

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.

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.*

National Homeless Advocate Censored by Assistant Secretary of HUD

Donald Whitehead, the first formerly homeless African-American Executive Director for the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH), was barred from the Housing and Urban Development meeting, on Tuesday March 16th, in which he had been invited to speak on the Continuum of Care consolidation plan. Senior members of the Department's national office elected to censor Mr. Whitehead, asking him to leave the meeting. NCH provides a wealth and diversity of knowledge that represents a perspective shared by many in the advocacy world, but not by HUD.

NCH has been highly critical of HUD's controversial Chronic Homelessness Initiative as well as their proposed FY 2005 budget, that seeks to eliminate 250,000 section 8 vouchers, due to the detrimental effect these programs and cuts will have on the growing numbers of homeless children and families. NCH joined in a letter signed by other prominent national, state and local advocacy groups including, NAACP, National Organization of Women, Volunteers Of America, and Child

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Welfare League of America raising concerns regarding HUD's present position on the provision of homeless assistance funds.

The fact that Donald Whitehead, one of the nation's most well respected homeless advocates, was denied the opportunity to address advocates who are designing a plan to address homelessness in the DC Metropolitan area is appalling, but not surprising. Mr. Whitehead said, "If we are to move forward, and achieve notable progress in our goals for strengthening the social fabric of America, this type of censorship must end."

For further information contact:

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Memoriam

William F. Lynch
 March 4, 2004 - age 83

A friend and counselor to the Meeting Ground Community, and to all who knew the honor of his wisdom, care, and commitment

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that you through his poverty might be rich. II Corinthians 8:9

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

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