

wish list

In addition to monetary contributions, in-kind gifts are greatly appreciated. Your gift of the items below will provide the women of Deborah's Place, and our programs, with many of the basic tools essential to succeed.

General

New sets of dishes
New sets of pots/pans
New twin-size sheets
New pillows
New twin-size blankets
Shower curtains
Shower curtain rings
New socks/underwear
New thermal underwear
New towels—bath/hand/face
CTA fare cards
Gift cards—Target/K-Mart/Jewell/Staples/OfficeMax/etc.
Liquid dish detergent
Laundry detergent
Toiletries—full-size shampoo/conditioner/body wash/
lotion/deodorant/feminine hygiene products/
combs/brushes
Microwaves
Digital converter boxes for TVs
Digitally compatible TVs
DVD players
Cleaning supplies—Windex/Lysol/409/mops/brooms/
sponges
Books in sets of five or more

Facilities / Property Management:

Garden sprinklers
Garden hose (75 feet) with hose reel
Batteries—9-volt alkaline/AA
Paint brushes
Paint rollers
Gifts cards—Home Depot/Menards
Carpet Shampooer/Extractor
Vacuum cleaners
Disposable gloves
Cleaning rags
Digital camera
Flashlights

Health Services:

Sealed packages—vitamins/aspirin/cold/allergy medicine
Gift cards for prescriptions—Walgreen's/CVS/Osco

We are currently in critical need of pro-bono or very low cost dental services for the women of Deborah's Place. If you or someone you know can provide cleanings, fillings, dentures, extractions or oral surgery, please call our Health Services Coordinator, Antoinette Price, at 773.653.6394.

Dear friends,

As we reflect on the end of our fiscal year 2010, I want to thank each of you for your generosity and support. Your commitment to our work keeps Deborah's Place at the forefront of ending homelessness for women in Chicago.

I am proud to share with you just a few of our FY'10 achievements:

- 450** women served
(17% increase over FY'09)
- 50** women moved from the streets/shelter to stable housing
- 20** women "graduated" from our supportive housing to housing in the community
- 0** evictions/terminations from our interim and permanent housing
- 26** women obtained employment and 95% who began FY'10 with employment maintained employment
- 76,698** units of services delivered
- 15** interns gave their time and talent and received top-notch social work experience, supervision, and guidance
- 417** volunteers contributed over 19,000 hours of service
leadership in the development of West Side Collaborative increasing effectiveness and efficiencies in health service delivery

While we continue to celebrate our 25th year of service and our many accomplishments, we know that there is still much work to be done. As always, we are so grateful for your support and commitment to the women of Deborah's Place. We could not do it without you.

Yours in the work,

Audrey Thomas
Executive Director



DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

Church of the Three Crosses

Rev. John Hobbs, Fran Dutton, Bev Urschel,
Susan Herzog, Debbie Jetter, Karen Schneider,
Pamela Olson, and Matt Richards

The Church of the Three Crosses has a long history of mission outreach to the Chicago community. Since 1966, the church has supported a diverse mix of social service agencies and has been providing financial, in-kind, and volunteer support to the women and work of Deborah's Place since the early 1990s.

Located at 333 W. Wisconsin, The Church of the Three Crosses is in the same neighborhood as the 1530 W. Sedgwick programs, and the congregation feels "a real connection to Deborah's Place," says Beverly Urschel, the church's volunteer coordinator.

"For many years, we have been part of the same community. We live in the same community together, and we enjoy doing any outreach program we can do. We see the ladies on the street and we talk to them and they talk to us. We enjoy the ladies and the sense of community we gain together."

Like clockwork, the last Tuesday of each month a group of seven or eight church parishioners prepare and serve dinner in the kitchen at 1530 N. Sedgwick—home to 64 women who live at Dolores' Safe Haven, Teresa's Interim Housing and the Patty Crowley Apartments. They bring salad, cheese and crackers, an entrée that changes each month, vegetables, and dessert.

In addition to a monthly feast, the church also provides in-kind donations of canned food, toiletries, and special prizes for

Deborah's Place COO presents at national conference

At Deborah's Place, we take great pride in being a leader in the field of housing and homelessness. Policymakers and service providers regularly call upon Deborah's Place to lend its expertise in providing high-quality supportive housing for unaccompanied women who are homeless.

