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Deborah's Place E-Update

October 2011 / # 15

Notes from Home



Journeys...



Deborah's Place Adult Educator, Marilyn Derr (l), and tenant Gina, who proudly display Gina's recently-earned GED certificate.

Ever since she was a young girl, Gina secretly dreamed of working in a hospital. That dream didn't seem attainable until this year, when at the age of 55, the Deborah's Place Rebecca Johnson Apartment tenant earned her General Education Degree (GED) from the State of Illinois.

Following an assault in 2005, Gina became homeless and moved into Deborah's Place. The experience of homelessness is one of the many obstacles Gina had to overcome on her journey...

[Read more about Gina's journey and successes at Deborah's Place in our Fall Newsletter online.](#)

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Question of the Month:

In our [winter newsletter](#) we focus on food services at Deborah's Place and how shared mealtimes nourish the women we serve in both body and soul.

What does "nourish" mean to you? How do you nourish yourself and others?

[Comment on our facebook page.](#)

Board Game Bonanza - November 17

Making Moves for Women Who are Homeless

Come out on Thursday, November 17, to McGee's Tavern & Grille for

the Deborah's Place Board Game Bonanza event! Kick off your holiday festivities with your friends while raising funds to help bring women in from the cold this winter. [See you there!](#)



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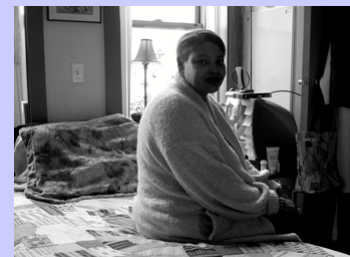
[Volunteer](#)

Speak Out Against Cuts to Homeless Service Agencies!

This year, cuts in state and federal budgets have greatly impacted social services and housing organizations, including Deborah's Place. Our staff, volunteers and participants have been working to put an end to these cuts. We've partnered with housing coalitions, advocated at city hall and state hearings, and made individual calls to our senators and alderman.

But we need to do more, and we need your help to do it. Call your state representative, senator, and alderman and tell them that you're against cuts to vital housing and social services at all levels!

[Find your government representative's phone number here.](#)



Holiday Wish List

Help us Bring Joy to the Women of Deborah's Place this Holiday

Do you want to give a woman who is homeless a new set of sheets to sleep on, hats and gloves to keep her warm, or a way for her to buy a meal? You can help the hundreds of women Deborah's Place serves by [collecting and donating items from our Holiday Wish List](#) - items such as toiletries, sheets, towels, and CTA fare cards.

Want to increase your impact? Ask your school, church group, social club, co-workers or even your friends and family to become involved in a [holiday donation drive](#).

Extreme Home Makeover - Deborah's Place Edition

@properties Real Estate Team Works Design Magic at 1530

This month over 60 @properties real estate agents, contractors and friends joined Deborah's Place in a makeover of our 1530 N. Sedgwick building, home to 64 women of the Dolores' Safe Haven Program, Teresa's Interim Housing Program, and the Patty Crowley Apartments. [Read about the dramatic changes and what the residents think about their new home!](#)



Share a Meal, Spread Holiday Cheer

November & December Volunteer Opportunities

Looking for a way to give back this holiday season? Consider bringing and serving a meal to the women of Deborah's Place! We are in need of groups of 6-10 volunteers to bring and serve full meals at one of our three programs.

Can't volunteer but still want to help? You can:

- * Hold a [food drive](#)
- * Collect [grocery gift cards](#)
- * Prepare or buy freezable [side dishes or desserts](#).

[Learn more and sign up to volunteer.](#)



Nourishing Body and Soul at Deborah's Place

Winter Newsletter Features Food Service Program

[Get a sneak peak at our winter newsletter](#) before it hits mailboxes! This winter edition of our quarterly newsletter focuses on food services at Deborah's Place, and how shared mealtimes nourish both the body and soul of the women we serve. You'll also learn about some of the volunteers and donors that provide valuable support to our food service program, how funding challenges are affecting Deborah's Place, and how we're remaining stable and sustainable during these trying economic times.



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