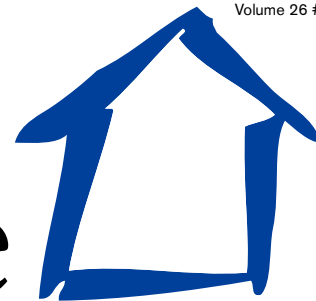


# the HOME page

Summer 2011



Deborah's Place peer leaders, the DP Divas, at a tea party they hosted in appreciation and support of their fellow tenants.

## Peer Leadership: Nothing about me without me.

Mary posts a flyer she created for a health education group she will co-facilitate because she is committed to improving the health and wellness of her fellow tenants.

Theresa hosts a tea for the residents of Dolores' Safe Haven. Theresa feels it is important that women who live there have an opportunity to share stories, learn from and support each other.

Anita serves as a tour guide for visitors to Deborah's Place. She eloquently explains the services and program offered and graciously answers questions about her own experience.

Mary, Theresa and Anita are peer leaders who live at Deborah's Place and take responsibility and ownership for the building and community where they live.

At Deborah's Place, peer leadership opportunities reflect one of our core values, encouraging creative self-expression and self-determination. Through participation in program planning and decision-making as well as other leadership activities in community meetings, advocacy, health education, committees and groups, women like Mary and Theresa make a difference.

Pam, another peer leader and Deborah's Place tenant, believes that peer leadership is a way for women who have experienced homelessness to regain a sense of belonging and purpose. "I believe that tenants get involved mainly because

we are a community and everything that goes on at Deborah's Place affects us all. Peer leadership shows what can be achieved by working toward a common goal. When we come together we can conquer problems and encourage change that enhances the quality of life for all of us."

Those changes range from giving input to the color of new hallway carpeting to participating in program and operational decision-making. Deborah's Place Director of Property Management, Vicki Brooks, knows first hand the

benefits of peer leadership. In her role, Vicki is responsible

**"When we come together we can conquer problems and encourage change."**

for ensuring the cleanliness and safety of the tenants. Recently, tenants requested changes to rules for the building. Vicki asked a group of tenants to participate in helping her think through the process.

Vicki reflects, "The fact that many tenants are eager to take personal ownership in the building they live in and play a role in setting policies made it a natural move to involve them in revising the building rules. This provided staff with the opportunity to hear what was important to the tenants from their point of view and it gave tenants the opportunity to be involved. The process not only enhanced their sense of pride in their building, it also continues to build a solid partnership between the tenants and Deborah's Place which benefits everyone."

*(continued on page 2)*

## Peer Success *(continued from page 1)*



Mary McFadden, tenant of the Rebecca Johnson Apartments

Many women describe the experience of homelessness using words like humiliating, terrifying, and shameful. Homelessness chips away at a woman's self-esteem. Peer leadership gives women the opportunity to voice their opinions, engage in discussion, and share ideas. When a woman knows that her voice is heard and validated, it increases her self-esteem.

Pam continues, "The only way to bring about change is to put yourself out there and speak up and out about what affects not only you but all those involved. Nothing changes without first making someone aware that there is a problem. The more voices heard the greater the change

will be. I get involved because I want to make a difference in some way. I don't want to just sit and complain about the problem. I want to help solve the problem."

Pam believes that the increased self-esteem and confidence that comes from being a peer leader, permeates every area of life. "I believe you have to keep hoping and believing that you can accomplish your dreams. You can't give up trying to reach your goals. If you stop hoping and believing you will lose that spark that makes life worth living. The best feeling in the world is knowing that you are a part of something that changes lives."

### From Audrey's Desk

If you are like me, you are probably inundated each day with e-mails and newsletters from not-for-profit organizations seeking additional donations to fill the gap of threatened cuts to government funding.

Deborah's Place is one of many human service organizations across the state of Illinois that must, once again, plan for the new fiscal year under the threat of significant cuts to our state funds. While it is discouraging to face this issue each year, we are also energized by our participation in advocacy efforts that help ensure our continued ability to provide supportive housing and vital services to women who are homeless—services that are proven to be effective in ending homelessness for women. This spring, we will call and write our legislators, educate our constituents about the proposed cuts to human services, visit Springfield to meet with legislators and to join with others to rally support for the people we serve.

