“A Place to Call My Own Again”

Here is Darryl in his own words talking about moving out of Depaul House in Philadelphia to his apartment in March 2015.

“Last Wednesday, I moved into my own place. I still can’t believe it. It’s different than what I’m used to. It’s quiet. It’s strange since I’ve got to get used to being alone after all of those years in shelters and programs. You know, I’ve been out on the streets for the last 15 years. Getting into trouble and doing odd jobs. I haven’t had a steady job since 2000. And I didn’t think I would ever have a place to call my own again.

My case manager, Michelle, she helped me a lot. She helped me stay on track when I would get distracted. Lynn in the Job Shop, she helped me get a resumé together and helped me apply for work. I’ve been with [Immaculate Cleaning Services] since June 2014 and I really like it. I’ve learned a lot and I like the people I work with. Lynn also helped me get a second job at Awbury Arboretum. I like that job, too, because I get to help keep their buildings clean and I work independently. Working helps me feel competent.

My plan, now that I have my own place, is to stay focused and keep working. I know I can always come back to Depaul House to visit since I live in the neighborhood. I’m going to help out here since they’ve helped me so much.”
Dear Friends,

Depaul USA has decided spring is the perfect time for a set of new programmatic adventures. In addition to ongoing initiatives, we are renovating a former convent in Philly that will provide 27 units of permanent housing for men and women with chronic health problems. In Macon, we launched our second social enterprise, “Wear”. This thrift store “with a twist” offers men’s, women’s, and children’s clothing and accessories in a boutique-like environment. Profits support Daybreak, Depaul USA’s day/resource center in Macon. In Little Rock, we have taken over operation and management of the Jericho Way day/resource center. We are figuring out how to best deliver services there while also helping to reinvigorate the surrounding community. Finally, here in Chicago, we are starting a host-home program in collaboration with the local Vincentian Family to assist DePaul University students who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

I concede that it all makes for a somewhat dizzying menu of initiatives. Whittled down to their core, however, Depaul USA programs help homeless men and women do four things: 1) overcome the immediate crisis of homelessness through the provision of basic services; 2) improve their health and well-being; 3) increase their economic self-sufficiency; and 4) attain and sustain permanent housing.

I hope this edition of the newsletter gives you an idea of the breadth of Depaul USA’s programming and insight into the extraordinary efforts of our team members, as they work with homeless men and women across the country.

Thank you for your support,
Chuck Levesque
President/Executive Director

Love from Sr. Elizabeth

Dear Friends, Volunteers, and Supporters of Depaul,

In this age of instant media, you are probably already aware that Depaul USA’s Daybreak program in Macon has been honored to become the model for a similar day/resource center in Little Rock, Ark. To this end, I have been traveling to Little Rock, working with city officials, hiring staff, and making program changes to bring the project into the Depaul USA family.

Recently my community, the Daughters of Charity, made the decision to move me to Little Rock. I will be moving in July, and splitting my time between Macon and Little Rock until then. While there is a sadness in leaving, I will still have ties to Macon and be connected to our program there. As Depaul grows, there will be many homecomings to the source for inspiration and advice.

It is not time to say goodbye, but it is always time to say how incredibly blessed and honored I am to have been able to call Macon home for the last 10 years. I am honored and blessed to have worked with, collaborated with, and dreamed with so many incredibly loving, generous, and concerned individuals!

More later...Blessings,
Sister Elizabeth
Little Rock Director
My name is Kevin. All my life I have dealt with mental illness (depression and bipolar disorder), which caused me to use drugs and self-medicate. I never had insurance as an adult, which prevented me from seeing a therapist or psychiatrist.

My marriage in 2001 and the birth of my first two sons in 2002 and 2004 were the best things to happen to me. I was able to quit using drugs, get a good job, and be the person that I always dreamed to be. All I needed was a family, ones who loved and supported me. And since I never had a close family and never felt loved like a person should, this was an opportunity for me to feel and give real love, which made life worth living.

