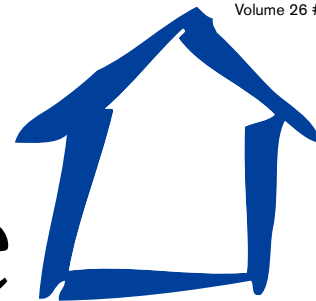


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Holiday 2010



Deborah's Place staff & tenants celebrate 25 years of service at the 25th Anniversary In-House Celebration



The gym of the Rebecca Johnson Apartments at 2822 W. Jackson Blvd. was filled with dozens of smiling faces on September 22 as Deborah's Place participants and staff came together to celebrate the organization's 25 years of service.

Over 140 participants and staff from our five housing programs and two daytime drop-in Learning Centers socialized, ate, danced, and reminisced throughout the afternoon. "It was truly a reunion," said Executive Director Audrey Thomas. "I had the opportunity to fellowship with current staff and participants and with women who have 'graduated' from Deborah's Place but came back to see old friends."

Guests sat and talked over lunch, had their pictures taken in the "photo booth," and posted their fondest memories on doors that represented each of the past and current programs. "Freedom," "Getting to know all the amazing women," and "Home & Community" were just a few of the dozens of sentiments that were posted on the doors.

The Deborah's Place in-house 25th anniversary celebration was a reminder of the strength and accomplishments of our participants and staff—past and present.



Deborah's Place Holiday Wish List

Deborah's Place helps over 400 women each year make progress toward their goals of stable housing, sustainable income and greater self-determination. This holiday season, please help us provide the women we serve with the following items:

Women's Needs and Holiday Gifts

- New twin size sheets/blankets/comforters
- New pillows
- New cookware sets—pots/pans/utensils
- Shower curtains/shower curtain rings
- New socks/new underwear—size L/XL/up
- New thermal underwear
- New towels—bath/hand/face
- New bath robes
- Sweat pants/sweat shirts
- Hats/gloves/scarves
- Slippers
- Cleaning supplies—Windex/Lysol/mop soap/mops/ brooms/sponges/cleaning rags/ liquid dish detergent/laundry detergent
- Toilet paper/paper towels/Kleenex
- Toiletries—full-size shampoo/conditioner/soap/lotion/ deodorant/toothbrushes/toothpaste/feminine hygiene products/combs/brushes
- Gift cards—Target/Kmart/CVS/etc.
- CTA fare cards

Dolores' Safe Haven (15 women)

- Air purifiers
- New television for common area
- New rug and curtains for common area
- One-year subscription to Netflix

Marah's Permanent Housing (30 women)

- Digitally-compatible televisions

Patty Crowley Apartments (39 women)

- New vacuum cleaner
- \$5 gift cards for the Rewards Store
- One-year subscription to Netflix

Rebecca Johnson Apartments (90 women)

- DVD player with compatible TV
- Pool table equipment—chalk/cues/etc.
- Digital converter boxes

Teresa's Interim Housing (10 women)

- Microwaves
- One-year subscription to Netflix

Daytime Services (all off-site participants)

- Backpacks
- Single-load packets of laundry detergent
- Toiletry bags
- Small coffee makers
- Clock radios
- Small increment gift cards—Subway/Dunkin' Donuts/ Jimmy Johns/other small restaurants

Facilities / Property Management

- New twin-sized mattresses
- 9-volt alkaline batteries
- Paint brushes/rollers
- Gift cards—Home Depot/Menards
- Carpet Shampooer/Extractor
- Vacuum cleaners
- Heavy-duty cleaning supplies for wood/grout/stainless steel
- Disposable gloves
- Cleaning rags
- Digital camera

Clinical and Health Services

- Gift cards—Walgreen's/Osco for prescription medications
- Diabetes test strips for Glucometers—NovaMax/One Touch Ultra Mini/ Prestige Smart System
- Sealed, unexpired packages of Aleve/Tylenol/Ibuprofen/Benadryl/ vitamins/cold & allergy medicines
- First Aid supplies
- Incontinence supplies—Depends/Certainty
- Pro-bono or low-cost dental services

Education and Employment Services

- Eight computer chairs
- Blank CDs/flash drives for computers
- Blank notebooks/other office supplies
- DVD movies
- CD/tape player
- Sets of books for book clubs (five-ten books)
- Jewelry beads/fixtures/tools
- Wooden arts/craft items for painting
- Crochet hooks
- Gift cards—Payless/Kmart/Target
- Magazine subscriptions
- Easel
- Table top display
- One-year subscriptions to Netflix (two)

We are unable to accept donations of used clothing, shoes or linens. We request that donated items are new and unwrapped. Please drop off gifts by Friday, December 17, 2010 at our headquarters located at 2822 W Jackson Blvd, Chicago.

