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The Haven Newsletter

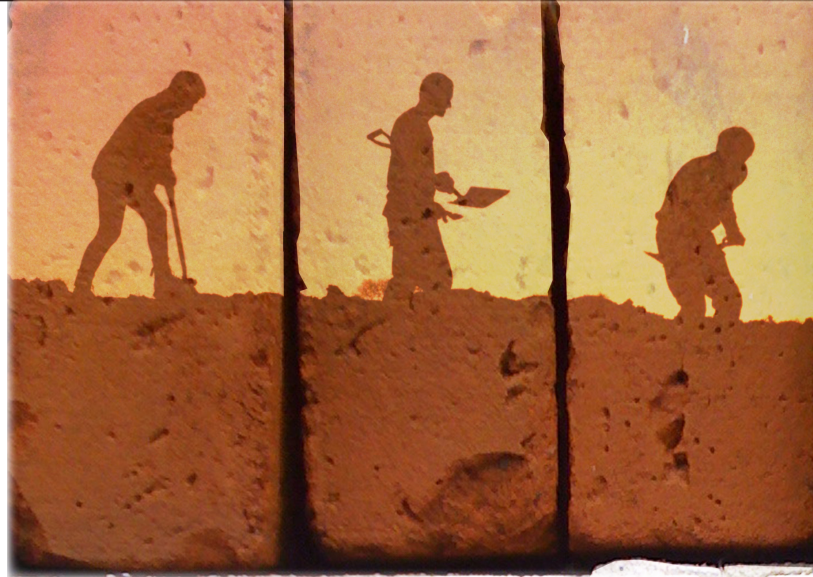
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A Letter to the Transylvania Times

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Pictured at the groundbreaking, from left to right, are Haven Board member Earle Rabb, Bread of Life Director Michael Collins, Board Chair Sarah Pooser, Mayor Jimmy Harris, and Board members Renee Bruce, Joan Bliss, and John Vanderschaaf.

Photo courtesy of the Transylvania Times



Thursday, January 13, marked a major milestone for The Haven. Mayor Jimmy Harris, along with me and several other board members, broke ground for the 1,400 square-foot shelter that in less than a year's time will serve Transylvania County's homeless.

We haven't arrived at this point alone. We've asked for your time, talents and financial support. And you've responded — overwhelmingly. To date, we've raised 70% [now 79% - ed.] of construction costs, and weather permitting we'll hammer the final nail in place by June 1.

Occasionally, people ask me if the level of support The Haven receives surprises me. My answer is always the same: No. This county has a history of rising to the occasion, and it's no less so in the case of The Haven. So when I say thank you it is with a genuine sense of gratitude and pride that Transylvania County is where I make my home.

When we broke ground Thursday temperatures hovered in the low 30s. The low for the day bottomed out at 16° F. This is painful weather. No one should have to sleep in it. Yet they do — men, women, and children— some of them former neighbors. I tell you this because as far as we've come garnering support for The Haven we still have some distance yet to go. The top priorities are raising the remaining 30% of construction costs and the first year's operating budget.

So please continue to contribute your time, donations and talents. We promise to be good stewards of all three. Again, thank you so much for your support, and bear in mind the old Irish proverb a colleague of mine at The Haven has quoted in this space: "It is in each other that the people find shelter."

Sincerely, Sarah Pooser • January 20, 2011

Welcome...

... to the first issue of The Haven's newsletter. We hope you'll come to rely on this forum to keep up with our progress — and to keep us informed about what you're thinking.

We all know that building the Haven is just the beginning. Weaving it into our community, where it can become as vital as our homes and houses of worship, will take time and continuous effort, as well as continued support from all of us. You build community the same way you build with your hands — carefully, brick by brick, step by step.

And with such patient care and effort, The Haven will become a place of respite from the chaos of homelessness, where the immediate crisis can be stabilized by addressing basic needs, and we can begin rebuilding lives.

We all can do our part. Look for information in future editions of this newsletter detailing how you might contribute to an ecology of kindness that will help our brothers, sisters, friends, and neighbors who are homeless. And look for additional information on our website: www.thehavenshelter.org.

Lack of adequate housing is a burden facing many families in these straitened times. We are seeing more and more families forced to move in with others in order to have shelter, but until such arrangements can be made, they still need somewhere to land. The Haven will fill a gap in the Continuum of Care in our Community, and is a needed addition to the continuing efforts of the churches, non-profits and governmental entities devoted to serving the less fortunate in our midst.



A STORY OF HOPE
Brian Ladd

*“I didn’t have anything that I could call my space.
What happened is God just always provided.
Maybe that worked out better for me because
I really had a commitment to work with
what He put in front of me.”*

From 1993 to early 1998 Brian Ladd slept anywhere he could find a place to rest his head in his hometown of Kingston, New York – camping trailers; basements; hallways; churches; an abandoned gas station; and outdoors, where he felt comfortable because of his training as an Eagle Scout. He didn’t have a car or a bank account, and he rarely had more than \$10 in his wallet. Sometimes he washed his clothes in a stream.

