

Messenger

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High School Student Finds “Home,” Mentors Middle School Students at Paul’s Place

Middle school students in Southwest Baltimore, especially middle school boys, are up against overwhelming odds: many are poor, come from single-parent households, lack positive adult male role models, and are exposed to drugs, gangs, violence, and crime in their homes and in the neighborhood. Fewer than four in ten youth in Pigtown graduate from high school, and many don’t make the transition from middle school to high school. But, middle school boys in Paul’s Place’s summer camp and after-school program have Tyrone to help them beat the odds.



At 16, Ty has faced more than his share of challenges. He is one of eight children and the oldest still living at home when his mother lost her job, then their home. Ty and his younger brother and sister moved in with his aunt temporarily then into a Baltimore City youth shelter a few months later. Thrust suddenly into the role of “parent” to his siblings, Ty nearly dropped out of school to find a job.

What would have been the hardest decision of his life was suddenly unnecessary when he found Paul’s Place, and Ty joined the High School Mentor Program. He found a “home” at Paul’s Place where he was encouraged to see beyond his immediate situation and pursue his dreams. This fall, he will enroll in Digital Harbor High School to study design and drafting; ultimately, he wants to go to college and become an engineer.

“I’m glad I found out about Paul’s Place. Without Paul’s Place, I’d still be looking for a job and wouldn’t have this opportunity to work with kids. I don’t know where I’d be. I ran into a friend I’ve known since third grade who wanted me to join him in some stuff. I told him ‘no’. I don’t have time for that. Some other guys I grew up with don’t even recognize me...they’re in gangs. That’s not for me. Stay in school. Do good. Go to college. I believe you can change your life if you stay off the streets.”

Despite everything, Ty has come out ahead, and he now uses the lessons he’s learned from his own experience as a camp counselor and mentor for middle school boys at Paul’s Place.

Paul’s Place’s summer camp for middle school students offers an alternative to long days and weeks spent on “the streets” with no supervision or



Tyrone helps middle school boys shape up, physically and emotionally, during the four-week camp for middle school boys. As camp counselor, Ty led the six boys in daily activities, including physical fitness, and served as a mentor to the boys.

structured activity and is designed to help the young men and women develop mentally, socially, and physically in positive ways. 12 boys and 12 girls have separate camp experiences, allowing the camp counselors and student leaders to address gender-specific issues, such as peer pressure, bullying, and aggression for boys.

There are lots of fun outdoor activities—hiking, martial arts, swimming, camping, and games—but camp also includes a healthy dose of reading, math, and educational games every day to reduce summer learning loss. Middle school boys and girls also participate in team building, leadership development, and job shadowing throughout the summer to increase their confidence, emotional intelligence, and academic achievement and to foster stronger connections with friends and family.

By the end of the summer, the middle school boys have bonded with Ty. “We’re really close. We call each other ‘brother’. I train with them every day, lead their activities, and work with them on projects,” says Ty, who hopes that his steady presence as camp counselor and then tutor and mentor during the school year will help these boys the same way Paul’s Place helped him—and it will.

The interventions by Paul’s Place during the formative years of Pigtown youth are proving effective. Unlike many of their classmates, all students enrolled in Paul’s Place’s summer and after-school programs for middle and high school students end the school year with grades high enough to move to the next grade level and matriculate the next fall. And, last fall, the first four high school graduates of Paul’s Place’s After Three Academy for High School Students enrolled in college; all four are the first generation in their families to attend college. Ty and his middle school “brothers” look toward the day they’ll be college students as a realistic goal, thanks to Paul’s Place.



PAUL'S PLACE

Come Tour With Us!

Visit Paul’s Place. Come see our programs and how we achieve our mission to be a catalyst for change for your neighbors in southwest Baltimore. Join us for a tour of our adult programs every second Wednesday of the month at 10:00 AM or see our after school programs in action at 5:30 PM.

There is always something going on at Paul’s Place.

To register for a tour group or to schedule your private visit, call Sally Slingluff at 410-625-0775 email sslingluff@paulsplaceoutreach.org.



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Summer Outings and Camps for Kids (SOCKS) is an eight-week summer camp for 1st to 5th graders that exposes kids to the world beyond Southwest Baltimore with trips like the National Zoo in Washington, DC and the Please Touch Museum in Philadelphia. For many of the youngest campers, it's the first time they've even been out of the neighborhood. SOCKS made the summer fun for 38 elementary students—with swimming lessons, fishing, hikes, art projects, and more—while helping prevent summer learning loss by incorporating a daily dose of reading and math into the activities. This summer, our children read over 1,000 books—that averages to more than three books per child per week.

Paul's Place is grateful to our SOCKS partners: Church of the Redeemer, St. James Academy, St. John's Church, St. Thomas Church, Windybrook Farm, and Woodberry Crossing. The staff and volunteers at our host sites do a sunsational job of making summer fun for our kids!

summer ca



Above: Desiree focuses intently on decorating a container that will be sold at the Heartwares Store in Hampden at 3512 Keswick Road.



