

MEETING GROUND DIRECTORY

Board of Directors: Gerald Cole, Jeff Dandoy, Fran Gingher, Dallas Higginbotham, Terri Hasson, Mary Ann Hopkins, Tracy McCaw, Bill Michelinie, Frances Quayle, Dave Rae, Nelson Stubbs, Al Yuninger.
Endowment Committee: William Michelinie, Chair; Miles Julian, Treasurer; James Bennett, Eugene Hildebrandt, William Lynch.

CLAIRVAUX FARM: 21 Veazey Cove Rd., Earleville, MD 21919 410/275-8990. A 20-acre residential facility with accommodations for 35 persons. There are residential buildings for families with children, women and men, a dining hall, chapel, community building, pavilion, offices and barns -- 13 buildings in all, most built by volunteers.



WAYFARERS' HOUSE: 107 Delaware Ave., Elkton, MD 21921 410/398-4381. A large 9-bedroom, 4-bathroom Victorian house, centrally located in town, with a capacity for 16 women with or without children.



GEORGE PORTER HOUSE: 238 Mackall St., Elkton, MD 21921 410/620-4678. A 7 bedroom duplex which is a group home transitional house for 8 persons.



Last year we:

- Provided 18,997 bednights of emergency and transitional housing.
- Served over 35,000 meals.
- Were available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for referrals and supportive services.
- Assisted 227 persons in the transition from being homeless
- Since its inception in 1982, Meeting Ground has provided 349,975 bednights of emergency & transitional housing.

Groups & Workshops: • Chapel Service (weekly) • Bible study group • Parenting/communication class • GED class • Nutrition workshop • Financial planning workshop • Children's Hour • Self-esteem workshop • Craft/Art workshop • Rolling Readers

Homeless prevention: • Emergency food assistance • Clothing, furniture, appliance help • Food clubs (Hope Program) • Rainbow Fund for medical assistance • Legal Assistance Fund • Savings account program • Aftercare Program

Education & Advocacy: • Loaves & Fishes (Bi-monthly newspaper) The Meeting Ground Reader • Web Site: www.meetingground.org • Work Camp Program (work/study - 25 groups, 400 volunteers / year) • Retreats for Confirmation Classes, etc. • Workshops on homelessness • Gatekeepers Bible Studies • Conferences: "Homelessness & the Church" "New Ways of Being Church" "Standing Together: Building Justice into a World Economy" "Helping, Not Fixing: Practical Roots of Compassionate Action"

Continuing membership/partnership in: • National Coalition for the Homeless • North American Street Newspaper Association • National Homeless Persons Memorial Day

Some of the programs & partnerships which Meeting Ground has helped to initiate since its inception in 1981:

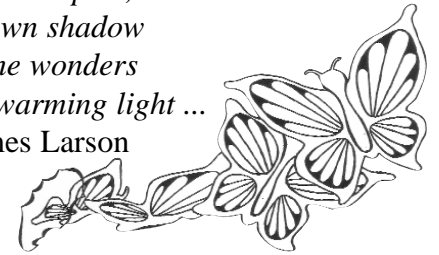
- Friendship House, Inc. (Wilmington, DE) • BorderLinks (Tucson, AZ)
- Cecil County Men's Shelter (Elkton) • Elkton Community Kitchen

Mission Statement: *We, the community of Meeting Ground, are a people of faith, hope and love. Our mission is to help meet basic human needs and to address the root problems that perpetuate the cycle of poverty and homelessness. We bring together homeless and non-homeless persons in a context of shared life and work by providing hospitality, shelter, food and education. We strive to live with compassion, respect, affirmation and advocacy. In the light of the loving community of God's grace, we invite all to participate fully regardless of needs, differences or gifts. At Meeting Ground, in humility, "we all sit at the same table" in ministry one to another, each seeking to discover one's own identity.*

Our Spring Appeal

*Perhaps this has been the sum of my life's work –
to survive my own broken heart,
to plumb my own depths,
to explore my own shadow
and discover the wonders
of illuminating and warming light ...*

- Timothy James Larson



by Carl Mazza

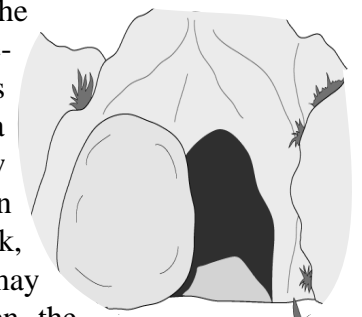
Our winter season at Meeting Ground has been one of our busiest ever, yet also one of our most rewarding. The official opening of our new family residence building at Clairvaux Farm was a deeply satisfying event for everyone. This new facility is something we have dreamed of for many years, and it still hardly seems possible that it is now a real thing. It has a warmth about it, and a lot of space. We designed it for the variety of needs we have struggled to serve for over two decades.

It is completely handicapped accessible, with room for very large families and also for the variety of families we usually help – including sin-mothers and fathers with children, and single parents with children. The full-wall picture window in the common room looks toward the west, and when the sun is setting just right, along the Chesapeake Bay not far from us, the entire place is filled with vibrant evening colors! Yet, more beautiful even than this is the sight of children, just moving in – excitedly acquainting themselves with a place to call home – and it looks and feels every bit that way.

Still, our happiness about this is tempered by the realization that what we do in our community is like a wisp. It is only the fringe of a dream – our desire that the world get tough about caring, and in which decent, affordable housing and a real living wage are truly within the reach of all people – and not just for a shrinking class of the comfortable.

We continue to need your partnership. Our support is grassroots and community based. We have no large sources of funding, and this gives us close accountability to those who walk with us on this journey of faith. Right now we are in particular need of your help. Our expanded facilities and program have put a strain on our resources. Your continuing partnership is wanted and appreciated.

This is the season of beginning again. The realities of resurrection, salvation and re-birth are all around. May the time inspire us to remember, always, that we are, in fact, a timeless people. What we do together now makes a difference in ways we have yet even to imagine. And the implication of our work, however impossible is sometimes seems, may be a benediction for many, perhaps even the whole world, for a long time to come.



Vol. XXIII, No. 2 **Loaves & Fishes** March-April, 2004

Articles and letters may be submitted for publication at any time. For editorial communications, address change, or new subscription call or write:

P.O. Box 808 Elkton, Maryland 21922 (410) 275-2936
 Web Site: www.meetingground.org e-mail: info@meetingground.org
 Publication is bi-monthly, year round. Subscription cost is \$5.00 per year.