In 2006, my wife left me with the kids. In 2007, she showed up with the police and literally ripped my boys out of my arms. She had filed for a legal separation and was granted temporary custody. I snapped and assaulted several police officers. I felt my whole world crumbling down. I thought, “Why am I being punished for being a good father?”

I was arrested, and when I bonded out, all I wanted to do was die. I lost my apartment and gave up on life. Being homeless was the last straw. I drove out to a river access and tried to commit suicide. A police officer took me to jail for trespassing at the river after hours.

After about a year of homelessness and drug use, I was connected with Gretchen and Joe with [Depaul USA]. I got an apartment, was able to quit using marijuana and began working. I started feeling better and was able to focus on what I needed to do to be the father that I was before everything happened.

I am now working on a bachelor’s degree in behavioral science. I have a 3.6 GPA and have received over five President’s Citations for achieving Academic Honors and Honor Roll. I will be graduating in April 2016.

I have been working really hard over the past five years. The rewards are positive, causing me to believe that this is what I am supposed to be doing. I owe my success to Gretchen and Joe at Depaul USA for the guidance, care, support and love that they have shown me. I could not have done it without them. They are truly angels sent to guide me in the path that God has set out for me.

~Kevin
### Who Do you serve?

Daniel Swain, a case manager in New Orleans, moved from part-time to full-time employment with Depaul USA, assisting Sr. Kathleen Driscoll, New Orleans Director, and serving 16 clients in a rapid-rehousing program that began April 2014. Interacting one-on-one with clients, he says he has had a wonderful experience. He enjoys the process of earning trust, connecting clients to services, and giving support long-term.

When asked if he would like clients to still call after his services are completed he replied: “I wouldn’t mind if people stayed in touch, as long as they don’t need me. It would be weirder if I never heard from them again,” he laughs.
Our thrift store, with Heatherly Wakefield as manager, opened the first week of May. Come see “thrift with a twist,” our boutique-style clothing and accessories shop located at 464 First Street, in downtown Macon, GA. We invite you to get involved, too: come and shop; donate gently-used clothing; give your time and help; tell your friends; or stop in and give an encouraging word as we take on a new social enterprise aimed at helping members of the community facing homelessness. The participants of Macon’s day/resource center called Daybreak thank you!

MACON

Wear.
Your Dollar Makes Change.

PHILADELPHIA

Depaul Dash

Thank you to all who took part in the Depaul Dash, our annual 5K starting at Depaul House and winding through the local Awbury Arboretum. What a beautiful day! Check out our Facebook page and see more pictures of this fun event that raised money to support Depaul House and the medical respite in Philadelphia!

Support individuals facing homelessness in your community.
Donate at www.depaulusa.org Depaul USA is a registered 501C3 not-for-profit organization.
Depaul USA intern Anuja Patel (AP) took time to learn about the work through the eyes of Calandra Davis (CD), one of Depaul USA’s newest team members in Little Rock, Arkansas. Here is what she found out:

**AP: How did you find your way to Depaul USA?**

**CD:** Before Depaul USA, I worked as a guest relations coordinator at Ronald McDonald House Charity. It provided me with a chance to serve more than 800 families and develop life-long friendships. I am also a recent graduate of the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service, a graduate program that molds its students into professional public servants who work to ensure equity and positive social change.

**AP: Can you share a story about a client who has left an impression on you?**

**CD:** George has had the biggest impact on me. From day one, he took on the volunteer role. He cleans the kitchen, organizes toiletries, and is always ready to help other clients. Recently, he invited me to church. I went, not knowing that this would also be the day George decided to unashamedly announce his changed life through water baptism. I was touched that he thought enough of me to share such a special moment.

