



New Day



Spring 2017

No one should die alone in the woods!

New Day of Laurel Maryland Inc. is a 501(c)(3) public charity.

Our Mission

As Evangelical followers of Jesus, our mission is to encourage the compassionate responses of area churches to assist in relationally involved life changes among the homeless and vulnerable.

Our Vision

To encourage churches, in cooperation with community partners to provide a year-round, all-inclusive response to homelessness in our region. We will succeed when Laurels homeless, and those constantly at risk of becoming homeless, have opportunity for friendship, shelter, recovery from addiction, access to healthcare, and opportunities for meaningful work, all leading to the new life Jesus offers.

Our Motto

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

Who We Serve

The New Day family of volunteers' partner with individuals for whom traditional programming has failed to meet crucial needs. Our friends have become vulnerable and can even be homeless due to a variety of circumstances, such as addiction, mental health concerns, job loss, broken families, developmental disabilities, medical problems, and relational poverty. We foster permanent, Christ-centered relationships in order to facilitate positive change.

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New Day Friends' Stories – PETE SMITH



New Day friend Pete Smith – one of our many beloved vulnerable Laurel neighbors – is a living testimony to our motto that “No one should die alone in the woods.” Less than five years ago, he was among the homeless living in his tent in the North Laurel woods “among drug dealers and thieves.” This campsite setting warranted middle-of-the-night police visits and identification checks when fights broke out among his homeless neighbors. His situation also led to complex medical complications when his neighbors broke into his tent to steal essential medicine: Pete secured most medicines at a Laurel day center,

well aware of the threat to personal possessions for the homeless, but constant access to that single vial of insulin could mean the difference between life and death for a diabetic. Nonetheless, Pete preferred the sense of independence he maintained living in the tent to the worry of risking his possessions in the shelter alternative -- even when that shelter served as protection from the harsh weather in at least one winter he spent without a residential address.

Pete became homeless in 2010 after medical maladies made it impossible for him to work and to pay the rent in this high cost of living area. After declining the shelter vouchers offered as the solution to his situation, he met Ruth Walls, a Laurel nurse renowned for connecting the vulnerable members of the community with medical care, psychiatric assessments, and substance abuse treatment options, as well as advising New Day on how best to care for our vulnerable friends. **Ruth changed his life.** She served as his initial advocate during the medical disability process, assisting him in obtaining the appropriate Social Security Disability (SSDI) benefits which allowed him to move from his tent to his first residence in 2013. In addition to assisting him with the disability benefits process, Ruth connected Pete with various medical services which ultimately saved his vision and his life in 2015. She also connected him with her daughter Wrenn Skidmore, the Licensed Graduate Social Worker (LGSW) who supported Pete throughout life's trials long before she was hired as New Day's first and *only* employee in Oct 2015.

While the authentic challenges of Laurel living continue for Pete (i.e., high cost of living, neighbors tapping into his electricity while trying to get him evicted via the landlord, persistent medical conditions), his connections with New Day relationships and services provide a firm foundation which allows him to remain both encouraged and encouraging.

His encouragement recently extended to the New Day church youth and youth leaders participating in the “Day in the Life” event, where Pete graced the Bethany Community Church barn stage to share his perspective on Laurel homelessness. Recapping his comments in a follow-on interview, Pete proclaimed that “being homeless is not a joke,” a reality participants clearly took away from the Day in the Life experience. (cont.)

New Day Friends' Stories (cont.)

But balancing that reality with the event's message of hope regarding how New Day supporters can impact our vulnerable friends, Pete reflected on how rapidly the life changing disability benefits process moved with the support of New Day services and advisors: "Isn't that a blessing from God!"

Indeed, it is Pete! God moves in the most amazing ways, and we invite you to be a part of it through your financial contributions to New Day of Laurel, Inc.

What's New



New Day of Laurel Maryland is now a member of AGRM – The Association of Gospel Rescue Missions. AGRM exists to proclaim the passion of Jesus toward the hungry, homeless, abused, and addicted; and to accelerate quality and effectiveness in member missions.

New Day of Laurel Maryland is now listed in the Combined Federal Campaign for government employees. Our ID number is 42396. For all federal workers, please remember to include our ID number - 42396 in workplace donations and also ask your coworkers to remember the homeless also.



First Annual Golf Tournament

If you enjoy golf, here is the chance to play while supporting Laurel's homeless and vulnerable neighbors by participating in the New Day Charity Golf Tournament at Cross Creek Golf Course on Friday September 22, 2017.

The cost is \$60.00 per player.

For more information or to register on line, you can go to the New Day website: www.newdaylaurel.org/golf.html

Check out our new website today and watch the video "The Story of New Day".



You can also read the latest news stories, sign up for our newsletters, donate on-line using a credit card or a check, or fill out a volunteer form if you would like to be a part of the solution. We need volunteers to help with some of the fund-raising projects such as our Pancake Breakfast or even our Golf Tournament.