Now a Brevard resident, Ladd says, “I can’t operate like everybody else does. From my perspective homelessness is the path God put me on. I’d been around educated, successful people before, but I’d never been exposed to people who lived at a disadvantage.”

Ladd’s childhood in upstate New York hardly prefigured the bouts of homelessness and struggles with alcohol he would experience as an adult. As a youngster he did well in school, played in the school band and orchestra and in a bugle core. In 1967, he earned a scholarship to John Hopkins University, but he opted for Cornell University, only 30 miles from home, where he majored in engineering his freshmen year.

Describing his initial year in school, he says, “I went to college to learn how to become a nuclear physicist, but then I changed my major to alcoholism.” As a result, his grades floundered, and in the meantime, at home, his parents separated. Ladd

eventually dropped out of school after transferring from Cornell to Elmira College his junior year.

For the next 20 years Ladd continued to struggle with alcohol. He was married twice and had three children, and he held jobs ranging from assistant manager at a gas station to installing garage door openers to residential construction. But he began drinking on the job in 1984.

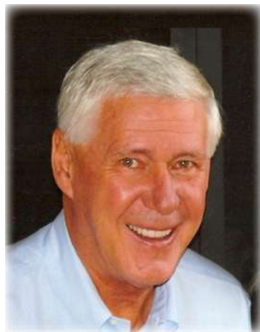
Eventually, realizing the seriousness of his problem, he joined AA. Initially he went four months without a drink, then he relapsed. On September 21, 1987 he entered a period of sobriety that was to last over 10 years. In 1998, deeply discouraged by what he perceived as a lack of progress in his life, he relapsed again.

As Ladd says, “I went out and bought a 40 ounce bottle of beer, and it took me five years to finish it.”

Finally on July 4, 2003, after a near-fatal illness and an intense period of rehabilitation, Ladd downed his final drink. Today, after moving to Brevard in 2009, he remains active in AA and works as a personal assistant to a retired couple and a volunteer at SAFE.

Referring back to his homeless period, Ladd says, “I didn’t have anything that I could call my space. What happened is God just always provided. Maybe that worked out better for me because I really had a commitment to work with what He put in front of me.”

VOLUNTEER
SPOTLIGHT
Don Moore



Don Moore brings 37 years’ experience to his role as chairman of The Haven’s construction committee. Born in Brevard, he went to North Carolina State on a basketball scholarship. An engineering major, he joined General Electric’s technical sales team after graduating.

Several years later, his uncle invited him to join his residential and commercial contracting business in Savannah. With no formal experience in construction, Moore managed the transition from technical sales by reading a book. Today D.L. Moore, Inc. is one of Savannah’s preeminent contactors.

“Don is a very, very qualified businessman in the building industry,” says Sarah Pooser, chairperson of The Haven. “His knowledge

of materials and the building process, in addition to his willingness to take on the role of Chairman of the Building Committee, is invaluable to this project.”

Now semi-retired, Moore serves as a trustee of Brevard College and a director of Transylvania Vocational Services, Atlantic Southern Bank and the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly. He is also a former board member of the Boys & Girls Club of Transylvania County. When not in board meetings, he can often found on the tennis court, where he’s known for his competitive serve-and-volley game.



BOARD MEMBER PROFILE
Sarah Pooser

“As a leader, her example makes you want to be the best person you can be – and provides a road map to get you there.”

Although Sarah was born in Florida and went to Florida State University, she has spent most of her life in western North Carolina. Her career was spent as a financial planner, retirement plan administrator, and part-time buyer and merchandiser for an outfitter’s store.

She brings a vast array of skills and experience to her work with The Haven. She spent ten years working with the homeless of Mecklenburg County and has been a member of the United Methodist Church, Western Carolina Conference for 35 years. Her interests are with the homeless, missions, women and youth. She was the first woman to serve as a District Chairman with the Boy Scouts of America in the Mecklenburg Council.

Sarah is married to Alan Pooser, a retired Duke Energy executive, and has two sons, Andrew and Matthew, both former Eagle Scouts. Sarah and Alan have two grandchildren.

Her hobbies, when she can find the time, are sewing, gardening, and anything related to the outdoors. A retired marathon runner, she completed five marathons! Alan describes Sarah proudly: “Imagine one of the best among angels on earth providing the answers to many people’s prayers. As a leader, her example makes you want to be the best person you can be – and provides a roadmap to get you there.”

You can help bring hope to others.
Send your check, payable to *The Haven*,
to PO Box 25, Brevard NC 28712.

Or visit our website at
www.thehavenshelter.org
and donate via PayPal.



PLEASE NOTE: To help keep printing and mailing costs down, *Brick by Brick* will be available electronically. If you would like to receive the newsletter via e-mail, please notify us at info@thehavenshelter.org.

HOW ARE WE DOING?
Breaking It Down

Construction Costs: \$ 230,100
Received to Date: \$ 181,525
Still looking for: \$ 48,575

Volunteer contributions: priceless

■ Board	\$ 19,625
■ Individuals	\$ 67,046
■ Churches	\$ 33,718
■ Foundations	\$ 39,000
■ Events	\$ 5,666
■ Organizations	\$ 8,070
■ In-kind Donations	\$ 8,400

Received to Date: \$181,525

