

## Sarah Letson

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**From:** Deborah's Place [egolden@deborahsplace.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 19, 2009 2:58 PM  
**To:** Sarah Letson  
**Subject:** Notes from Home - Monthly eUpdate

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Deborah's Place eUpdate

Volume 1, Number 4, November 2



# Notes from Home

**Dear Sarah,**

We apologize if you have received duplicate e-mails. Due a mailing error, we are resending the November eUpdate, with corrections.

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It's November, and the beginning of the holiday season. With Thanksgiving right around the corner, many are preparing for warm feasts at the dinner table, family gatherings in the living room, and looking forward to the joy they will share with their loved ones.

But for those who do not have a table, a place to sit in warmth, or even the means to visit their family, it is often a struggle to see the joy of the holidays. That is why Deborah's Place is grateful for your support. With your generosity, we are able to provide the women we serve with a bit more warmth and hope this holiday season.

With the support of the individuals, companies, organizations, and volunteer groups mentioned in this month's eUpdate - and the [support](#)

## Quick Links

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Mission and Values

More About Us

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Forward To A Friend

## Did You Know?

Deborah's Place approach to services is rooted in the [Housing First](#) model, which is an approach to ending

[of friends like you](#) - we can and will continue to invite women in from the winter cold, provide them with warm homes, cook hot meals, act as compassionate friends, and help them discover their own joy this Thanksgiving.

Thank you for your support,

Audrey Thomas  
Executive Director

### 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.**

"Deborah's Place has been a shelter out of the storm. Having a place I can come to for warmth, piece of mind, to laugh and to grow and that there's someone who cares that I am homeless. I know that I can come and talk, laugh and hear the voice of God say that it will be okay. To know that there is a possibility that I can have a home; gives me hope for tomorrow."

- Vivian, a tenant of the Rebecca Johnson Apartments

## ***Designer Maria Pinto's Collection Launch to Benefit Deborah's Place - Tonight!***

Tonight, Thursday, November 19, Maria Pinto, who has designed garments for Michelle Obama and has been featured in many major fashion publications, will launch her Luxury Outerwear and Accessories Collection at her studio this evening and a percentage of all sales from the evening will go to Deborah's Place!

Shop for that perfect designer winter look, as well as other special holiday gifts, while helping raise funds for women who are homeless.

**Maria Pinto Studio  
Tonight!  
Thursday, November 19  
6:30 - 8:30 PM  
135 N. Jefferson Street, Chicago  
RSVP to [events@mariapinto.com](mailto:events@mariapinto.com)**

**A portion of the proceeds to benefit Deborah's Place**

## ***Cold Weather Volunteers***

*Charter One Bank Helps Deborah's Place Prepare for Winter*

homelessness that centers on providing homeless people with housing quickly and then providing services as needed.

This approach builds on research indicating that the factors that contribute to an individual's homelessness are most effectively remedied once the individual is housed.

The Housing First model is proven to be the most effective solution to ending homelessness. In fiscal year 2009, Deborah's Place aided 284 women obtain stable housing, and helped 162 women maintain their housing, which is a housing retention rate of 81%.

This is an extraordinary accomplishment considering that Deborah's Place serves women who are chronically homeless, and those who are considered the hardest to house and serve.



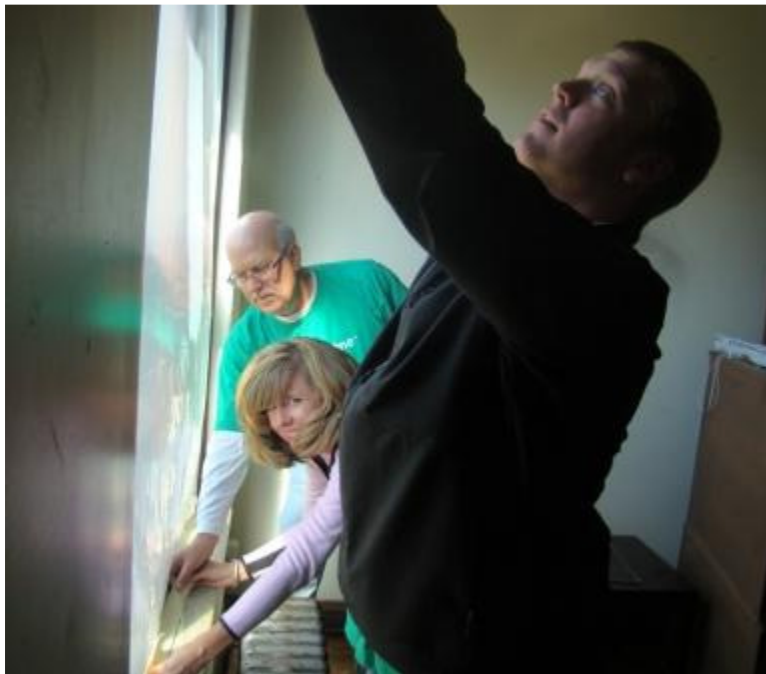
Have you heard about the Chicago Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)?

