

Your gift to PLASE will MAKEOVER someone's life!

Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Phone #1: Phone #2:

Email:

Gift given in memory/honor of:

Card to:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

To support the food, shelter and services Project PLASE provides for homeless men and women, I am enclosing a gift of:

\$

- (\$1,000 & above) Hope Society
- (\$500 - \$999) Kinship Circle
- (\$250 - \$499) Circle of New Life
- (\$100 - \$249) Friend of PLASE
- (\$1 - \$99) PLASE Supporter
- I would like to give my time. Please call me about volunteer opportunities.
- I would like to make a legacy gift in my will to Project PLASE, please call me with more information.

Project PLASE, Inc. is a 501(C)(3) not-for-profit organization, contributions to which are tax-deductible in accordance with the law. A copy of our latest financial statement is available upon request by contacting Project PLASE at 1814 Maryland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21201. Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401 for the cost of copying and postage.



PLASE bears the Standards of Excellence award. Go to www.nonprofitsyoucantrust.org to learn about the Standards of Excellence and see reasons [Project PLASE, Inc. \(People lacking Ample Shelter and Employment\)](#) is a non-profit you can trust.

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
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Our Mission

Project PLASE, Inc. addresses homelessness by providing transitional housing, permanent housing and supportive services to homeless adults. We serve the most vulnerable and underserved, including persons with mental illness, HIV/AIDS, addiction, developmental disabilities and ex-offenders.

We treat, restore and rehabilitate the whole person. We empower each individual to function at the highest level possible.

Our Vision

Eliminate homelessness.



United Way
of Central Maryland

Use **Designation Code 8141** for the Combined Federal Campaign and Maryland Charity Campaign. Use **Designation Code 141** for United Way of Central Maryland Campaign.

Project PLASE Receives Five-Year 'Seal of Excellence' at Maryland Nonprofits' 16th Annual Conference

On an unusually warm and sunny November morning, just days after a historic US presidential election, Mary C. Slicher, Executive Director of Project PLASE, Inc. joined over 500 delegates and vendors attending Maryland Nonprofits' 16th Annual Conference in the dazzling atrium at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore. The theme of the conference, 'Excellence in Doing Good', encouraged representatives of Maryland nonprofits to examine what it means to set and strive for higher standards in their organizations.

This year's conference started with a splash by introducing Maryland Nonprofits' new Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Darryl Jones, in just his 4th day on the job! Darryl comes to MNO via senior posts in law enforcement and crime prevention, and most recently as Executive Director at Communities In Schools of the Nation's Capital. Darryl spoke to the need for nonprofit leaders to recognize their own efforts and be proud of the role their organization plays in the community.

Delegates were next enthralled by the morning plenary speaker, renowned broadcaster and host of his own show on WAMU, Kojo Nnamdi. Kojo used the presidential election results to shine a light on the newly-enhanced "culture of service" in the community that had been stressed during

the campaign, the astonishing effectiveness of small and numerous contributions to a record-breaking fundraising effort, and the crucial task of attracting young people to "join the cause".

His parting message was that donors want to give and give more, but we need to be creative and enthusiastic about making this possible in these turbulent times.

There followed a series of breakout sessions. The one that this reporter attended focused on "parity not charity" to emphasize the importance of co-production, partnership, recognizing everyone's time as valuable and creating social capital through time exchange programs. On the way in and out of the breakout sessions, there was plenty of time to peruse the vendor

booths, pick up a solid flashing ice cube and learn how e-governance could help board of director productivity & effectiveness.

Back in the Constellation Ballroom, this year's MNO annual conference celebrated the 10th

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Mary Slicher, Project PLASE Executive Director, receiving the Seal of Excellence certification from Doug Gansler, Maryland Attorney General and Kevin Gillen, Metro President at TD Bank.

Support Project PLASE Online!

BE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY!

Help PLASE save money and trees by signing up for the email version of our newsletter. Together we can save money, time, and paper. You'll also enjoy features and updates that won't appear in the regular newsletter.

It's easy to sign up. Just go to our homepage, www.projectplase.org, and submit your email address to help us save the hundreds of dollars it takes to mail our newsletter.

GET YOUR OWN PLASE MUG!

Looking for Holiday gifts? Try a Project PLASE mug for the coffee drinker in your life, or perhaps a tote grocery bag for your environmentally conscious friend. To see all your options, visit our homepage, www.projectplase.org and click on the coffee mug.



'Seal of Excellence' (CONTINUED FROM COVER PAGE)

anniversary of MNO's Standards for Excellence program with a luncheon awards ceremony. The Standards for Excellence program is designed to promote excellence and integrity in nonprofits. Project PLASE, Inc. was originally certified in 2005 and this year attained recertification for another 5 years! Making this achievement even more remarkable, it should be noted that only 75 nonprofits have been certified by this program in the whole of this fine state of Maryland.