Annually, Deborah's Place receives \$250,000 from the Illinois Department of Human Services. These dollars are spent for direct service that help women obtain and maintain stable housing including housing search and placement, crisis intervention, health, education and employment services. The loss of this funding would put these services at risk at a time when we are also seeing an increase in the number of women seeking our help and services.

We understand that our state has a significant deficit and that everyone has to make sacrifices. Deborah's Place has already made those sacrifices. We have voluntarily made adjustments in the past few years through tight fiscal management and

creative use of resources. We are also finding more effective ways to provide services through service partnerships and collaborations. We have done this while serving an increase in women of 17% with no additional government funding.

In this issue of *The Home Page*, you will read about our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Capital Campaign to Fund Continuity and Growth. Our goal is to raise one million dollars to address immediate capital needs at the Patty Crowley Apartments and build our operating and capital reserves that will allow us to manage effectively in times of uncertainty and be positioned to embrace opportunities for growth. We recognize the challenge of initiating a campaign while people are still recovering from a national economic recession. However, we believe that we must meet that challenge head on. Each day we witness the needs and struggles of women recovering from homelessness, addiction, illness, and poverty. We know that we can help them and provide the opportunities and resources they need to gain stable housing, sustainable income and greater self-determination—breaking their cycle of homelessness for good.

If you have not already done so, I hope that you will consider a gift to our campaign. As always, thank you for your support and commitment in providing solutions to ending homelessness.

Gratefully,



Audrey Thomas  
Executive Director

## Deborah's Place Helps Lead the Way

As a leader in the Chicago homeless services community, Deborah's Place participates in various levels of planning and decision-making regarding the distribution of federal funds in Chicago. For several years, Kathy Booton Wilson, Deborah's Place's Chief Operations Officer, has played a significant role in this process.

Kathy first came to Deborah's Place as an overnight volunteer in 1985. She joined the staff as Administrative Assistant in 1987, and since has held the positions of Director of Finance & Administration, Program Administrator of Case Management & Therapeutic Services, Clinical Director and Director of Supportive Housing.

For the second year in a row, Kathy was elected vice chair of the HUD McKinney-Vento Committee of the Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness. Additionally, in 2011, she was chosen to co-chair the Evaluation Tool Committee, which drafts the document that agencies complete annually to obtain and maintain federal HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development) funding.

The procedure for determining the allocation of federal funding is complex, and sometimes tedious. Each year, the City of Chicago must submit an application to HUD for continuation of funding to all homeless service programs in the city. Chicago competes against "Continua of Care" from across the country, and is scored on a scale of 1 – 100. The cities or regions that score the highest receive their renewal funds, as well as funding for new supportive housing projects, called "bonus projects" to be opened the following year in their communities.

## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign to Fund Continuity and Growth

Deborah's Place is pleased to announce our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign to Fund Continuity and Growth. After months of planning and preparation under the dynamic leadership of the campaign committee co-chairs, Joanna Rupp and Coral Cawthorn-Zake, and their fellow committee members, on May 12<sup>th</sup> we launched the campaign at the Patty Crowley Apartments with reception and tours for our close friends and supporters.



25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Capital Campaign Co-Chairs Coral Cawthorn-Zake and Joanna Rupp, and Board President Kim Cole at the Campaign Kickoff event

As Audrey mentioned in her letter, this is an especially precarious time to continue to rely heavily on government support. Recognizing this change in our funding climate we established our \$1 million campaign in order to achieve three important strategies.

In a parallel process, each HUD-funded homeless service project in Chicago completes an annual application for renewal funding called an "Evaluation Tool". Over 125 agencies are scored on a scale of 1 – 100 and are ranked competitively. This is a very stressful process for agencies, as there is always the danger of falling low in the rankings, which could lead to being defunded.

In her role as co-chair of the Evaluation Tool Committee, Kathy led a group of 15 social service providers, governmental representatives and consumers in the challenging task of designing an instrument that will fairly compare a diverse range of homeless service programs ranging from daytime drop-in centers to permanent supportive housing programs.

Understanding of HUD's priorities, local priorities, and the challenges facing homeless service providers is essential to providing leadership in the design of the sophisticated tool that aims to evaluate programs on eleven priorities, including project performance, Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) and consumer representation.

