



Crossing Bridges

a publication of TLC Spring 2018



A Program of Tabor Community Services
Home to Veterans' Victory House

A HOPEFUL FUTURE

Justin served in the United States Army for nine years. He was stationed in Pennsylvania, New York, and completed a tour in Afghanistan. After his time in the Army, he experienced a situation where he did not know where he would be able to stay in the near future. Despite reaching out to countless organizations, taking any and all initiatives that he could, he received little to no help.

Swallow your pride, realize that there are people who care, and take the support that's given. - Justin

To make his situation more difficult, he was hospitalized with pneumonia. Upon his release, now having nowhere to live, Justin was experiencing homelessness. Fortunately, he learned about TLC's Veterans' Victory House through Lancaster's Veterans Court and soon after moved in.

Justin admits that when first entering TLC, it was difficult for him to adjust to the new environment. He didn't know anyone, and opening up and asking

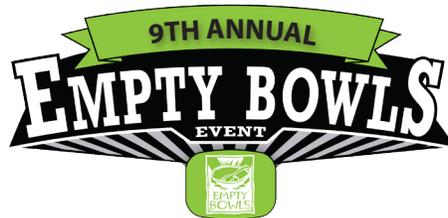


for help was incredibly difficult. Additionally, he was struggling with other issues and this wasn't an experience that he was familiar with or ever had to go through before.

Justin recounts, "The staff was great helping me cope with things, getting me the support I needed." Looking back at where he was and where he is today, Justin is thankful for all of the help and support of the staff. It was evident to him that they genuinely cared and wanted him to be successful. He is also thankful for the mental health professional that he was connected with through TLC. "It's just been huge in life."

Continued on next page

Turn to the back page for details about this year's Fundraising Dinner!



TLC was again generously supported by **Kevin Lehman, Lancaster Creative Factory, and the community** for the 9th Annual Empty Bowls Event. Over \$14,000 was raised from the event, which featured soups, breads and desserts provided by area restaurants and bakeries.

Those who purchased tickets got to choose a one-of-a-kind handcrafted bowl made by local artisans, which they used to sample the dozens of soups being served that day. As guests shared a meal together, they were entertained by live music and glassblowing demonstrations.

TLC would like to thank all the volunteers, donors, and supporters for making this such a successful event! And if you missed out this year, mark your calendar for next year's Empty Bowls Event, scheduled for **Sunday, April 28, 2019.**



www.lancastercreativefactory.org

FURNITURE DONATIONS!

Please consider donating your gently used furniture to TLC. We will gladly come pick it up! Contact Doug Hopwood at dhopwood@tabornet.org for more information.

Hopeful Future Continued

Knowing that he is in a much better place today, Justin offers advice to others who may be currently going through the struggles that he previously dealt with. "Swallow your pride, realize that there are people who care, and take the support that's given. Don't push it away ... thinking you can do it on your own isn't always the best."

Justin recently moved from TLC into his own apartment. TLC supported him through the process and today he is ready to live an independent and self-sufficient life, has a new job, and is excited and hopeful for his future. 

Staff Spotlight: Marisa Sherts

I grew up in a very unstable, unsafe environment that no child should have to live through. It was not easy, but between having multiple support services offered to me and perseverance, I was able to overcome those barriers life threw at me.

As an adult, I wanted to give back to those who helped me achieve dreams by returning the same service to others needing support, which prompted me to choose a career in social work. I obtained my degree from Millersville University and shortly after, started my first job working in child welfare, offering reunification and family preservation services in Lehigh and Northampton Counties in PA.

After relocating back to Lancaster, I began a job working with adults who have intellectual disabilities as a Volunteer Coordinator taking the individuals to volunteer places to establish work and social skills in the community all throughout the County. As great as the job was, I

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Tabor Community Services is celebrating its 50th anniversary of service to Lancaster. As part of our celebration, we are having the 50 for 50 Campaign: Ensuring Tabor's Future, with the goal of securing at least 50 planned gifts from our supporters. These legacy gifts will help to ensure TLC and other programs have the resources to continue serving clients and the Lancaster community for generations to come.



For more information on planned giving or how to make a planned gift to TLC, please contact Doug Hopwood at dhopwood@tabornet.org or call 717.397.3034.

Continuing the Legacy

When Lucy Mannix moved to Lancaster from Brooklyn, she was interested in volunteering and came to Tabor Community Services. In less than a year, she started working full-time at Tabor and stayed for 16 years until her retirement last year.

Lucy was inspired to make a planned gift to Tabor because of her interaction with clients and staff at Tabor. "I know the work Tabor does for the community, I saw how peoples' lives were improved because they were able to use Tabor's services and resources. These clients weren't

given a gift. With 20 programs and the help of their counselors, they took the steps needed to become independent. Some moved from homelessness to shelters and then to permanent housing. Others learned how to manage their money, pay off debts and improve their financial stability. Some became homeowners for the first time."

Lucy decided to make a planned gift in the form of an IRA with Tabor being one of the beneficiaries. It was an easy process. Another motivation is "I know it will be good for Tabor and the community."

To someone considering a planned

gift to Tabor, Lucy says, "It's a great place to give in any way you can. If you're able to make a planned gift, it's a great way for the organization to maintain its sustainability. I can depend on them to do what is needed, even as needs change."

Even though Lucy was reluctant to talk about herself, she says, Tabor's 50 for 50 campaign (Tabor's campaign for 50 planned gifts by Tabor's 50th anniversary in May) and being a member of The Grace Wenger Society makes her feel "special." "It's a great way to honor Grace Wenger's legacy." 



felt like I was lacking the fulfillment I was seeking as a social worker and began looking for other jobs.

A friend of mine told me about the SSVF Case Manager job opening and thought I should apply for it. After reading the job description, I decided to send in my resume because it sounded exactly like the type of social work job I envisioned. I loved the idea of advocating for Lancaster County veterans because they did so much for our country and deserve housing just like everyone else. One of my favorite quotes is by Dr. Seuss: "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better, it's not." That quote was my lifeline growing up, and I was

so excited when offered the job that I could finally advocate for someone other than myself as a way to give back to those in need in honor of all the case workers I had growing up.

Since starting at TLC in September, I have helped to find housing for nine veterans and helped one veteran remain in his current housing. Not all of the stories have had happy endings, but there are two that stand out in my mind. They both had numerous barriers against them that would hinder them finding permanent housing, but their positivity and willingness to meet with me made it possible to do just that. The one veteran has successfully completed the

SSVF program, and the other veteran has just moved into his own apartment and is heading in all the right directions to keep moving forward in his life.

I feel very humbled to be working with Lancaster County veterans, and I am so thankful that having the supports in my childhood has led me to this point in my career of giving back to those in need.



TLC Fundraising & Volunteer Recognition Dinner

Thursday, October 18

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

Sponsorship Questions?

Contact Doug
at 717.397.3034
or DHopwood@tabornet.org



CURRENT PARTICIPANT NEEDS INCLUDE:

- Mattress pads for full size beds
- Dish sets, unbreakable (kid friendly)
- Men's T-shirts (medium & large)
- Twin sheet sets
- Flatware
- Drink cups (plastic)
- Wipes
- Conditioner
- Baby shampoo
- Razors
- Hand towels
- Bath towels

Contact Doug at dhopwood@tabornet.org for more information

DONATE ONLINE at:
www.TLCLancaster.org
Thank you so much!

 TLC/Veterans' Victory House Lancaster
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 717.397.0156
 www.TLCLancaster.org
 105 E King St
Lancaster, PA 17602


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