New Day welcomes Faye M. Nock to the New Day Board of Directors.

Faye M. Nock joined Home Builders Institute (HBI) in 2001. In her role as Senior Vice President of Human Resources, she is responsible for leading organization-wide human resources from service delivery to talent acquisition, employee relations, health and wellness, compensation/benefits, organization effectiveness and HR systems. Ms. Nock also provides organizational leadership in the development, implementation, and achievement of HBI's strategic plan and organizational goals. With more than 25 years of HR experience in multiple industries, Ms. Nock will be a great asset to New Day. Prior to joining HBI, Ms. Nock served as a Human Resource Consultant to a variety of public, private and non-profit organizations. She also held various senior level HR positions with Marriott Corporation and Johns Hopkins Medical Services Corporation.

A native of Greensboro, NC, Nock earned a B.S. degree in psychology from Morgan State University.

For more information about Ms. Nock please see the Board of Directors Information on the New Day website.

A DAY IN THE LIFE – April 21st and 22nd



On April 21st and 22nd, a fund raising/awareness event was held at Bethany Community Church. The event was designed to help our young people learn more about what it is like to be homeless with no place to live. There were attendees from five different local churches.

There were guest speakers from Central Union Mission in Washington, DC, including Minister Deborah Chambers who is also a member of the New Day Board of Directors and Antonio Thomas who is finishing the Central Union Mission program to get off the streets. In addition, Pete Smith, a former homeless resident of Laurel spoke about his experiences on the street. His story is included in this newsletter.



Minutes before the event was scheduled to start, a thunderstorm erupted, treating participants to a night of rain and cool weather creating an experience more like the real life of the homeless population.

The participants spent 20 hours living as many of the homeless residents live.



On Saturday morning, groups performed different tasks, some went to the local Giant Food store to raise money and collect food for the Food Bank and others provided assistance to some of New Day's vulnerable friends to help them clean, shop and other tasks that were needed. Some of the

attendees participated in a writing contest, "What I Learned", to describe how their views about homelessness had been impacted and you can see the winning entries on the next page.



“What I Learned” - Contest Winners

1ST PLACE WINNER

Allison Demik
Our Savior Lutheran Church

My experience with the New Day of Laurel event "A Day in the Life" was eye opening. It was a 20-hour event where youth groups from the area joined together. We heard monologues from men from the organization. They were very influential and touched on the struggles and how important friends are as a support network in case of any dramatic change, for better or worse. I learned that you have to be creative when in a tent camp. It was a very damp night so we stuffed our shoes with paper towels. We slept in our soaking tents. When we woke up we got ready to go to a kind man's apartment. We learned his story and helped him do chores he is incapable of doing himself. It was great to understand how much of an impact we made for him. I'm very thankful for my family and friends and I want to continue helping the homeless and spreading the word.

2nd PLACE WINNER

Emma Williams
St. Anne's School of Annapolis

My experience at "A Day in the Life" was very powerful. It was difficult for me to give up the comfort of my warm bed to sleep out in the rain, but when you think about people who have to go through that experience every time it rains, it truly has an impact. Having to wake up and find all your stuff is soggy is also a real pain in the butt. However, this taught me a lot about sacrifice and how sometimes you must give something up to realize all you take for granted in daily life.

Also, when we did the service project at the grocery store, it was amazing how many people outright rebuked us. They just refused to even take our flier. This made me wonder how many times I've just walked past someone asking for help without even realizing they were there. All in all, my experience was life changing and I hope I can do it again next year.

3rd PLACE WINNER (tie)

Rachel Humble
Bethany Community Church

In my experience, I have learned so many things men and women go through in life I have never thought of. Before this event, I thought becoming homeless was a result of losing a job. But really what people have lost is friends. I cannot picture a world without my friends and family. Where would I be? I do not know. So, seeing these people and what they go through is awful. I would never wish it on anyone. I hope that one year, homelessness will not exist. I had a great time and hope to do the same next year.

What I Learned" - Contest Winners (cont.)

3rd PLACE WINNER (tie)

**Aubrie Wilson
First Baptist Church**

My experience at "A Day in The Life" was eye-opening. The speakers were inspiring and honestly made me think more about these situations. When it came time to sleep, I was almost comfortable. Once I finally fell asleep, the wind picked up, and I woke up freezing, and then of course it began to pour down rain. I couldn't sleep easily. When I got up for breakfast, my body was sore. Breakfast was good though.

We went on our missions' trip and it was really nerve-wracking to ask people for food. Some people rejected us and it felt awful, but overall, it was really an amazing experience.



New Day of Laurel Maryland 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 help.

We are currently working on acquiring a building to better support the vulnerable and homeless people in this area. Your regular donations are needed to financially support that goal.

**Please consider signing up for a recurring donation that is above your regular church tithe on the Donate page at:
<http://www.newdaylaurel.org>.**