This campaign will help us increase capacity to sustain current critical housing and services, adapt to changes in a volatile funding environment and steward Deborah's Place into the next 25 years. We will accomplish these goals by initiating critical building repairs and upgrades to the facilities at 1530 N. Sedgwick, creating a replacement reserve for that building to address future capital improvements in a timely manner and to build the operating reserve.

In doing so, we will continue to maintain our financial stability and increase capacity to respond to opportunities that further the organization's mission; to draw on in times of need, especially in the next three to five years when government grants and foundation gifts are dwindling or are in peril.

This is your opportunity, more than ever, to be an advocate for Deborah's Place. By joining us on this important and exciting journey, your support will ensure our continued access to critical resources in order to be a catalyst for change not only in the lives of women who are homeless but also in the homeless service system.

Please consider a special campaign pledge or gift beyond your annual donation as well as inviting your friends to participate through our 25 for 25 Challenge through First Giving. A generous donor has given a matching gift of \$50,000 to spur new giving to the campaign. We would be pleased to meet with you in person or talk with you over the phone to discuss special giving opportunities. We have enclosed an envelope in this newsletter for your convenience.

Visit [deborahsplace.org](http://deborahsplace.org) for campaign details. If you have further questions about the campaign or how you can support it, please contact Audrey Thomas, Executive Director at 773.638.6535 or [AThomas@deborahsplace.org](mailto:AThomas@deborahsplace.org) or Carol Brumer Glikzman, Major Gifts Officer at 773.638.6536 or [CGlikzman@deborahsplace.org](mailto:CGlikzman@deborahsplace.org).

According to Kathy, "It took me about a year of sitting on these committees to even begin to have a clue what was going on. The processes are complicated, and it takes some time to even understand the acronyms being thrown around." She adds that she feels that Chicago has one of the best program assessment tools in the country, thanks to the ability of homeless service providers to work collaboratively, rather than competitively, toward a common goal of ending homelessness.



*Nicole Bahena, Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness; Amanda Carlisle, Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness; Andrea Dakin, AIDS Foundation of Chicago and Chair of the HUD McKinney-Vento Committee; Eileen Higgins, Catholic Charities; and Kathy Booton Wilson, Deborah's Place and Vice-Chair of the HUD McKinney-Vento Committee*

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Bonnie S. Hawkins



*Bonnie S. Hawkins,  
Program Volunteer &  
2011 Annual Gala Chair*

On a cold winters' day in 2008, Bonnie S. Hawkins joined her friends Tom and Robin to cook for and eat a holiday meal with a group of Deborah's Place residents. She was hooked. "That first experience made me want to work with the ladies one on one," she recalls. "I saw the impact that we had there, just sitting with the women and having conversations. The women were touched by our presence at their dinner table... It was then that I knew I needed to become more involved with this organization." Bonnie had been searching for an organization to lend her talents when her close friend and Deborah's Place supporter, Tom Opferman, invited her and friend Robin Jessen to serve that holiday meal at Marah's, one of Deborah's Place three supportive housing sites. Since then Bonnie has become deeply rooted in the Deborah's Place community.

Bonnie has shared her time, talent and resources at all our sites, but she loves volunteering in the Learning Center at the Rebecca Johnson Apartments (RJA.) She teaches the women computer skills, assists them with writing resumes and applying for jobs, chaperones field trips, and helps organize special events and holiday meals. Bonnie also facilitates a popular book club, which she started by seeking out donations of sets of books. "Bonnie is a beautiful person that communicates well with the women," says Juanita Brown, coordinator of the RJA Learning Center. "The women really look forward to her coming and to interacting with her. She brings new ideas and a bright presence. We just love her." Her commitment is infectious as she pulls in friends and co-workers to volunteer.

**"I saw the impact we had there... It was then I knew I had to become more involved."**

For Bonnie, the real joy of volunteering is creating a welcoming space for the women she serves. It is the one-on-one relationships she forms with the women that are the most important to her. "Being in the Learning Center, directly serving the women, you learn more. It's something else entirely to sit with a person and discover something personal about them."

Bonnie expanded her volunteer commitment this year by agreeing to serve as the chair of Deborah's Place 2011 Annual Gala. As a legal professional with experience in event planning and nonprofit business management, Bonnie has enthusiastically used her skills and resources to plan a successful event. With a dedicated event committee, Bonnie is looking forward to an evening that will raise funds and increase support for the women of Deborah's Place. "It's going to be a great event for so many reasons. I love that it is at the Chicago Cultural Center because it is a beautiful space and a place where Deborah's Place women are all welcome at any time." Bonnie says. "The committees have brought a wide range of skills [to planning the Gala], resulting in a wide range of support. They've done so much to make this fundraiser a success, and you'll be able to see that."