FOR PIG

CAMP IS



Above and left: Kadisha enjoys splashing around in the pool at St. James Church, and Kevin nervously approaches a horse at Woodberry Crossing to feed him. By the end of the summer, Kadisha had learned to swim, and Kevin found a new equine friend.



Jenny Hyle (second from the left) taught 14 students in 9th to 12th grades during the four-week **Arts-Entrepreneur Camp** offered at Paul's Place in partnership with Art with a Heart. Melody, Cynthia, and Simone along with their fellow campers learned essential workforce and life skills while creating sellable art.

During the first three weeks of camp, students are engaged in exploring their creativity, learning technical artistic skills, making their wares, and working at the Heartwares Store.

Thank you to Art with a Heart and Workforce Solutions for the best four weeks of summer for our high school students!



TOWN YOUTH



"Grandfather" of Children's Programs Dies

On August 3, 2011, Paul's Place lost a great friend when John Stewart Morton Jr. died at age 92.

Mr. Morton was among the earliest volunteers and supporters of Paul's Place. Along with several other volunteers from St. Thomas' Church, Owings Mills, he spent nights as a chaperone for homeless men guests at Barnabas House in the 1980s when Paul's Place was in its formative years. He always took ham and bread for the men to snack on in the evening. In 2000, his wife of 53 years died, and Jack and his three children established the Lettice Lee Lyon Morton Memorial Fund, an endowment that will support children's programs at Paul's Place for decades to come. Since 2000, the family and friends have added to the endowment with annual contributions in memory of Mrs. Morton.

Jack and his family have created a legacy at Paul's Place that is seen in the smiles of kids who see dragonflies for the first time at summer camp, experience the joy of reading with their camp counselors, and learn the confidence and concentration they need in the classroom. With the endowment they created, and the continued involvement of family members, the Morton family will help hundreds of Southwest Baltimore youth reach their potential.

The Board and staff of Paul's Place join all who loved John Stewart Morton Jr. in mourning this loss.

Spotlight on Giving: Happier Holidays in Southwest Baltimore

A traditional turkey dinner for Thanksgiving, the ingredients for a home-cooked holiday meal, breakfast the next morning, and presents to put under the Christmas tree—these are just some of the ways Paul's Place will help families in need this holiday season. We do this with the support of individuals, companies, churches, schools, and other groups that contribute their time, talent and treasure to make the holidays happier in Southwest Baltimore.

Dinner-in-Spirit

Priscilla and Douglas Vaughan, faithful Dinner-in-Spirit supporters, since 1993 have provided countless special meals for the holidays and healthy meals year-round. *"I feel that Paul's Place is doing a good deed in Pigtown. We give, and even our grandchildren give. They...donate one-half of their Thanksgiving offering to Paul's Place,"* says Douglas.

Join the Vaughans in making the holidays happier with a gift to Dinner-in-Spirit. Watch your mailbox for our annual appeal in early November, or donate online at www.paulsplaceoutreach.org.

Holiday Food and Winter Clothing

Trinity Long Green Episcopal Church members have volunteered since 2000 as Hot Lunch servers and personal shoppers in our clothing bank. During the holidays, the church has a special collection for holiday food and winter clothing, and Trinity team members Roger Eve, Larry Harback, Anita DiStefano, and Linda Smith deliver the donation to Paul's Place on behalf of the congregation.

"It is sad, but true, that the number of those in need is growing and the breadth of Paul's Place operations is a testament to that – food, clothing, education, advice, support, educational programs... Paul's Place (is a) vibrant, successful...place which continuously reinforces human respect and dignity," says Roger on why his church has stayed involved.

You can join Trinity Long Green this holiday season by holding a food or winter clothing drive at your office or place of worship or donating on your own. We especially need new or gently-used winter coats, hats, gloves, and scarves.



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For one weekend each December, our wellness room is converted into a mini toy store filled from floor to ceiling with toys, games, clothing, and other items.

Holiday Gift Shop

Employees of the Baltimore branch of Allied Waste/Republic Services helped parents select the perfect gift for the first time last holiday and have continued to volunteer at Paul's Place throughout the year.

"Our sales team has really come together and enjoys volunteering at Paul's Place. It's a humbling experience that really puts things into perspective and makes us thankful that we have been given the opportunity to give back to the community and those less fortunate. Those of us on the sales team at Allied Waste are thrilled that we can help," says Rosa Snouffer, Sales Coordinator for Allied Waste.