Our staff's expertise was again called upon this past July when our Chief Operations Officer Kathy Booton-Wilson was invited to speak about supportive housing and homelessness at the 2010 National Conference on Ending Homelessness in Washington D.C. Hosted by the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH), this annual conference serves as the premier

Bingo—a beloved game in the Deborah's Place community. Beverly notes that they recently started to play Bingo since "because of staff cuts, the ladies haven't been able to play Bingo as much, so we took that on, too."

The Church of the Three Crosses is led by Father John Hobbs. Father Hobbs serves on the board at the Chicago Planning Council on Homelessness, so he has a clear understanding of the needs of the Chicago homeless population and that shows in the work of his congregation. The church donates portions of their communion offerings to organizations in the Chicagoland area and world wide that are in need and are "doing good," including Deborah's Place.

When they see a need in the community or in certain areas, they make sure to give to that area. Beverly says the church gives to Deborah's Place because "we know the money will be put to good use, and we know that it will be used to helping the lives of people that really need it."

Beverly knows that the relationships between the church members, donors, and volunteer and the women of Deborah's Place is one that is mutually beneficial: "The ladies really enjoy it and we enjoy it, too. It's nice to have that reprieve with people; they feel that they can talk to us and we feel comfortable with them. We've been doing it for so many years that they feel comfortable with us and we feel comfortable with them."

"I remember hearing one of the staff members, Mary Baldwin, say that she loved when we came because 'there is laughter in the kitchen,'" Bev recalls fondly. "Our enthusiasm and enjoyment about being there spills over onto the ladies."

Whether it's bringing a four-course meal, donating much-needed toiletries and fun Bingo prizes, or contributing funds from their communion offerings, The Church of the Three Crosses provides endless support to the women and work of Deborah's Place.

Thank you to Father Hobbs, Beverly Urschel, and all of the volunteers and donors that lend a helping hand. We are so grateful.



Many journeys.
One community.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

New board members
Katrina Malone,
K. Sujata,
Erica Walton

Deborah's Place welcomes Katrina Malone, K. Sujata, and Erica Walton to the Board of Directors! All three of these dedicated volunteers bring diverse backgrounds and skills to our now 15-person board.

Katrina is a Vice President in the Commercial Banking Group of Citibank, N.A.. She has served on the Deborah's Place Finance and Audit Commission since 2009.

Sujata is the Director of Programs at the Eleanor Foundation, which supports low-income working women in their efforts to achieve economic self-sufficiency. She has worked on issues addressing housing and homelessness with the Chicago Continuum of Care and Interfaith Housing Development Corporation of Chicago.

Erica is a C.P.A. and Controller at Gottlieb/West Towns PHO. Erica has also served on the Finance and Audit Commission since 2009.

They are all eager to roll up their sleeves and bring their skills and resources in the world of finance, philanthropy, governance, and beyond to advance our mission!

Remembering our friend Ed



Ed and his son Matt at a Deborah's Place Annual Gala

In the summer of 1986, Martha Whelan (Robinson), then Executive Director of Deborah's Place was introduced to a man named Ed Owens. Ed had space in his building and he wondered if it might be used to help people who were homeless. Martha offered to meet Ed at his building to look at the space. That day was the beginning of a relationship that lasted almost 25 years.

Although Deborah's Place was only a year old, Martha and the Board of Directors wanted to expand services beyond the emergency shelter. They were compelled to action by the death of a woman named Irene who had died that spring, a woman who was homeless and who had fallen through the cracks of the service system. They believed that women like Irene needed somewhere to go during the day to find basic necessities and case management and other support services.

When Ed Owens met Martha and showed her the space at 1742 N. Milwaukee, they both saw the possibilities for a daytime support center. Ed offered the space at \$1 a year and worked with Martha and staff to rehab the space. On November 10, 1986, Irene's—the daytime support center of Deborah's Place—opened its doors.