We all know it, no matter how much we try to deny it; summer and fall in Chicago is no more. Though the air is still pleasantly crisp these days, we all know that winter is fast approaching. Just like many of us prepare our homes for the cold, Deborah's Place also readies our buildings for winter, so they remain welcoming for the 184 women who call Deborah's Place home. Each year, we rely on volunteers to help prepare our buildings for the season.

In October, a group of 25 volunteers from Charter One Bank heeded our call. The bank's volunteers worked in teams to secure plastic sheeting over the windows. They were able to cover the windows in the common areas, offices, activity center, and in several women's apartments at Marah's Permanent Housing, a housing program of Deborah's Place. This program houses thirty formerly homeless women with disabilities and is located in a century-old building in Lakeview.

The group also collected in-kind supplies to be distributed to the women throughout the season.

We are grateful to the Charter One volunteers for their help not only with sealing out the cold through the windows, but for bringing warmth to the women of Deborah's Place.



*Volunteers from Charter One Bank winterize the windows at Marah's Permanent Housing. From l-r: Richard Ault, Kim Crotty, Kyle Rosborg*

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If you would like to get involved volunteering at Deborah's Place this season, please visit the [volunteer page](#) of our website.

If you're a federal employee, you can give to Deborah's Place through the nation's largest workplace giving program, the **CFC**.

Each year, between September 1 - December 15, federal employees are given the opportunity to make a pledge to one or several charities of their choice. A contribution can be a one-time gift or spread out over the year through payroll deduction.

Even the smallest of donations can go a long way towards helping women break their cycle of homelessness, and payroll deduction is the easiest way to do it.

Visit the [Chicago CFC website](#) for more information and to make a contribution through your workplace today!

## **Upcoming Events:**

### **Deborah's Place 25th Anniversary Kickoff Event:**

As we approach our 25th anniversary year, we would like to gather together founding mothers, early volunteers and board members.

Do you remember cleaning mats, cooking hardboiled eggs and slicing cheese for a quick breakfast? Were you a volunteer who worked an overnight shift at the

## **Deborah's Place Partners with Chicago Sinfonietta**

*Proceeds from Holiday Concert at Harris Theater to Support Women Who are Homeless*

On December 16, the Chicago Sinfonietta presents its second annual [Holiday Concert: a Global Holiday Celebration](#), at the Harris Theater. To support our mission and help break the cycle of homelessness for women in Chicago, the Sinfonietta will donate \$5 of every \$25 adult admission ticket sold through Deborah's Place!

Conductor André Raphel Smith leads the orchestra, choirs, and soloists in a Global Holiday Celebration for the whole family. Instruments, voices, and traditions from around the world join together to honor this joyous time of the year.

To purchase tickets, and to ensure that Deborah's Place receives the donated portion of your ticket, call the box office at (312) 236-3681 and tell them you are participating in the Deborah's Place donation program.

We hope to see you there!

**Chicago Sinfonietta Holiday Concert  
Wednesday, December 16  
7:30 PM**

**Harris Theater - 205 E. Randolph Street, Chicago**

**\$5 of each adult admission goes to Deborah's Place!  
\$25 adult admission  
\$10 child admission**



**chicago**sinfonietta  
MUSIC EXCELLENCE DIVERSITY

seller before going to work the next day?

If so, join us in kicking off our anniversary year. Please come to where it all started:

Immaculate Conception Church  
1431 N. North Park Ave.

Wednesday, December 2  
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Wine, cheese and reconnecting

Help us spread the word about our programs and services.

Become our fan on Facebook, follow our updates, and suggest us to your friends!



## **Thanksgiving at Deborah's Place**

*Staff, Women, and Volunteers Break Bread Together at DP Dinners*

Over the next two weeks, the hallways of Deborah's Place will be filled with delicious smells and sounds of companionship. During this season you can really see how Deborah's Place is much more than a place to stay for the women we serve - it's a home. And the staff, volunteers, and neighbors are part of their family.

With over 180 women who live in the housing programs of Deborah's Place, and many more that use the daytime services in the Learning Centers, we have a lot of mouths to feed. We are looking for a few more volunteers to bring and serve food at the Rebecca Johnson Apartments Thanksgiving potluck dinner on Monday, November 23. Meal preparation starts at 11:00 AM, the potluck dinner starts at 3:30 PM and is for

approximately 60-90 women. To volunteer to bring a dish to share and help with food prep, service and clean-up, please contact Sarah Letson at [sletson@deborahsplace.org](mailto:sletson@deborahsplace.org).

In addition to our volunteer needs, we are also in need of the following items this Thanksgiving:

- Aluminum pans
- Dinner rolls
- Butter
- Salad dressing
- Cranberries
- Fresh fruit
- Relish trays
- Non-perishable food items
- Disposable plates and cutlery
- Soft drinks and water

To make a donation of food, please contact Laura Ignoffo, Deborah's Place Food Services Coordinator, at (312) 944-8672, x112 or [lignoffo@deborahsplace.org](mailto:lignoffo@deborahsplace.org).

***Did you like what you read? Help support the women, programs and services highlighted in this issue by making [a gift to Deborah's Place](#).***

***With your support, we can break the cycle of homelessness for women in Chicago.***



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