You too can help parents find the perfect gift for the holidays by donating toys, games, and other items to our Holiday Gift Shop where families who can't afford to buy gifts can hand-pick the perfect present for their children. The items most needed for the Holiday Gift Shop by age group are:

Babies and infants up to 3 years old:

bath toys, clothing and bibs

Children 4-12 years old:

sports equipment and Nerf products, toys, dolls, and crafts

For teenagers:

sports equipment, MP3 players, DVDs, board games and cards, arts and crafts, Wal-Mart, Target, iTunes, Best Buy gift cards

Adults:

\$25 gift cards from Wal-Mart, Rite Aid, Target, and/or Best Buy

For all ages:

boots, jeans, sweatshirts, socks, hats, gloves, scarves

Please contact Jason Sharp, Director of Programs, at jsharp@paulsplaceoutreach.org, for more ideas or before donating items not listed above for the Holiday Gift Shop.

Thank you to everyone who makes the holidays happier in Pigtown with gifts of funds, food, clothing, toys and games, and volunteer hours. To learn more about how you can contribute, contact Barbara Mason, Director of Development, at bmason@paulsplaceoutreach.org.

Join the Vaughans, Trinity, Allied and others as a catalyst and leader for change in Southwest Baltimore, now and in the future, by giving to Paul's Place!

Executive Director's Letter

The summer has its own rhythm at Paul's Place. The early mornings, instead of the afternoons, are filled with the cacophony of children's voices, each one vying to be heard as staff and camp counselors try to get the kids fed and on their busses to summer camp. Adults linger in the dining room for as long as we let them, trying to find a break from the heat and humidity, and gather in our park in the early evening hours to watch their kids play and catch up on neighborhood gossip in the shade of our trees.

And, quietly, one fiscal year comes to an end and the next one begins. At the end of each year, we count the numbers of meals served and families helped with clothing, health care, and laundry service. We measure the impact our after-school programs had on students' grades and our literacy and computer classes had on adults' employment. We compare the goals of our strategic plan with our accomplishments to see how much closer we are to our vision that, by 2020 the individuals and families living in Washington Village/Pigtown will have full access to high quality health care, education, employment, and housing along with the supports necessary for stability and self-sufficiency.

It's while we focus on the big picture—the impact of our work on our community and the individuals in it—that I am reminded that, sometimes, it's the small things we do to help people for a moment that ultimately lead them to self-sufficiency. A few small things we did serve as the perfect example.

On the hottest days of the summer, Paul's Place becomes a cooling station of sorts, not by the exact definition set by Baltimore City for cooling stations, but our own standards. Our center becomes an oasis, with air conditioning and chilled bottled water for our guests any time we are open, and a free healthy meal at lunchtime.

We help families keep their own homes cool and livable by providing the dollars needed to prevent the turnoff of electricity due to lack of payment. The summer months are especially challenging for our emergency assistance program because families have accumulated large bills, sometimes over \$1,500, during the winter heating season. For the elderly, especially, surviving the long, hot days of summer without electricity is unthinkable.

Perhaps, most importantly, Outreach Worker Na'eemah talks to everyone who comes through our doors for the cool air, a cold bottle of water, Hot Lunch, or emergency assistance about their other critical needs. That conversation is what turns one small thing we do into a decisive moment and allows us to connect our neighbors with programs we offer—including case management, our newest service—or resources in the greater community.

In that moment, with your support, we begin to transform lives and strengthen our community. Thank you for all you do during the summer months and year-round to support the small things we do and the bigger impact we have.

William J. McLennan, Executive Director



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Cucumbers, tomatoes, and peppers, oh my! This summer, the children in Summer Outings and Camps for Kids have tended the vegetables, herbs, and flowers in the Paul's Place garden and learned about where their food comes from (not just the grocery store) along the way.

Thanks to Mr. V, an Ambassador volunteer, Shirley Kollin, our Elementary Program Coordinator, and our kids, the garden is thriving. The children helped plant the vegetables and herbs in raised gardens. In addition, we planted two maple trees, a Katsura tree, and two honey locusts at the beginning of the summer. They learned how to distinguish between weeds and vegetable plants, watered the plants regularly, measured their growth, and were rewarded with fresh, sun-warmed vegetables—including a cucumber bigger around than some of their arms!



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

Paul's Place, Inc.
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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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Designate Paul's Place in your workplace giving campaign!

**#3107 for United Way, Combined Charity Campaign,
and Maryland Charity Campaign**
#65770 for Combined Federal Campaign

You can make a big difference for Paul's Place by making a small donation every time you get paid. Simply designate Paul's Place in your workplace giving campaign this fall, and you'll support 22 programs for low-income and homeless individuals and families in Pigtown.

Last fiscal year, workplace giving donors provided:

- 300+ meals per day;
- After-school and summer programs for 172 children and youth;
- 246 grants to prevent eviction or utility cut-off;
- 1,003 health screenings;
- And much more.

If your employer does not participate, you can still make a big difference. Just visit www.paulsplaceoutreach.org and sign up for a monthly donation by credit card.

**The Messenger is a publication
of Paul's Place, Inc.**

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