



# Around Shepherd's Table

THE SHEPHERD'S TABLE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2019



Dear Friends,

Recently, I had the opportunity to sit with one of our meal guests/resource center clients to discuss an issue he was having with mail access, which is one of many services offered by our Resource Center.

After discussing his concerns and coming up with a solution, I asked him how he first became a member of the Shepherd's Table family. As it turns out, this guest/client has an engineering degree, has traveled to 5 continents, and has lived in a dozen European and Latin American cities.

We had a lengthy conversation, ranging from FIFA to our favorite Latin American authors, to the challenges of emerging democracies in Eastern Europe. The depth of knowledge and global awareness of this client was fascinating. *It shatters a common misperception that many people have about the homeless being undereducated, drug addicted and mentally ill.* While these challenges are real for some of our clients, they certainly aren't the case for all, and homelessness and/or hunger is something that any one of us may end up facing at some point in our lifetime.

***Since you are reading this newsletter, I suspect that I am likely preaching to the choir. I request that you share this sentiment with your family and friends, and make them aware that Shepherd's Table is here to help.***

We are the ONLY organization in the entire metropolitan Washington region that offers cooked meals multiple times a day, 365 days a year, and we couple our meal services with a whole array of social services including the provision of a mailbox. It seems simple, but is a vital service for anyone in between homes, living in a shelter, in their car, or on a family/friend's couch. Earlier this year, we learned that 38% of clients that were surveyed receive their mail here. After meals and clothes, this was the highest used social service.

We couldn't do what we do without the generous support of thousands of donors and volunteers who are as much a part of the Shepherd's Table family as the people we serve.

THANK YOU for being an integral part of the family, and please help us continue to fulfill our collective mission by sharing our story and recruiting new members to the cause of ending homelessness and hunger in our region.

Manuel Hidalgo  
Executive Director

*...a few photos from the summer at Shepherd's Table*



Top (l-r): Chef Gary with new steamers, Ahmadiyyah Muslim Community USA donation  
Middle (l-r): GEICO HR team volunteers, Washington Gas volunteers  
Bottom (l-r): Table of Friends event, first harvest from our garden

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Follow us on social media, or sign up for our e-newsletter on the return envelope. Questions? Contact Jilna Kothary, [jilnakothary@shepherdstable.org](mailto:jilnakothary@shepherdstable.org) or 301-585-6463 x6.

- @ShepherdsTable2
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- @ShepherdsTable2



## Building Your Legacy: Planned Giving

With the presence of social media, email and unlimited phone conversations, there is one topic very few want to discuss: What our thoughts and wishes are as part of our overall financial and estate planning plus other end-of-life options.

Estate planning is not just for “retired” people, although many tend to think about it more as they age. In addition to taking care of your loved ones, it is also the opportunity to donate to a charity or charities of your choice – especially those you have been supporting for many years. Planned giving integrates charitable giving with an overall financial, tax and estate planning goal to maximize your benefits.

Wills are essential at every stage of life, particularly when you have minor children and may need to appoint guardians. If you die without a will, the court will decide everything – including who may get those family Ravens tickets!

Planned giving is a part of estate planning, and it is never too early to begin planning for it. Shepherd’s Table has Planned Giving as a donation option for long-term sustainability that allows the donor to build their legacy by supporting the continuity of Shepherd’s Table’s valuable services to the community. Planned giving can range from a gift made in a will to gift annuities and charitable trusts.

Recently, Richard Chisholm of WardChisholm, LLP spoke to a group of Shepherd’s Table donors about different ways of giving to charities through estate planning and other techniques.

**“Assets transferred to a qualifying charity during lifetime may be deducted from the donor’s taxable income, while assets transferred at death are deducted from the decedent’s taxable estate for federal and state estate tax purposes,” Chisholm told the group.**

As former Board Chair George Neighbors considered his legacy, he determined that he would include Shepherd’s Table in his will, with his family’s blessing. He decided to make these arrangements now to be sure that his estate will be distributed in a way that honors his values and priorities.