Before the ceremony, Doug Gansler, Maryland's 44th Attorney General, who himself is an active board member of a nonprofit, acknowledged and lauded the contribution that Maryland's 24,000 nonprofits make to Maryland by providing

valuable services and employing up to 250,000 people. He stressed however that there is no official regulatory body overseeing nonprofits and for this reason, nonprofits have a genuine and ethical need to be well-organized, disciplined and business-like, just like Project PLASE, Inc. (ed.)!

Finally, the moment arrived and Mary C. Slicher stepped up to the podium and received the Seal of Excellence award on behalf of all the staff, volunteers and board members at Project PLASE, Inc. Mary gave a big smile and acknowledged all the hard work and effort that went into making sure that PLASE conformed to the very high and exacting standards set by the Standards for Excellence program.

After the ceremony, keynote speaker Michael Edwards, formerly of the Ford Foundation, spoke about the role of philanthro-capitalism and nonprofits. Michael spoke about the unique nature of nonprofits in the service they provide, the values they stress and the way they are organized. In this context he suggested that the business approach of big-picture philanthro-capitalist projects needs to be adapted to compliment and contribute effectively to individual, small-scale nonprofit programs.

Mary proudly accepted the Project PLASE 'Seal of Excellence' award and is holding onto it until a home is found at PLASE's main office at 1814 Maryland Ave.

'PLASE' OF HONOR! IN RECOGNITION OF OUR OUTSTANDING STAFF...

Ms. Diana Hood, MSW, Transitional Housing Manager, received the 'Field Instructor of the Year' Award from Coppin State University at the May 16, 2008 Hooding Ceremony.

Diana has been a field instructor extraordinaire for over 10 years but is being honored particularly for her mentoring and support of Social Work interns. This year she

supervised two interns, Ms. Joyce White and Ms. Nicole Robinson. Both spoke highly of her help and how much it has meant to them. Way to go Diana! We remain proud of you!



Ms. Mary C. Slicher, LCSW-C, Executive Director, also received an award on April 24, 2008 for "outstanding and dedicated service to the community." Mary was honored by the Rotary Club of Woodlawn-Westview, at their annual dinner, receiving a Harlow Fullwood 'Service Above Self' Award. Thank you, Mary! And thank you, Rotary Club!

PLASE WELCOMES A NEW DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS



We are so pleased to welcome Dr. Nancy Connor to Project PLASE. As the Director of Programs Dr. Connor will conduct Quality Assurance reviews to help PLASE fine tune policies and services to ensure we meet our clients' needs and all governmental regulations. When deemed necessary she will call for the development of new policies and services. Ms. Mary Slicher, Executive Director, says about Dr. Connor's arrival: "Nancy hit the ground running. In her short time here, she has...strengthened our systems and given encouragement to residents and staff alike."

This dynamic woman has a wealth of education and experience. In 1984 Dr. Connor graduated from Nova University with a doctorate in Public Administration. Her many accomplishments have been recognized by organizations such as "Who's Who of American Business Leaders," and "Women for Responsive Government." During her career Dr. Connor has worked with many prominent organizations including Johns Hopkins Hospital and United Way. Muriel Gates, Director of United Way of Central Maryland who has known Dr. Connor for more than six years describes her special contribution as "her passion to create and deliver services for special populations." Dr. Connor believes that "Project PLASE encompasses all of the services and programmatic areas that

I have worked in over the last 25+ years...I'm glad that I landed here...I feel that Project PLASE has identified a mission and I'm committed to achieve that goal."

In her spare time Dr. Connor likes to read, go on cruises, meet new people and sample cuisines from cultures around the globe. We hope that we have a long and fruitful collaboration with you, Dr. Connor. Welcome aboard!

PLASE New Building Update

Project PLASE's Capital Campaign to purchase a larger facility is in full swing! Our zoning appeal passed and "is now on its way to the Mayor for signing." Marks, Thomas Architects have been appointed as architects for the building renovations. Check out pictures of the building and updates on our fundraising goals online at www.projectplase.org.



CLIENT SUCCESS: Breaking The Cycle Of Drug Addiction

Sometimes a person's life may change dramatically; often they just need to know that someone cares about them, so that they can start taking care of themselves. Take Christine for instance. Now Christine is lab tech qualified to spin down blood, do urinalysis and DNA testing, and as she testifies confidently "I'm good at it." But when Christine first came to Project PLASE, she had a criminal record and a drug addiction.