**AP: Why did you decide to work for Depaul USA?**

**CD:** I chose to work for Depaul USA because we share a vision “of a society in which everyone has a place to call home and a stake in the community.” I wanted a career that would put my passion for a just society and service into action. I do not believe there is a better time that I could have connected with Depaul Little Rock. Through Depaul, I have spent the last four weeks working to help the homeless community of Little Rock reach their full potential and in return, I have gained a new hope. Before I could ask, “What service can we help you with today?” someone has offered to carry my bag, given me his or her pastry, or held the door open for me. Small acts of kindness I did not know I needed. I’m not only humbled by the actions of the participants of Depaul, but I am inspired by them. In their time of despair, they still manage to care about my well-being. For this reason, I have decided to wholeheartedly devote my time to joining with the marginalized and others currently doing this work in the community.

**Testify!**

Sadie, one client in Little Rock, shared her testimony with other participants, just four weeks after the program’s reopening under Depaul USA management. Many, including staff were encouraged by her words.

“At first I was hesitant about asking, because I had such bad experiences with other non-profit agencies, but I decided to try Depaul. And the staff, social workers, et cetera cared about my situation. They gave me the necessary information I needed to relocate and always asked me how things were. God sent me to Depaul.”

~ Sadie
**Depaul UK**

In December 100 young people from eight United Kingdom homeless charities attended the Youth Homeless Parliament in London. Ten Depaul UK clients from projects across the country were chosen as representatives. They travelled to Westminster to help present this year’s Youth Manifesto to members of Parliament in the House of Commons, focusing on combating youth homelessness. It was a great opportunity for young people to make their voices heard.

**Depaul Ireland**

**Mark McGreevy = OBE!**

Dear Friends,

By now I think you will be aware that in the “Queen’s New Year’s Honors List” I was awarded Officer of the British Empire (OBE) for services to homeless people in the UK and in the other five countries we serve. Whilst this is immensely flattering, I would like to add that this is really a recognition of the hard work and dedication shown by everyone at Depaul, be they trustees, staff or volunteers, over the past 25 years to improve the lives of so many people in need. Depaul is on the cusp of having supported 100,000 individuals in that time. We’ll probably reach that figure within the next year.

I feel privileged to have been part of the charity since its inception, and to have celebrated my own 25-year milestone February 2015. When Depaul UK began at the end of 1989, Sister Sarah King-Turner was at the helm, with project manager Vickey Steven and myself (as Deputy Director of Services) becoming its first paid employees. A quarter of a century later, I am very proud of all that has been achieved, and to have had your support particularly when we have taken some risks with new services. I look forward to working with you over the next 25 years!

Mark McGreevy, Group CEO, Depaul International

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**Depaul Ukraine**

The continuing political unrest is causing concern for Depaul’s services in Kharkiv and Odessa. In Kharkiv in particular, we are seeing many refugees flooding the city, fleeing the troubled Donbass region in far-eastern Ukraine, and the city of Donetsk. Staff continue operations, feeding and housing many families, and Depaul International is particularly pleased the Archbishop in Kharkiv has taken the initiative to extend services Depaul has been running at the Cathedral on Gogola Street into a more permanent day center project, with proper shower facilities as well as food.

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**Support** individuals facing homelessness in your community.

**Donate** at [www.depaulusa.org](http://www.depaulusa.org) Depaul USA is a registered 501C3 not-for-profit organization.
Save the date: November 14th is our Benefit Gala in Philadelphia!

Depaul USA is a registered 501C3 not-for-profit organization.

Our vision is a world where everyone has a place to call home, and a stake in his or her community.

Philadelphia
Sandra Guillery, Director
Immaculate Cleaning Services, LLC

Macon
Kathy Smith, Assistant Director
Wear Boutique Thrift Store

New Orleans
Sister Kathleen Driscoll, Director

St. Louis
Gretchen Shipp, Director

Little Rock
Sister Elizabeth Greim, Director

Chicago
Organization Headquarters

President
Charles W. Levesque

Director Of Operations
Kelli J. McGee

Director of Advancement
Jena Hencin

Director of Finance
Didier Guigon

Depaul USA clients are Homeward bound!
Read more about it . . .