Over the years, Ed, who also housed his business in the building, was more than a landlord. Audrey Thomas, Deborah's Place Executive Director, has fond memories of Ed. As the then Administrator of Irene's, she often called on Ed for assistance. "Ed was the person who taught me how to snake a toilet and reignite the hot water tank. He would dispatch his sons to change fuses, change light bulbs, and other maintenance," Audrey remembers. "I think that we sometimes exasperated him, like when toilets overflowed and water leaked down into his office! He would throw up his hands and say, 'You gals!' But Ed was unfailingly generous and kind. He gave us additional space in the building that we could use for storage and meetings and offered advice and support. Ed was always watching out for us and he believed in the importance of the work that we were doing."

Several years later, Ed sold the building to Deborah's Place. However, the relationship continued. Ed and his wife Miriam were always present at Deborah's Place annual gala bringing family and friends and continuing to support our work.

Ed passed away February 20th, 2010, and although he is gone, Ed and his family are woven into the tapestry of the history and community of Deborah's Place. Thousands of women who came through the doors of Irene's, received critical services that saved their lives and supported them on their journey out of homelessness.

Audrey continues, "I have a hanging in my office that says, 'Always hold firmly to the thought that each one of us can do something to bring some portion of misery to an end.' Ed Owens was a person who made a significant difference in the lives of the women of Deborah's Place."

25th anniversary celebration

On Thursday, June 17, 2010, Deborah's Place celebrated a quarter century of service at the 25th Anniversary Celebration Event at the Garfield Park Conservatory. Almost 270 friends and supporters gathered together for a sold-out event celebrating 25 years of breaking the cycle of homelessness for women in Chicago.

The event drew supporters from throughout our 25 year history and raised over \$80,000!

The former Executive Directors of Deborah's Place, Martha Whelan Robinson and Sister Patricia Crowley, were both in attendance as well as several former board members and supporters from around the country. The FY'10 President's Circle hosted a pre-event champagne reception for all of the organization's former board members.

The memorable evening featured an exciting live auction and paddle raise, and 13 raffle packages, put together from donations from local businesses and individuals. This year items included a chef for a day with Homaro Cantu of Moto Restaurant; a week stay in Cancun, Mexico; tickets to various regional sporting events; and a behind-the-scenes tour of the ABC 7 Studios with Kathy Brock, who was also the evening's emcee. The event also featured a paddle raise, which brought in over \$28,000 from dozens of generous donors!

Several awards were also presented to those who have supported Deborah's Place. Joanna Rupp accepted the 2010 Patty Crowley Award, The Chicago Department of Family and Support Services received the Hope and Home Award, and the women of Deborah's Place were granted the Renewal of Spirit Award.

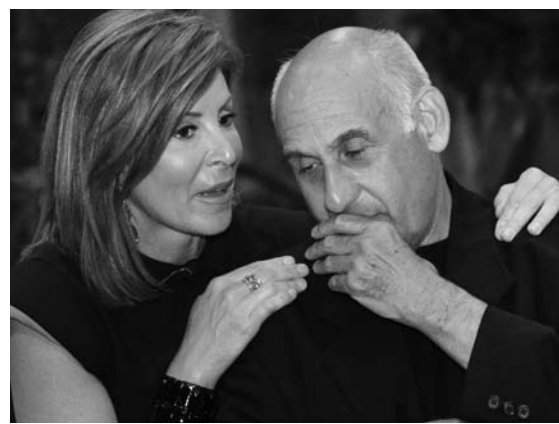
Thank you to the individuals who dedicated their time, energy, and support to the event this year!



Cheryl Kobetsky toasts the current and previous board members before the event begins.



Sister Patty Crowley (center), Deborah's Place Executive Director from 1994-2001 poses with former board members Maureen McGowan Milner and Beth Pearson who traveled across the country to attend.



ABC 7's Kathy Brock ups the ante on the behind-the-scenes tour of ABC 7 with auctioneer Jeff Brown.



Deborah's Place tenant and Diva Roxana accepted the Renewal of Spirit Award on behalf of all the women of Deborah's Place.



Joanna Rupp accepts the Patty Crowley Award as Audrey Thomas and Margaret Douglas look on.

