



Crossing Bridges

Spring 2013

a publication of **Transitional Living Center (TLC)**,
a program of **Tabor Community Services & home to Veterans' Victory House**



Glenn's Story

The Veterans' Victory House (VVH) is a safe and secure place for servicemen, and women of all branches and ages to make the transition from life in the service, to life in the civilian world.

The job program is second to none. Also the resources for therapy and adjustment skills are a really big help for Vets with problems of all types. Connections with the Veterans Association make the transition easier, and smoother for any veteran who is accepted into this program. I feel that TLC (VVH) is making a huge contribution to the community and to veterans alike.

On May 14th, 2013 the veterans at TLC's Veterans' Victory House had a visit from a great organization called *American Gold Star Mothers*. They brought us pizza and wings and a realistic reminder of how so many Americans, men, women, and families give their lives and time to make sure we stay the great country that we have always been.

It's wonderful to know there are people who appreciate what we went through and are willing to go above and beyond to make sure that we are not forgotten. We truly appreciate the efforts and thoughts of the people that have assisted us in our journey from one place to another! Knowing that our service to our country has not been in vain changes everything, and means so much to us! Thank you to all who were involved and God bless you.

My name is Glenn and I am a Veteran who is engaged in this program. I am truly grateful for the love and care I have received since my arrival. God Bless America, and the Veteran's Victory House.



"It's wonderful to know there are people who appreciate what we went through . . ." —Glenn, participant in TLC's Veterans' Victory House.

See page 3 for the piano Glenn painted with another VVH participant and potter Kevin Lehman.

Chrystal's Story

point where he broke my ribs.

I came to TLC depressed, scared, feeling alone, and very unsure. The staff at TLC supported my son and me in every way they possibly could and helped us rebuild our lives again. Since then we've moved into a beautiful two bedroom apartment. It's in the city which is great for me for work and my son for school. We are located in a good neighborhood with stores conveniently near by. We are both very happy with our new home!

We continue to look forward to what lies ahead ... but will never forget TLC, the staff, and all of the people in the community who help make it possible for TLC to do what they do. I don't look back and see myself as a victim ... I just look back and thank God for TLC and think how fortunate we are ...

When we needed tender loving care, it was there, given to us by so many angels. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping us rebuild our lives again!



Chrystal & son Darien at the TLC banquet

Just a thought ...

From a Harrisburg Area Community College Evening Associate Degree RN Program student who recently volunteered at TLC

"I was so impressed by what I saw at TLC! I recently heard someone ranting about our welfare system and how unfair it is that so many people take advantage of the system and live off the hard earned money of others. I agree that the system is extremely flawed, but the person who was speaking grew up in a home where he was taught how to manage his finances, he was taught those 'soft skills' necessary for holding a job (manners, professionalism, communication, being on time, working hard), he was taught how to read and write, do math, use a computer, and a number of other skills that make him desirable as an employee. And all of these things he was taught enable him to earn enough money to live well himself in addition to paying into the system from which others who do not have jobs are benefiting. It is easy for him and others in similar circumstances to be critical of those who mismanage their finances, but would he or I or anyone else make better choices if we had not been fortunate enough to have been born into the situations in which we were born, where we were taught in school and by the examples of other successful people how to be successful ourselves?

"TLC is meeting the participants wherever they are and providing them with training to develop skills that they, for whatever reason, were not taught. Yes, people can make poor choices even with the best of teaching, but so often we place all of the blame for our broken system on people for not becoming more than they were taught how to be. Ranting about it does not help; initiating programs like the one at TLC does! I love that at TLC the participants are treated with respect and dignity, as people who need help *overcoming* their problems rather than simply people who *are* problems."



Homework Club at TLC helps to "meet participants wherever they are."

When you pass on ...

what will happen to the important causes you supported during your lifetime?

With the ups and downs of the economy, non-profits must also consider how they will replace the revenue from faithful supporters when those supporters are no longer living.

Putting TLC in your will is one of the easiest ways for you to assure the continuation of the work we do beyond your lifetime.

TLC, through Tabor, has partnered with Mennonite Foundation of Everence and Lancaster



LANCASTER COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

County Community Foundation to help you make planned giving decisions while respecting your wishes and being sensitive to your faith and values.

If you would like to consider putting TLC in your will, please contact Phyllis Stacks at (717) 358-9383 or pstacks@tabornet.org.

