




Crossing Bridges

SUMMER 2019



TLC
Bridging Homelessness to Housing
A Program of Tabor Community Services
Home to Veterans' Victory House



*There is a light
at the end of
the tunnel, and
TLC has helped
us see that light.*

qualified for a Housing Choice Voucher (HCV), which provides rental assistance to veterans and their families. Their dream will become a reality when they move into an apartment in Denver in the next three months.

During this transitional period in their lives, Jeff would like others to know that “we were independent, responsible individuals who paid our bills. In the blink of an eye, we lost almost everything. At times, we wondered, ‘how did all this happen?’”

“At TLC we are well taken care of. We’re excited about moving forward. We look forward to the future, knowing our lives will get better. Our advice to others is ‘stay strong, keep fighting, and don’t give up.’ There is a light at the end of the tunnel, and TLC has helped us see that light.” 



Moving Forward

Jeff and his wife Tracey are an independent couple, married for 32 years with two adult children and two grandchildren. Jeff served in the U.S. Army from the age of 18-23 years. In early 2000 he developed a form of arthritis that causes fusion of the bones and required him to go on disability. In 2015 Tracey was downsized from her job of 25 years as a housekeeping supervisor at an assisted living community, and their income was reduced from \$47,000 to \$12,000. The next year she developed health issues, and they were unable to pay their rent.

They left their apartment, and Tracey

moved in with her mother, and Jeff lived with his sister. When Jeff moved out of his sister’s home, he became homeless. After contacting the VA, he learned about TLC/Veterans’ Victory House, a program of Tabor Community Services. He contacted TLC, and within two weeks, Tracey and Jeff were reunited, living together at Veterans’ Victory House.

Jeff said, “TLC/Veterans’ Victory House worked together with the VA, and if it weren’t for them, I don’t know where we’d be. This is temporary, but we feel safe, secure, and always welcome.” They have

Dear friends of TLC,

This has been a season of change here at Tabor. In April we experienced a leadership transition with the departure of Division Manager Doug Hopwood and Operations Manager Wendi Horst. We are grateful for Doug and Wendi's dedication and their contributions to many participants' success over the years.

Roger Steffy, our Vice President for Programs, has been doing an admirable job as the Interim Division Manager for TLC/Veterans Victory House. Roger has extensive experience in this work, including prior stints as the Executive Director of a transitional housing program in Harrisburg, as well as passion for creating opportunities for people who have struggled to succeed, as you'll hear in his letter. The journey of our program participants continues to be at the center of our work.

With the participant's experience, like that of Jeff and Tracey, as our guiding lens, we have spent the spring and summer developing a new strategic plan. We've had lots of conversations with staff, program participants, board members, community partners, and supporters. Together, we have dreamed big about the future of our work in the community. We've asked questions like: "Do we understand our clients' needs and do we offer the right products that help improve their situation?"; "Are there other groups we could/should be partnering with?"; and "What does success look like in 5 years?" We're not done yet, but I am confident the important work of TLC in providing a safe place for families and veterans to rebuild after a difficult time will be a central point in the new plan. I'll share more details in a future newsletter once the plan is complete. If you have ideas, I'd love to hear from you (mmckenna@tabornet.org)!

As I was sitting down to write this note, the meaning of the 50th anniversary of the moon landing kept coming to mind. Neil Armstrong walking on the moon was the culmination of the brilliance and hard work of so many men and women at NASA and other organizations. It gives me goosebumps to think of not only what they dreamed of and then achieved, but moreover what we can all do in the future when our vision, tools, and team align.

I believe Lancaster County is special and uniquely positioned for a "moonshot" of our own in homelessness. We saw a glimmer of it back in 2015 when the White House recognized Lancaster County for being one of the few communities nationwide to have "ended" veteran homelessness.ⁱ TLC/Veterans Victory House was and continues to be a critical part of that success story. The group that founded TLC (then Harb-Adult) in 1986 knew serving adults experiencing homelessness and transitioning them to permanent housing wouldn't be easy. But for more than three decades we've helped people realize their human rights of housing and financial security. There's more work to be done, but we believe that together we can achieve extraordinary things.



Mike McKenna
President
Tabor Community Services



ⁱ Note: This means that we have a system in place to make sure that when veterans experience homelessness, it is rare, brief and a one-time event



EMPTY BOWLS 2019

Special thanks to Kevin Lehman, Stacy Martin, and countless other volunteers who continue to make this event a success!



10th Annual Daniel Cicchetti Memorial Golf Tournament

This year marks the 10th Annual Daniel Cicchetti Memorial Golf Tournament which benefits Veterans' Victory House! We are so thankful for Pete and Jackie!

Interested in joining in next year? Be sure to check out our future newsletters.



Victory Church BIKER BLESSING

Special thanks to Victory Church PA for allowing us to be part of their Biker Blessing. At the event, \$5,000 was raised for Veterans' Victory House!



Seeing TLC from the Inside

Roger Steffy

VP for Programs, Interim TLC Division Manager

For the past 7 years in my role as Tabor's VP for Programs, I supervised the TLC Division Manager. I understood quite well what TLC does, who we serve, and how TLC's services are provided. But my perspective was primarily from outside.

Then in April I stepped in as the Interim Division Manager to sustain TLC's services during a leadership transition and have made TLC my primary focus and place of work over the past few months.

Seeing TLC and our amazing participants from the inside as part of the TLC team has been a privilege and a blessing for me. It's a joy to learn to know participants and walk with them for part of their journey. Each person's journey is unique, as is what each one needs to do to obtain and maintain sustainable permanent housing and stability in life. While their journeys are difficult, with hurdles to overcome, it is inspiring to see most TLC participants work hard to achieve their goals and be amazingly resilient in the face of setbacks and disappointments.

Seeing their joy and pride when they get a good job, move into their own apartment, or achieve another goal they've set is such a delight. It is also a privilege to lead the dedicated TLC staff team who have stepped up in a big way during this time to ensure that participants' journeys continue toward successful outcomes.

I am pleased to announce that Jen Gehman, formerly a TLC case manager, has recently been promoted to Programs Manager; and Kaitlyn Mackey, who worked 2 years at TLC's front desk, has moved into the case manager position vacated by Jen's promotion. We're excited about these well-deserved promotions.

Thank you for your ongoing support for TLC as we continue its crucial mission of bridging homelessness to housing and ending homelessness one person, one family, and one veteran at a time. 🇺🇸

Join us for the

TLC Fundraising & Volunteer Recognition Dinner

on **Thursday, October 17** &

Make a difference in the lives of individuals, families, and veterans who have experienced homelessness in Lancaster County

Eden Resort

222 Eden Rd
Lancaster, PA 17601

6:00pm Reception
6:30pm Dinner

To RSVP & Sponsor

Mail Use the enclosed form

Online www.TLCLancaster.org

Email NLammey@tabornet.org

Phone 717.358.9377

Questions?

Contact Nate at
717.358.9377
or NLammey@tabornet.org

CURRENT PARTICIPANT NEEDS INCLUDE:

- Canned meats
- Canned meals
- Canned soups
- Dry soup
- Cereal
- Peanut butter & jelly
- Baked beans
- Peas
- Mac & cheese
- Crockpots
- Toasters
- Paper plates
- Dish sets (*Microwave safe*)
- Umbrellas
- Mattress pad (*for full size bed*)

For a complete list, go to:
www.tlclancaster.org/tlc-needs-list

Contact Roger at rsteffy@tabornet.org for more information



 TLC/Veterans' Victory House Lancaster

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 717.397.0156

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Lancaster, PA 17602

Donate online at:
www.TLCLancaster.org
Thank you so much!