

“I didn’t know a place like this existed” – Thanksgiving in July, 2012

“When you find yourself needing help when you haven’t before, you often feel like you are begging and a nuisance, but I haven’t felt that way here,” said a Senior Guest House (SGH) participant preparing to move into a new apartment.

Fairhill’s SGH participants recently celebrated several successful housing placements with a “Thanksgiving in July” gathering for family, friends and staff. Participants contributed a mouthwatering array of roast chicken, stuffing, candied yams, Monterey Jack cheese fondue, and peach cobbler for the feast.

The SGH participants’ involvement was one of elation and convergence as they joined together to bid a fond farewell to new friends who had found a new home and would be moving forward with their lives. One woman who moved out the day of the dinner and who regularly comes back to Fairhill for multiple programs like Meet The Professionals said, “Wow, I enjoyed my stay here but I am even more blessed to now have my own place and be on my own again. I had lots of help and good people!”

The rapport between the SGH participants has been ideal. The group has lent support and encouragement towards each other with the spirit of improving their life situations regardless of the adversity they had experienced.

One participant who fell victim to money management issues elaborates on the great benefits and knowledge he gained from Fairhill and in particular the My Money Matters courses offered in conjunction with Ohio Savings Bank, “I think I am better prepared to maintain my life from the workshops given at Fairhill Partners and I appreciate the support that Fairhill Partners has provided me.”

Several of the participants kept humor in the mix as an escape from the unique circumstances that led to them becoming homeless. They shared their own resources for others to benefit and improve their situations. They showed genuine kindness, empathy, and gratitude for those around them and for the potential they saw in improving their situations by being at Fairhill Partners.

As one SGH participant prepared to move into her new apartment she told staff, “Fairhill has given me the opportunity to start new. When I found myself homeless, I didn’t know a place like this existed and there was such help out there until I found Amanda’s number. I hope this program continues for others in similar situations.”