Dine and donate with Celebrated Chefs dining rewards program

Celebrated Chefs is an exciting new program that helps Deborah's Place raise funds all year long. Simply dine at any of the fabulous Celebrated Chefs restaurants and 5% of your bill will be donated to our cause directly from the restaurant. Enrollment is free and requires no work from you after sign up! Details of how and when to enroll will be posted on our website deborahsplace.org in September.



Deborah's Place speaks at national conference
17% increase in women served
Celebrated Chefs Dining Program introduced
2011 fundraising challenge

2822 W Jackson Blvd
Chicago IL 60612-3653

Supporters meet and exceed 2010 challenge grant!

Fundraising challenge extended into 2011

In June, a private family foundation set forth a fundraising challenge to raise crucial funds for Deborah's Place. The donor committed to contribute \$35,000 each year for two years by matching any incremental donations—increases from a donor's previous gift—and gifts from "new" donors who have not given to Deborah's Place for two years.

Thanks to our generous supporters, Deborah's Place successfully leveraged the challenge. By the end of the first month, we raised over \$50,000 in new and incremental donations from 97 donors!

Due to this overwhelming response, we are continuing the challenge. We ask you to help us raise another \$50,000 in new and incremental donations between now and June 1, 2011. If you gave \$50 last year, why not make a gift of \$100 this year? If you've never given to Deborah's Place before, now is the best time to start!

You've already proven your dedication to our mission and shown the tremendous impact you can make as a giving community. Please help us continue this great momentum. Make a gift to our challenge today!

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Recession-sparked crises force women into homelessness

Teresa never imagined she would be homeless. Nearing retirement age, she and her partner of 25 years, Tony, had dreams to travel. Their combined income—hers from waitressing, his from truck driving—allowed them to live comfortably in a quaint suburban apartment, with a small backyard where their dog could play.

In 2008, Tony was diagnosed with leukemia, and their dreams were shattered. He was unable to work, and high medical costs quickly depleted their savings. Then Teresa, a victim of recession-sparked layoffs, lost her waitressing job too. Tony and the dog went to live with his mother. Teresa had nowhere to go.

After staying in suburban and West Side shelters, Teresa found her way to the Teresa's Interim Housing Program of Deborah's Place. She quickly found a part-time job as a receptionist at a non-profit organization and applied for an apartment at the Patty Crowley Apartments, a permanent housing program of Deborah's Place.

"[Having] a positive attitude is everything," says Teresa. "I'm homeless, not helpless."

Many women like Teresa become homeless due to a series of unfortunate events—one crisis after another, an inescapable snowball of adversity, complicated further by the economic recession.

Take Susie, for example, whose story is individual but not uncommon. Just like Teresa, homelessness was the last thing on Susie's mind. As a middle-aged woman, Susie had a stable job and an apartment in Chicago. But when her building was foreclosed and the hours at her job cut to part-time status, she found herself 30 days away from homelessness.

With limited income and therefore limited housing options, Susie moved in with her daughter in a south suburban town. For two hours every day, Susie rode the train to and from her job in the city. The commute was taxing and breaking her budget.

Unaccompanied, on a tight income, and with odds stacked against finding employment closer to her daughter's home, she chose to keep her job and look for shelter in Chicago. "I never imagined I would be homeless," she says.

Susie eventually found her way to Teresa's Interim Housing Program, where she began saving money and applied for an apartment at the Patty Crowley Apartments.

Today, both Teresa and Susie have their own studio at the Patty Crowley Apartments. They continue to work, save, connect with the community around them, and rebuild their lives one step at a time. "I'm so grateful to have a second chance," Susie reflects.

Layoffs, foreclosures, illness, bankruptcy—these are just some of the unexpected crises that cause thousands of women to become homeless every year. With limited options for them in Chicago, Deborah's Place provides the housing and services women need to overcome these crises and regain stability though stable housing, sustainable income, and greater self-determination.

"I'm overwhelmed with gratitude. It's kind of sickeningly sweet, but my apartment is worth every bit of hardship," says Teresa. "I was in such despair so many times. I asked myself, 'Am I ever going to break out of this nightmare? Is there ever going to be an end?' And it *is* [ending], and now it's beautiful!"



Deborah's Place tenant

"I never imagined I would be homeless."