Of course, you should consult an estate planning attorney for advice regarding any intended donation to Shepherd’s Table. And, if you are going to include Shepherd’s Table in your will, please let us know.

For more information, please contact: Scott Davison, Deputy Executive Director, [sdavison@shepherdstable.org](mailto:sdavison@shepherdstable.org) or 301-585-6463 x7.

## I’m All Ears: Linda Mahler Compassionate Volunteer, Active Listener



Linda volunteering in the dining room

Written by Linda Mahler

If you come to Shepherd’s Table on a Wednesday, you’ll most likely find me deep in conversation with some of the clients who come to get something new to wear from the clothes closet or the volunteers who come to prepare and serve lunch.

My mission at Shepherd’s Table is to invite people to tell me their story if they wish to, and then listen deeply to what they have to say. People have lots of reasons for sharing their story. For some of the clients, it’s a relief to know that someone cares enough to ask, and is really listening, so they can say what’s on their mind.

Many have shown great courage and resolve in getting free of difficult life situations and reaching out to Shepherd’s Table for support as they start over again. Others are glad to talk because they are grateful for the services and support that Shepherd’s Table has given them, from serving hot, fresh, nutritious meals to providing the basic toiletries and supplies they need to keep going, to having a place where they can

receive mail or get their prescriptions filled.

Some of the folks I talk to give feedback about the services Shepherd’s Table offers, speaking out about what’s working well and how they’d like to see things improve.

I always respect people’s wishes about whether they want their story passed along to others, or want it to remain completely private. No matter what the reasons for sharing or the content of what they share, the clients and volunteers and staff I have met at Shepherd’s Table have warmed my heart and enriched my life.

If you would like to share a story about what drew you to Shepherd’s Table, or how it has made a difference in your life, or inspired you, or why you donate, I can’t wait to hear it. Come find me or call. I’m listening.

Linda is a postulant to the diaconate in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, and is placed at Shepherd’s Table till December.

If you are interested in speaking with Linda, please email [Jilna Kothary, jilnakothary@shepherdstable.org](mailto:jilnakothary@shepherdstable.org) to schedule a time to chat.

### ST At-A-Glance

	Jan - Dec 18	Jan - July 19
Dinner	51,545	29,912
Brunch	11,607	6,486
Breakfast	24,992	15,188
Lunch	29,759	17,049
Resource Center contacts	16,456	9,118
RC Unduplicated Contacts/New Clients	1,884/855	1,234/405
Eye Clinic exams/glasses	232/228	149/144
Prescriptions filled/# of clients	346/144	221/73
Mail logged in	30,051	14,961
Clothes Closet shopping	2,607	1,498

### In-Kind Needs

- Commercial coffee grinder
- Travel size toothpaste and body lotion
- Men’s Underwear sizes small & medium
- Women’s Underwear sizes 5-7
- Hot sauce
- Coffee and creamer

We have more items listed on our website, and a link to our Amazon Wish List

## Savor the Night



Fall is around the corner, and that means **Savor the Night**, presented by Discovery Inc., is almost here! On Thursday, October 24, 2019, we will return to The Pearl from 6:30pm-9:00pm to honor two wonderful friends of Shepherd’s Table: Reemberto Rodriguez and Patrick Martin.



Reemberto Rodriguez  
Community Champion



Patrick Martin  
Outstanding Volunteer

Join us for a fun celebration with live music, food by Corcoran Caterers, a cooking competition, and an exciting live auction. Our Emcee, Leon Harris, NBC4 Anchor will be returning, along with Guest Judge Susan Holt, Culinaerie co-founder.

Business sponsorships are still available, contact Scott Davison, [sdavison@shepherdstable.org](mailto:sdavison@shepherdstable.org). For tickets, visit our website, [www.shepherdstable.org](http://www.shepherdstable.org).

We are accepting donations of live auction items until October 1st. Please email Jilna Kothary, [jilnakothary@shepherdstable.org](mailto:jilnakothary@shepherdstable.org) if you would like to make a contribution!