Or go to www.TLClancaster.org > How Can I Help? > Planned Giving to learn more.



Everence

Kevin Lehman - Community Potter

Interview by Connor O'Neill

Kevin Lehman, acclaimed potter and dedicated community builder, recently led TLC and VVH participants to create TLC's lobby, ceramic mosaic and hosted the Empty Bowls event to benefit TLC. Here are excerpts from his take on the connection between his art and a stronger Lancaster community. You can read the full interview and see more photos of the Empty Bowls event online at www.TLClancaster.org.

How does creativity help to build community?

I see creativity as a problem solving activity...I'm at the youth intervention center, or working with one of the veterans, and the way we problem solve on a piano or a pot, maybe, *maybe*, that gives them a creative spark where they problem solve a little differently. It gives them a little confidence...that can go a long way to thinking: 'I can paint that piano, I can make that pot, I can get out there and talk to somebody and get a job.'

What I'm trying to do is allow people to be themselves and solve their problems themselves. I'm looking at issues we have as a society, and I don't think they are solved by trying to control individuals or areas...I'm not trying to change anybody; I'm trying to provide opportunities for people to change themselves.

Providing tools to approach and solve problems on your own is crucial at TLC. How did you get involved with TLC?

Doug is full of energy and wants to make things happen...This is how I get what's happening there: here are opportunities for you to help yourself. TLC is providing opportunities and that's what I try to do. I try and provide a different way of acting.

Caring is an important concept at TLC. What does caring mean to you?

That means thinking about the greater good. Not the individual. It becomes a sort of sacrifice. You can care, but you have to act. You can care, but you have to put it out there. It's not thinking about yourself, it's thinking of others.



Piano painted by VVH participants Glenn and Gary is now in front of Lancaster Public Library, 125 N. Duke St. Or see more views at www.TLClancaster.org.

Can working with pottery be therapeutic? Can it help people who are struggling?

I see it. People tell me: "I'm a manic depressive and this winter I got out of bed because I wanted to do pottery." How can you argue with that? There's therapy, a relationship in that. I think in our society there is a disconnect: this is us, that is nature. And working with clay is a connection. Its caring, its bringing people together. Working with TLC, we make these connections.

Life is a *do* thing. ... It's about doing as much as you can with your abilities. So I'm trying to max it out because I know that there are people with less that would do more. There are people who would do a lot more with what I have.



Empty Bowls event photos by Molly Schlachter, Molly S Photography, www.mollysphotography.com. Top, Kevin tries his hand at glass blowing; middle, bowls await takers; above, servers await guests. Thank you to everyone who participated in the event. It was a huge success! See more photos of the event at www.TLClancaster.org.



E-donate to TLC!

Go to www.TLClancaster.org and click on the donate button on the left side of the screen, then enter your donation under TLC.

Thank you so much!

Crossing Bridges is a publication of TLC
TLC is a program of Tabor Community Services
and home to Veterans' Victory House
105 E. King Street, Lancaster, PA 17602
(717) 397-0156 • fax (717) 397-1782
www.TLClancaster.org



Please join us for the

TLC Fundraising & Volunteer Recognition Dinner

October 24, 2013@ 6 pm

The Courtyard @ Eden Resort

222 Eden Road, Lancaster, PA 17601

RSVP today...

... or by October 17th. Reservations are free, but required.

Complete and mail the enclosed reservation form or contact Lucy at Lmannix@tabornet.org or (717) 358-9377.

Donations will be accepted at the dinner.

Join the staff, participants, volunteers and friends of TLC for a celebration . . . as we honor those who give their time to make TLC a better place for those who live there. Hear first-hand stories of those who have experienced homelessness.

Invite your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, or anyone who shares your interest in helping those who are experiencing homelessness.

Be a **Sponsor of TLC's Fundraising & Volunteer Recognition Dinner**

Your name or organization's name and sponsorship will be listed in the program and a table sign with the name or logo will announce your sponsorship. Sponsorships range from \$200 to the sky's the limit. Proceeds go toward defraying the costs of the event, then to serving the residents of TLC.

Complete the reservation/sponsorship form enclosed.

For more information, please contact Phyllis at (717) 358-9383 or pstacks@tabornet.org.



Photos from TLC's lobby. Ceramic tile pillar was done by Kevin Lehman with TLC participants. Wall was done by Grandview UMC volunteers. Stop by anytime to take a look. Or view more photos online at www.TLClancaster.org.