



Summer 2022

# hello, friend.



Dear Reader,

Robert is, by his very nature, an advocate. For those of you who attended our event last fall, Room at the Table, you may remember the powerful testimony Robert shared from the stage. He spoke passionately about the importance of Shepherd's Table to our community, declaring that this work **"will address the void"** left in the wake of the pandemic.

Robert is passionate about social change and is a gifted communicator. He has a particular fixation on advocating for the displaced; whenever he stops by Shepherd's Table for dinner, he can be found detailing his ideas on how the U.S. can welcome Ukrainian refugees. If you take the time to hear more about Robert's personal story, you will notice the thread of displacement reflected in his own experiences. When the rising cost of housing pushed his family into homelessness in Washington D.C., it was Robert who needed a support system around him.

He recalls Shepherd's Table as the organization that helped "bridge the gap." He first came to Progress Place because of the free meals offered here, and that **served as a connection point to other services** like our Resource Center for prescriptions, the Clothing Closet for a new suit, and ultimately, housing through a partner nonprofit. He identifies a lack of "connections" as a critical obstacle in overcoming poverty's challenges, and our services worked to connect him with a solution for each challenge. With a little support, Robert can continue to flourish as an empathetic advocate for others.

All of us, from clients to donors, have experienced

**Work that can  
"bridge the gap"  
for neighbors  
in need**

hardships that forced us to lean on our community. For our clients, **Shepherd's Table**



Rita, Donald and their dog pick up Beyond the Table dinners

**is that community**, facilitating the healing and empowerment necessary to pursue stability. Throughout the pandemic, Shepherd's Table has stood in the gap for people like Robert on their pathway to self-sufficiency. We responded to a time of collective crisis not in fear but by amping up our services even more. In 2022, we offer professional case management, referrals to legal services and partner with Mary's Center for new behavioral health and dental services



Kathleen receives care from Dr. Bernetta Davis through our Eye Clinic

available on-site.

Your generosity created our advocacy program, staffed our Social Services team, helped grow our Urban Garden and launched our mobile meal distribution through Beyond the Table. Now, **your generosity is crucial to maintaining this work**. And it's not only Robert: Rita, a Beyond the Table meal guest, shares how she and her partner Ronald collect meals not only for themselves but for their elderly neighbors as well. "What you've been doing is helping many people," she shared. In our Progress Place building, Kathleen shares how much impact the Eye Clinic

has had. "If it weren't for this clinic, I wouldn't be here," she shares, reflecting on how the clinic helped detect cancer that could've been fatal without treatment.

Will you consider donating today, so we can continue providing critical support through a safety net that empowers our neighbors into self-sufficiency? Two generous donors have teamed up to **match gifts up to \$25,000**—meaning through July 31st, your gift can have double the impact. Help us **take advantage of this opportunity and give today!**

As we continue to feel the effects of inflation, there are multiple ways you can give to Shepherd's Table. While we're always thrilled to receive monetary donations online or by check, stocks are an excellent guarantee of value against changing economies.

We know the dreams, stories and fundamental humanity of these neighbors are worth our investment. Now is the time to lean in.

Manny Hidalgo

**P.S. Save the Date** - We'll be hosting an outdoor block party fundraiser for the community in the fall. Make plans to attend and talk to your workplace about potentially sponsoring the event. For more information on any giving opportunities outlined here, reach out to our Director of Development & Communications, Daniella Burgos, at [dburgos@shepherdstable.org](mailto:dburgos@shepherdstable.org).



## Stay in Touch

Scan the QR code to follow us on social media! Stay up to date with our events, volunteer opportunities, and the latest news from Shepherd's Table.

Shepherd's Table  
8106 Georgia Ave.  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Tel: 301-585-6463  
Fax: 301-585-4718  
[www.shepherdstable.org](http://www.shepherdstable.org)