



Summer 2023

# hello, friend.



*"I had people who believed in me, who encouraged me to keep going."* These profound words from Todd, a client at Shepherd's Table, demonstrate the transformative power of having someone walk alongside you on your journey in life.

Your support and commitment to our organization truly breathes hope and life-changing opportunities to those who need it most. Todd by nature is a strong-willed individual but realized that without the help he received at Shepherd's Table, it would be that much harder to get to where he is now. Today, we invite you to be part of someone's journey. Together, let's build a community where compassion thrives and a pathway to self-sufficiency becomes obtainable. Your continued support enables us to pave the way for stories of success over adversity.

**Will you consider donating today, so we can continue to provide critical support that empowers our neighbors into self-sufficiency?**

In a world that can often feel lonely and uncertain, it takes believing in yourself and having a strong support network to make a path to a brighter future. Todd's journey has been remarkable so far, unfolding before our eyes. He is a true testament to the power of perseverance and resilience.

In one year, Todd has transformed his life. When he arrived at Progress Place in May of 2022, he knew that this facility was going to be a launching pad for getting his life back on track; a temporary place to receive help as he navigated what independence and self-sufficiency meant to him. Todd ate here, slept here, and utilized the resource center for mail and other basic necessities. Todd's conversations with other clients and staff members turned into friendships. *"Shepherd's Table, they nourish me with the food, and the friends, and the conversation and the information that you get,"* he explains.

Shepherd's Table created an environment where Todd felt safe enough to share his goal with our staff. Todd knew that his next step would be securing a job and our staff made him feel supported and seen. Todd secured stable employment through his own efforts, and Shepherd's Table helped facilitate getting the job by making sure he



had a way to get to and from interviews and then training.



Lunch service at Shepherd's Table



Mail distribution at our Resource Center

But the story doesn't end there. Shepherd's Table collaborated with another nonprofit charity, Free Charity Cars, to donate a life-changing gift to Todd—a reliable means of transportation, a car! The car became more than just a vehicle; it became a symbol of newfound freedom and endless possibilities. Employed, a car owner, and onto his next venture—securing housing. We are working closely with our partners to ensure that the next step can be achieved.

It is through individuals like you who are generously devoted to our mission, that stories like Todd's become reality. With that being said, results from the latest annual Point in Time Census show a significant 53% increase in homelessness in Montgomery County, and we've seen firsthand that the demand for our programs has grown with a 48% increase in meals since this time last year, making now the time to lean in and help us make a difference for our neighbors. **A generous donor is matching gifts up to \$10,000 – meaning through August 25th, your gift can have double the impact. Help us take advantage of this opportunity and give today!**

This year is a monumental one for Shepherd's Table as we get ready to celebrate our 40th anniversary. For four decades, we have never missed a meal service and have been a reliable resource that many of our vulnerable community members have turned to during hard times. Regardless of the hardships going on in each one of their lives, they always know that they can come to Shepherd's Table for a warm, nutritious meal served with dignity and respect. We would not be able to do this without your support.

For more information on how you can join in supporting our mission, including ways to volunteer, please visit our website. Let's walk alongside our neighbors and help them fulfill their goals, reach their dreams, and share their stories.

Sincerely,

Manny Hidalgo, Executive Director

**P.S. Save the Date** - Our 40th-anniversary event, the *Cornucopia*, is just around the corner! Join us on October 18 at 6:30 at the Silver Spring Civic Center. We'll enjoy music, great food from Lemon Slice Cafe, a live and silent auction, and a lively program honoring our founders, volunteers, and donors. For more info on sponsoring this event, 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 stay up to date with our events, volunteer opportunities, and the latest news from Shepherd's Table.

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