

How Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter has helped me beyond belief ...

A Client Testimonial by Mitch Burrill

Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter and the Volunteers of America Chesapeake Team has helped me beyond measure both physically and spiritually on my journey back to self-sufficiency. Just one year ago I was homeless and living outdoors.

The first morning I arrived at the shelter, Ms. Ruiz (now my case worker) announced that anyone needing an eye exam should gather around for a trip to the Optometrist. I didn't want to pass up the opportunity so I joined the group and went for an eye exam. Just a few weeks later I received a very nice, much needed and FREE pair of eyeglasses that I wouldn't have been able to get otherwise.

Soon I will also undergo the first of two eye surgeries after which the ophthalmologist has told me there is a 90% chance I will never need to wear glasses again! I definitely credit my vision to the assistance I received at the Shelter

Here at Bailey's I also receive hot, tasty and nutritious meals, not to mention snacks and treats. We also have cookouts where volunteers provide enormous feasts. Imagine that, living outdoors just one year ago to now enjoying feasts and fellowship with volunteers, clients and staff. It is truly a blessing!



At Bailey's I also have access to the internet to help me search for employment and housing as well as assistance with writing my resume, seeking jobs and just all around great life skills advice. I have a safe place to sleep, shower and shave and caring, friendly people to talk to when I'm having a rough time.

More than just being a good ear to listen the staff at Bailey's is interested in making sure I do well beyond the shelter, providing access to a Primary Care Physician, rides to pharmacies, specialists and other healthcare appointments to ensure my health is just as strong as my spirit.

At Bailey's I have a place to live while I take care of my physical and mental health needs. I get a chance for educational and employment opportunities and a new, very positive outlook on my life. I can't thank the staff enough for helping me gain a brighter personal attitude and giving me the chance to tell my story and help others who face the same and even greater challenges. There is so much more I could write, so many more intangible things that have helped me overcome so many challenges in just a short time. I can't thank the staff here and throughout VOA Chesapeake enough.

I will continue to work hard and address the challenges I face and I know I have a support team in my corner to help me do it.

- **Mitch Burrill**



Photos: Mr. Burrill and Case Manager Alicia Ruiz in front of the Bailey's Housing Board. As part of the Fairfax County Housing Challenge Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter has housed nearly 40 chronically homeless adults during the month of September. Learn more about Baileys' Crossroads Community Shelter on our website www.voacheseapeake.org

Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter

3525 Moncure Ave
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-820-7621

