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Deborah's Place eUpdate

Volume 1, Number 1, August 2009



Notes from Home

Dear Elizabeth,

Welcome to the first edition of our new monthly eUpdates, Notes from Home!

These e-mails are designed to give you better insight into the work and women of Deborah's Place. We will share stories of the women we serve, news of local and national issues affecting Deborah's Place, upcoming events and opportunities to get involved in helping women find hope and home.

As you read this, we hope you remember that the need for supportive housing is more urgent than ever before, and is rapidly rising. The women and programs highlighted in these eUpdates may already be on their paths to success, but there are hundreds more women on our waiting lists that need all of our help.

Please consider a gift to Deborah's Place today, and help continue to break the cycle of homelessness for women in Chicago.

We hope you enjoy our monthly "Notes from Home." Thank you for your support.

Yours in the Work,

Audrey Thomas
Executive Director

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A Woman's Words

Every month we will share a poem, story, or perhaps a few short sentences from a woman of Deborah's Place who has allowed us to share a piece of her life with you.

This excerpt of a poem, written by a tenant of the Rebecca Johnson Apartments, speaks of her journey out of homelessness...

You should see me now!

So I lived on the streets for many years.
No family, no home, no job, but a lot of scars and tears.
I continued to stray and experienced so many fears.
Until God and others' prayers answered my cries.
And God said, "My child you must try".
I found a home and now I Stand!
Cleaned, housed, fed and a beautiful woman.
You may ask: How did I do it?
Well other people gave me their time, Learning Center, donations, and a commitment.
To help women like me to get a home.
They worked with me, taught me and showed me a new way to rebuild my life.
For once I was a Failure and now I'm an Achiever.

- MB

Give a New Life to Your Gently Used Denim!

"Love Your Genes" Event to Benefit Deborah's Place!

Through August 13, bring in a gently used or new pair of denim as a donation to Deborah's Place and receive a discount to many retailers at the Shops at North Bridge in River North, Chicago.

To end the charity drive in style, there will be a reception and fashion show on August 13 from 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM, where you can enjoy snacks and cocktails and chat with fashion experts! Staff and women of Deborah's Place will also be there to speak and accept the generous donations.

Also, be sure to tune into WGN's Morning News on August 12 at 7:50am. The Shops at North Bridge will have a "Love Your Genes" segment with denim fashions modeled by the anchors and reporters of WGN and will be promoting the next day's event!

What: Charity Drive, Reception and Fashion Show

When: August 13, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Where: [The Shops at North Bridge, 520 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago](#)

Price: Free with a denim donation to Deborah's Place.

Help us spread the word about our programs and services.

Become our fan on Facebook and then suggest us to your friends!



Did You Know?

Deborah's Place was founded in 1985 by a group of women, the Founding Mothers, who were concerned about the lack of sufficient services and safe places to sleep for single women who were homeless.

They opened an overnight shelter in the basement of a church and used a lantern to guide the women to the entrance.

Deborah's Place grew from this - a basement that sheltered a dozen women nightly - to an organization that has 184 units of supportive housing and serves an average of 400 women a year.

Today, Deborah's Place is the largest provider of permanent supportive housing for women who are homeless in Chicago.

RSVP: 312-327-2300

For more information, check out the Shops at North Bridge's [website!](#)

We'll see you there!

Tenant Artwork Featured at Chicago Photography Center

Come See the World Through Their Eyes

The photography of four current tenants at Marah's Permanent Housing will be on display at "Satellite Show", a photography exhibit at the Chicago Photography Center.

Along with other students of the Chicago Photography Center, their original works will be on public display for the first time. The final pieces were photographed, printed, and mounted by the tenants, and they are excited to share their work with the Chicago community.

These artists are truly their own success stories. With the support of staff and volunteers of Deborah's Place, these women overcame crises, broke their cycles of homelessness, embraced new relationships and opportunities, and found their self determination and passion.

All of Deborah's Place staff, volunteers and friends and families are so proud of these women, and we invite you to enjoy their creative energy. The artwork will be displayed through August at the:

Satellite Show at the Chicago Photography Center
3301 N. Lincoln Ave, Chicago
773-549-1631



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