



February 2015

Loving Arms Inc. A Place You Can Call Home

LOVING ARMS, INC.

Loving Arms, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3), grass roots, community based organization located in Baltimore City, Maryland that provides short term, safe and nurturing shelter and supportive services (both residential and non-residential) to youth who are runaway, homeless, unstably housed and/or at risk of becoming homeless, and their families.

We currently provide up to 21 days of shelter for up to 8 youth at a time, between the ages of 12 and 21, male and/or female. We just purchased two additional houses that will allow us to serve additional youth and young adults up to age 24. We anticipate that this expansion will allow us to serve an additional 120 youth annually, either residentially or non-residentially.

Loving Arms works with youth and young adults, between the age of 12 and 24, that are runaways, homeless, and/or at risk of becoming homeless. The primary goal is to provide for the basic needs of these youth, which includes food, shelter and clothing, and in cases where it's appropriate, to work with them and their family to strengthen and re-establish relationships, in hopes of reunifying them with their family. In cases, where reunification is not possible we help youth and young adults secure a stable, nurturing and secure living environment.



ABOUT OUR CEO

Cindy R. Williams, born on February 8, 1962, to Robert and Norma Jean Williams, started her journey of working with at risk youth and families, as a result of her parents work. Mr. and Mrs. Williams fostered and cared for families in their communities for more than 50 years, many times taking Cindy and her siblings along to help as well.

Ms. Williams graduated, with honors from Wilson High School, in 1979, and went on to study pre-law at the undergraduate level at Benedict College and entered law school at the University of South Carolina, following graduation. It was while attending Law

School that her life changed drastically. Answering, what she calls a divine call from GOD, she left law school and embarked on a journey to provide wholeness to families that were broken, due to life's challenges and in 1999, founded Loving Arms, Inc., a 501 (c) 3, private not for profit Charity that currently serves runaway, homeless and unstably housed youth and young adults. In 2013, the organization expanded its work to include working with victims of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST).

Loving Arms works with youth and young adults, between the age of 12 and 24 operates programs in Maryland, South Carolina and New York. The agencies primary goal is to help individuals and families become whole, which looks different for every individual and family. Through Loving Arms' Emergency Shelter, Outreach and Transitional Living Programs, provisions are made to address the basic needs of youth, which includes food, shelter and clothing, and in cases where it's appropriate, to work with them and their family to strengthen and re-establish relationships, in hopes of reunifying them with their family. In cases, where reunification is not possible they help youth and young adults secure a stable, nurturing and secure living environment.

In addition to food, shelter, and clothing youth receive medical, mental health, educational, counseling and other support services. Loving Arms also provides daily living and independent living skills, when appropriate, that include workforce development, job readiness training, financial literacy, assistance with securing entitlements, transportation and assistance with job placement. These services are also offered to their family members as well, currently at No charge.

On any given day, it is estimated that there are over 800 homeless youth and young adults in Baltimore City and maybe thousands throughout the state. Ms. Williams through Loving Arms provides the only Basic Center Emergency Shelter, that specifically serves non-system runaway and homeless youth, in the entire state of Maryland and the only center in Florence, South Carolina as well, that addresses this need.

In a recent interview she shared that "It's critical that we get the support of the local community to continue our work to help the homeless population of youth and young adults ages 12 to 24. Not only does our children, but the entire community benefits from the positive changes we will be able to make in the lives of these youth and their families. Stronger families create stronger communities and stronger communities create a stronger State for all of us to live in."

"They say that home is where the heart is, but where is that, if you never had a home"
-This is a statement made by a youth-



Our CEO Cindy R. Williams with Delegate Mary Washington



VOLUNTEER INTEREST MEETING

The next volunteer interest meeting is **February 19, 2015** from **6:30pm – 7:30pm** at **3313 Oakfield Ave., Gwynn Oak, MD 21207**. If you would like to attend please send us E-mail here.

