Nursing, Social Work, the Schweitzer Fellows Program and the UMB BioPark.

Gala guests were also treated to the Paul's Place Children's Drumming Circle, a troupe of 8 children and their dedicated teacher, Moziah Saleem, who have been studying African drumming for more than two years as part of our cultural enrichment programs for children and youth. The children were the main attraction as they performed their original song, "Paul's Place is In The House, Dr. Ramsay is In The House, UMB is In The House!" as an introduction to Dr. Ramsay's award presentation.

Last but not least, we are grateful to more than 20 corporate sponsors who helped us to exceed

our goals in a year that was marred by great economic challenges. An important witness to the compassion and caring of Baltimore based corporations, and to the leadership provided by our Sponsorship chairs, Frank Bonsal III and John S. Morton III, nearly 40% of the funds raised for the Gala was contributed by our corporate sponsors.

We wish to thank the young and community-spirited volunteers from Rotoract Baltimore, who came out in full force to help us with registration, auction set-up and check out. We also wish to thank everyone who participated in any way in helping us to achieve our financial goals through this year's Gala—whether you were a table host, a guest, a corporate or media sponsor, an auction item donor, a committee volunteer, or a volunteer—our hats are off to you!

A Touchdown for Pigtown Gala! THANK YOU!

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This spring, Paul's Place is formally launching its planned giving program, **The Legacy Society**. Planned giving offers so much to the future of our organization—supporters from all walks of life may participate through a variety of gifts—through a designation in their wills or insurance policies, through a gift of long-term appreciated real estate, or through participation in a Charitable Gift Annuity program that we are establishing in partnership with The Baltimore Community Foundation.

We are delighted to interview one of our long-time supporters, **Charlie C.G. Evans** (right), who spoke with Board member **Melanie Heacock** recently about his involvement in the newly launched Paul's Place Legacy Society.

Among the many charities in Baltimore you could be involved in, what makes Paul's Place "stand out"?

The most important thing is that Paul's Place is grass-roots—embedded in the community. The Ambassador Program is a great example of that—through its work with community-based volunteers. As a grass-roots organization, Paul's Place has a 'direct drive' relationship—every action that Paul's Place takes is directly related to a person, or a family in the Pigtown community. Every dollar contributed has a direct, measurable and positive impact on the people and families being served. Services are delivered directly to the clients—and feedback on the programs and the delivery of services comes directly from the clients, and is taken to heart by Paul's Place professional staff and its trustees.

THE "GIVING TREE" FROM DECEMBER TO JUNE...

We wish to thank our faith partner **The Church of The Redeemer** for their holiday "giving tree" ...organized by Ruthie Cromwell, Patty Campbell, Wincie Skeen and Sue Chapelle, and supported by Redeemer's Outreach Committee, Youth Group and Sunday School. The tree was decorated by paper ornaments, each for a toy to be given to a Paul's Place child—and helped fill our Holiday Gift Shop! Among the beautiful and creative toys—a special favorite was a giant mechanized dinosaur. We are thankful to Redeemer for their gifts, which are still bringing joy to Pigtown children, even in June!

Why have you chosen to make a planned gift to Paul's Place?

I have included Paul's Place in my will, because it is such an effective organization. If you really want to make a difference both now and in the future, you should put whatever resources you have available into that kind of organization.

Have you earmarked your giving to a special program?

The children's programs have a very special place in my heart, but I will not restrict my gift. Contributions should be unrestricted, because the needs of people and the community change. Paul's Place is run with a high level of professionalism. I have a high enough level of confidence in the staff and the Board to let them determine the best use of my contributions. If there is a need that emerges, funds need to be directed to that need, and not restricted by the donor.

Thank you, Charlie—our supporters like you are really making a difference, both now and in the foreseeable future!

For more information about the Paul's Place Legacy Society, please contact Development Associate, Katie Kamieniecki for our donor information kit, containing more in-depth information about Planned Giving, (kkamieniecki@paulsplaceoutreach.org) or 410-625-0775, ext. 23, or call Executive Director, Bill McLennan about your interest in planned giving at 410-625-0775, ext. 14. Thank you!