Christine's upbringing was chaotic at best, abusive at worst. Her mother was an alcoholic. Addicted by age 14 to cigarettes and alcohol, Christine soon moved on to cocaine

and heroin. She had her first of three children by age 17. The cycle was continuing, Christine says, "I remember asking people for change and people being mean. I was always beating myself down."

By 2003 Christine was convicted on a drug charge, earning herself a criminal record. She was released in August 2003 with no place to go. Her children had been spared having to go to foster homes, but they were shuffled from Aunt, to Grandmother to Great Grandmother as no one was willing or able to give them a stable home. Christine didn't even have that option. She was on the streets.

For three months Christine came by Project PLASE at least once a week distraught and pleading for help and a safe place to stay. Winter was fast approaching. Finally a spot opened up. By this time Christine was ready to work hard to make the changes necessary within herself. PLASE set her up with drug relapse prevention treatment. She took parenting classes to learn the things she

did not learn from her mother. "I couldn't ask for better kids. In spite of everything they wouldn't have any other mother than me!" She attended N.A. meetings. She learned to depend on herself and accept responsibility for her actions. It didn't happen overnight. "I cried this morning because I have come so far being the person I was to the person I am now."

Now, almost five years later, Christine has a good work record. She shares a quiet, stable home with her youngest son in a Project PLASE administered Shelter + Care apartment. Her counselor, Betty

...they are still helping me,
helping me help myself!

Patterson, provides the care part of the program. She encourages and uplifts Christine, helping her set goals: "The only thing holding you back is you". As Christine says: "Miss Betty is like a mom to me. She's in my corner." Christine recently completed the lab technician certificate at Sojourner Douglas College while working part-time in the dietary department at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Christine says her biggest challenge has been "helping my kids stay on the right track." All three have done well in their studies at high school or college and the chain of substance abuse has been broken. "I thank the Lord that my children chose not to take the path I took!" Christine is leading by example: "I wanted to make it different for them than it was for me."

Christine is so grateful to Miss Betty and the staff at Project PLASE: "they are still helping me, helping me help myself! I love earning a paycheck. I'm doing the things normal people do. I love...the peace (inside)...just learning to love me. All the money couldn't buy the feeling that I have now."

TIFFANY BRYANT GETS BUSY!



Our new Volunteer Coordinator, **Tiffany Bryant**, joined us on October 4. She immediately became involved with planning an event for National

Make a Difference Day, which involved movies, hairstyling, nail painting, and lots of yummy food! She is also working on procuring donations, recently distributing some 15 pairs of shoes to the ladies in our women's shelter.

Tiffany is well acquainted with the idea of volunteering, being one herself. She came to Project PLASE through Volunteer Maryland. Volunteer Maryland describes itself on its website as an organization that "builds stronger, healthier communities by empowering all Marylanders to take action."

Tiffany became a volunteer because she "wanted to reach out and make some kind of difference." Originally, Tiffany was interested in working with youth in some capacity, but was given Project PLASE as a possible second option. Visiting the Project PLASE facilities and meeting some of the clients and staff convinced her that we were a good match. In addition, Project PLASE is a good fit for Tiffany since she has had previous outreach experience.

As volunteer coordinator, Tiffany organizes volunteers to help Project PLASE grow. The volunteers spend time talking with clients, tutor clients who are preparing for GED testing, and lead classes in computer skills. She also works to get donations of clothing and other necessities as well as organizing events, such as National Make a Difference Day.

Growing up in Baltimore, Tiffany witnessed homelessness on the streets everyday. She lived in low income housing, so she can identify with some of the hardships faced by people, and while she did things like give money to church ministries to help the homeless, she "had no real understanding of what people had been through." For example, she never thought about the fact that people might not have somewhere to sleep at night. Since beginning work at Project PLASE, Tiffany has become much more passionate about the problems people face when they experience homelessness. Her goals for Project PLASE reflect this passion. Tiffany hopes to attract more people as permanent volunteers, expand Project PLASE's ability to accommodate volunteers, and set up permanent volunteer run programs, such as GED and computer training.

To learn more about volunteering at Project PLASE, e-mail Tiffany at tbryant@projectplase.org, or call her at 410-837-1400, ex 36.



Can you help with our Wish List?

Items on our wish list that would greatly help our work at PLASE or that our clients really need:

- a new utility van
- toiletries
- unisex hooded jackets (size M-XL)
- socks and undergarments (all sizes)
- sweaters and coats
- funding for our \$7,000,000 Capital Campaign
- art supplies
- glasses
- dishes
- pots and pans
- window blinds

www.projectplase.org/donate/wishlist.php

KEY STAFF

Mary C. Slicher
Executive Director

Scott Wolgamuth
Controller

Michael La Bua
Director of Housing

Bonita Rohr
Director of Transitional Housing

Andy Dubosky
Director of Communications and Development

BOARD OFFICERS

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