[SIGN-UP](#)



CUPCAKES FOR THE HOMELESS

While there is a 10 year plan to end homelessness in our State, our youth don't have 10 years. **They need help now!!! WILL YOU HELP???**

Please place your order or make a donation today. **\$10.00 & \$15.00 per Dozen**
To order contact: **Loving Arms, Inc. 410-367-5869 or 443-473-5323**. Orders available for pick up or delivery on Friday and Saturday, February 13 and 14th, 2015

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

We added a **Street Outreach** component to the organization.

New additions to our staff include: Danny Jones (former resident), Corey Windfield, Eric Banks (former intern) Kyrah Dessausure and Errol Smith.

Still involved in "[Hands Around Maryland](#)"

Director, Cindy Williams has been asked to sit on numerous boards by the city and state, including [Journey Home Board](#), to address homelessness

Helped Baltimore City with Point In Time count, our volunteers and street outreach team assisting the Mayor's Office on Homeless Services.



Our CEO Cindy R. Williams with Congressman Elijah Cummings

STREET OUTREACH TEAM AND VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATED IN THE MLK JR. DAY PARADE WITH THE MAYOR



RESIDENT OF THE MONTH

Shankea shares, "I feel very loved here!" She has been attending school regularly and progressing well in her classes. She will graduate in less than four months as a part of the Class of 2015. Shankea says one of her most positive experiences, while at Loving Arms has been developing a father figure relationship. She is now giving back to the community as part of the street outreach team and will be transitioning to the transitional living program in a few short months. Shankea's experience has also allowed her to recognize and overcome some anger management issues she had prior to arriving at Loving Arms. She is a good listener and bonds well with the other residents. Because of these strengths, she is seen as a caregiver and offers great assistance to the other residents. While here, Shankea recently celebrated a birthday which was very special.



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Wendy Dessausure, thank you for your hard work and dedication to the vision of Loving Arms. Amongst her many contributions, Wendy has spent countless hours with the kids and is seen as a mother figure in the home. She has assisted with bookkeeping, upkeep of employee files, assisted with fundraisers and cooked meals for the residents. Thank you Wendy!

Refer homeless youth between the ages of 12 and 24

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Errol Smith goes above and beyond the call of duty! Errol came to Loving Arms as a Youth Advocate case worker and has advanced to the role of Lead Advocate. He routinely participates in street outreach and fundraising efforts. Errol has become the handy man around the house, repairing whatever needs to be fixed.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank all of our funders/donors and many volunteers for supporting us as we try to eradicate youth homelessness in Baltimore City and the state of Maryland. We could not do this without you.

Health and Human Services (FYSB)
Abell Foundation
United Way
Katharine and Clinton Bamberger Fund
Rev. Al Bailey and the New Psalmist Baptist Church
The Ed Reed Foundation
The Zanvyl and Isabelle Krieger Fund
The Far Corner Charity Fund
1st Mount Olive Freewill Baptist Church
Our many volunteers
Bishop Kennedy and the Gospel Tabernacle Baptist Church
Loving Arms, Inc. Board Members
Wells Fargo Bank
MECU



HOW YOU CAN HELP!!!

Host an event to spread awareness and raise funds.

Work in a shelter as a volunteer 8 to 12 hours a month.

Mentor to a youth.

Annual Donor/Sponsor pledge \$10.00 a month, which is just 34 cents a day to house a youth. Donations are tax deductible.

We accept checks payable to Loving Arms, Inc and also credit, debit and PayPal
On our website, Loving Arms Inc.

You may mail donations to : **3313 Oakfield Ave., Gwynn Oak, MD 21207**

Donate Now



You have signed-up to receive Loving Arms Inc. monthly newsletter. Our E-mail Newsletters will keep you informed of the latest news and information regarding our program. For more information you may contact us by telephone: **443-415-1174** or E-mail: lovingarms3@gmail.com also if you no longer wish to receive E-mail newsletters, you may unsubscribe by sending an email.