To arrange to drop off your gifts, please contact Stephanie Dixon at 773.722.5080 or sdixon@deborahsplace.org.



The staff and women of Deborah's Place wish you a warm and happy holiday season.

Thank you for helping bring women in from the cold.

Audrey

Kathy M., Dolores' Safe Haven resident, and Executive Director Audrey Thomas cut the 25th anniversary cake together.

Supportive housing with services is cost effective

Research from across the nation shows that supportive housing—the type of housing that Deborah's Place provides—is the most cost-effective and compassionate solution to homelessness. Supportive housing is a combination of affordable housing with support services such as education, employment, health, and case management services.

Studies conducted in urban centers implementing similar supportive housing programs have demonstrated immense public cost savings in healthcare and criminal justice systems. A 2009 study titled “Supportive Housing in Illinois: A Wise Investment” conducted by the Heartland Alliance Mid-America Institute on Poverty, Supportive Housing Provider's Association, and the Coalition for Supportive Housing also concluded that supportive housing is the most cost-effective solution to homelessness.

The study measured the impact of the supportive housing intervention on the use of public services from a sample of 177 residents over a four-year time period, comparing the two years before residents entered supportive housing with the two years after. Data were collected on these residents from Medicaid, mental health hospitals, substance use treatment, prisons, and various county jails and hospitals.

Medicaid services saw a major shift from a high-reliance on expensive inpatient/acute services before supportive housing to less expensive outpatient/preventative services after.

Without a stable place to live and a support system to help them address their underlying problems, most people who are homeless bounce from one emergency system to the next.

Daily costs of serving each individual who is homeless in Chicago

\$20.55	supportive housing
\$22.00	emergency shelter
\$60.00	jail
\$437.00	mental health facility
\$1,201.00	hospital

**Data taken from research studies compiled by the Corporation for Supportive Housing and posted on their website, www.csh.org.*

Supportive housing ends the expensive cycle of shuffling individuals who are homeless in and out of shelters, emergency care facilities, and public institutions. Supportive housing is a long-term solution that helps people remain housed and live more stable, productive lives, and produces positive results their communities.

Housing cost reductions for individuals who are homeless in two years after entering supportive housing:

- Average public savings of over \$2,400 per person per year, a total savings of almost \$850,000 in two years
- 90% drop of individuals using mental health hospitals.
- The sample group used more than \$400,000 worth of state mental health hospital services before entry into supportive housing and only \$873 after moving into supportive housing.
- Overnight stays in state prison dropped to zero with a 100% cost savings of over \$215,000.
- Stays in nursing homes decreased by 97%, saving over \$230,000.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Taposhi Bentley

*Dustin Ward, Dana Probst, Taposhi Bentley,
Pratima Jagarlamudi, Chris Stein
(not pictured Vivian Stoeger)*

Deborah's Place volunteers and participants join together for Illinois troops

The winter holidays were celebrated early this fall for Deborah's Place volunteers and participants at the Rebecca Johnson Apartments. Though leaves were just starting to turn colors, over 40 participants and six volunteers worked together over three hours signing over 400 holiday cards. They were not just trying to beat the December mail rush; the cards were for Illinois Service Members stationed in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere.

This project was spearheaded by volunteer Taposhi S. Bentley, assisted by a team of volunteers at Mayer Hoffman McCann P.C., and by Education Services Program Coordinator Juanita Brown and the participants of the Rebecca Johnson Apartments (RJA) and RJA Learning Center. Together they produced over 45 pounds of cards for "Operation Support Our Troops Illinois," a non-profit organization that sends encouragement to service members. A lovely lunch, provided by Taposhi, and served by all the volunteers, rounded out the afternoon.

Taposhi became involved at Deborah's Place through an internet search and a drive through the Old Town neighborhood, where she spotted our Patty Crowley Apartment building at 1530 N. Sedgwick. She represents the Dharma Foundation, a 10-year old family foundation that supports women, children, and the underprivileged; promotes peace and diversity; and supports other organizations that share that same mission.

Her first volunteer project was on Christmas Eve 2009, when she brought, prepared, and served a meal for

"We had so much fun during the Christmas dinner. And they're always so grateful."

the women that live or use the Learning Center at RJA. When asked why she continues to volunteer at Deborah's Place, she answered, "I just fell in love with the ladies. We had so

much fun during the Christmas dinner. And they're always so grateful."

Vivian Stoeger, of Meyer Hoffman McCann P.C. agrees. "This was the first of many volunteer projects I hope to be involved in at Deborah's Place. The ladies' enthusiasm and desire to be involved made the experience a memorable one," she says. Vivian and her team provide audit and tax preparation services to Deborah's Place. They took part in the Illinois CPA Society "CPA Day of Service," a day when CPAs volunteer at organizations across Illinois. Luckily their day of service fell on the same day as Taposhi's project, and they chose to volunteer at Deborah's Place.