Whether she is planning the Gala, serving on a committee or helping a woman learn to use the computer, Bonnie serves with grace and compassion. We are grateful that she is part of the Deborah's Place community.

*If you are interested in volunteering at Deborah's Place, visit the volunteer page at [www.deborahsplace.org](http://www.deborahsplace.org).*



## Staff Insights

At a recent administrative team meeting, the staff was asked to give one reason why they work for and support Deborah's Place.

"I enjoy being able to build relationships with and among the women of the programs. Our daily interactions are so meaningful to my life."

**Kim Davidson**

*Program Administrator, Dolores' Safe Haven and Patty Crowley Apartments*

.....

"We change the perceptions people have of people who are homeless and we're changing the perceptions that the women we serve have on the rest of the world."

**Vicki Brooks**

*Director of Property Management*

.....

"All services are provided with respect."

**Sue Gries**

*Director of Finance*

.....

"I am able to use my social work and fundraising skills together in a meaningful way that directly impacts the women we serve."

**Carol Brumer Gliksman**

*Major Gifts Officer*

.....

"The organization is constantly evolving based on the needs of the women."

**Elizabeth Ashton Golden**

*Development Manager*

.....

"We will work with any woman who needs us, regardless of the issues she brings to the table. When she comes to DP, she becomes part of our family, and she can be with us as long as she needs to be."

**Kathy Booton Wilson**

*Chief Operations Officer*

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

### 2011 Gala Sponsors

The Annual Gala is Deborah's Place largest fundraiser of the year. Funds raised at this premier event support the multiple programs and services at Deborah's Place that allow hundreds of women each year to break out of the trauma and chaos of homelessness.

The success of the Annual Gala relies on the generous support of our corporate and in-kind sponsors. We are proud to partner with these generous sponsors. Together, we are opening doors for women in Chicago.

#### Platinum Sponsor – \$10,000



**Northern Trust**

#### Gold Sponsors – \$5,000



**FIFTH THIRD BANK**

**RR DONNELLEY**

#### Bronze Sponsors – \$1,250

The Boeing Company  
Harris Bank

#### In-Kind Sponsors

Constellation Brands  
Crown Imports  
Brandy Fisher  
Karen and Michael Lurie  
Tropical Plant Rentals

We would also like to thank the dozens of generous donors who have contributed many exciting goods and services to our live and silent auctions. Auction donors will be listed in the program book and displayed at the auction tables at the event. Auction items can be previewed at [www.deborahsplace.org](http://www.deborahsplace.org).

*Sponsorship and advertising opportunities are still available. Please contact Elizabeth Ashton Golden at 773.638.6539 or [egolden@deborahsplace.org](mailto:egolden@deborahsplace.org).*



## TAKE THE CHALLENGE!

Visit [www.deborahsplace.org](http://www.deborahsplace.org) to learn more about the 25 for 25 Challenge and how you can inspire others to help women in need.

Please join us in celebrating 26 years of opening doors to opportunity, hope, and home for women who are homeless.

## Deborah's Place Annual Gala

"Opening Doors for Women in Chicago"

Thursday, June 16, 2011  
6 PM – 10 PM

### Chicago Cultural Center

Sidney R. Yates Gallery  
77 East Randolph Street  
Chicago, Illinois

Lisa Madigan

*Keynote Speaker, Illinois State Attorney General*

Steven Zick

*Auctioneer, Christie's Fine Art Auctioneers*

6 PM Reception  
Live Music  
Silent Auction

7 PM Dinner

8 PM Program  
Live Auction

#### Steering Committee

Bonnie S. Hawkins, Chair  
Kimberly Cole  
Michael Demetriou  
Melissa Haase  
JoAnn Pinetti  
Steven Zick  
Jennifer Zordani

#### Event Committee

Margit Anderson  
Jean Coccozza  
Catherine Colombo  
Robin Jessen  
Julie Karos  
Victoria Kathrein  
Michael Lurie  
Christian Stahl

pro bono design by Brian Steiling



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## Deborah's Place Annual Gala

Thursday, June 16