The card-writing project was popular among the Learning Center participants. Taposhi will return in early January to enlist DP participants' help once again with cards for the Illinois Troops, this time for Valentine's Day.

Thank you, Taposhi and Meyer Hoffman McCann, for your service helping Deborah's Place women serve our community. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said "Everyone can be great because everyone can serve." We couldn't agree more.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

Women & Children First Bookstore fosters literary education and self-discovery at Deborah's Place

Books are magical. They can carry the reader to another world. They can educate, inspire, comfort, and please. They are a luxury that can be shared by oneself or with others. They often bring people together, and are both an important luxury and tool in society.

There are few people that understand the importance of books in the lives of women better than Linda Bubon and Ann Christophersen, co-owners of Women and Children First Bookstore. Their mission is to promote the work of women writers and to create a place in which all women would find books reflecting their lives and interests. Recently, Linda and Ann carried their mission outside the walls of their store, donating books and bringing inspiration to the women of Deborah's Place.

Women & Children First Bookstore (WCF), located in the northern Chicago Andersonville neighborhood, was established in 1979 and is today one of the largest feminist bookstores in the country. In 2005, WCF established the 'Women's Voices Fund', a nonprofit adjunct whose mission is to support feminist programming at the bookstore and nurture literary life. This fund supports other organizations that provide services to women such as Deborah's Place.

Women and Children First has donated several sets of books, including Toni Morrison's *Sula*, Miriam Toews' *The Summer of My Amazing Luck*, and *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleishman. These novels focus on the challenges, relationships, dedication to overcome hardship, and soul-changing experiences of women.

"A mission of the bookstore is to get women reading and to put books in women's hands that they will relate to...to give them a source of comfort and insight" says WCF co-owner Linda Bubon. "It's somewhat therapeutic to read about another person that shares similar struggles or experiences and relate to them, whether fiction or non-fiction."

The sets of books are rotated between the Learning Center at the Rebecca Johnson Apartments (RJA), the 1530 N. Sedgwick Learning Center, and are about to reach the Activity Center at Marah's Housing Program. The RJA Learning Center book club, made up of both women who live in the apartments and off-site women who use the building's daytime services, meets regularly to read and discuss each of the books over the course of several weeks.

The book club at the 1530 N. Sedgwick Learning Center is bit less structured due to the dynamic population the program serves. The 1530 N. Sedgwick Learning Center is used by off-site participants as well as residents of the Patty Crowley Apartments, Dolores' Safe Haven, and Teresa's Interim Housing which is a temporary four-month program. "With the [Dolores'] Safe Haven population and with new women coming in to Teresa's every few weeks it's difficult to have a traditional book club" says Jean Durkin, coordinator of the 1530 N. Sedgwick Learning Center. Instead, the group meets organically as interest arises. "We're open to being as flexible as each of the women are. Some women don't want to discuss in a group, so we work with what we have," says Jean.

Discussions often form during unrelated one-on-one conversations between the participants or between participants and staff. "Often I will overhear or be part of a conversation with the participants and seize the opportunity to connect the conversation with the book we're reading. I will start reading out loud at different points during the day."

Linda of WCF knows that it doesn't matter how her donated books are read, shared or discussed; it's simply that they are available and have the ability to deeply touch the women of Deborah's Place. "It's just amazing," she says. "Being able to put those books in the hands of other women who might not have otherwise discovered them or been inspired to read them – it's just amazing."

When a woman is homeless, she often does not have access to books nor the luxury to read and enjoy them. When a woman comes to Deborah's Place she is given access to people and resources like books that she wasn't able to access before. We are deeply grateful to Linda, Ann and everyone at Women & Children First Bookstore for helping us give so many women of Deborah's Place the opportunity to learn, grow, and connect with themselves and others through literature.

The women can relate to these books and they provide comfort and insight.



Juanita Brown, Learning Center Coordinator at RJA enjoys reviewing one of the books donated by WCF.



Helping is easy!

In addition to making a monetary contribution, there are so many fast and simple ways to support women in need!

Dine and donate.

Enroll in the Celebrated Chefs dining program and participating restaurants will donate 5% of your bill to Deborah's Place. For more information, visit deborahsplace.org.

Search the web.

Search or shop online through GoodSearch.com or IGive.com, and a donation will be made to Deborah's Place each time you use one of these sites.

Mention Deborah's Place at work.

Ask your employer if they will match your volunteer time or monetary contributions with a gift of their own.

Involve your community.

Ask your club, church, or co-workers to hold a donation drive to collect monetary donations or items from our Wish List, such as toiletries, sheets, and CTA passes.



pro bono design by Brian Steiling



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Chicago IL 60612-3653

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Helping Deborah's Place is easy!
17% increase in women served
Supportive housing with services is cost effective
Holiday wish list