

## Goldie's Place Wish List

- Copier with collating capabilities
  - Laser or ink-jet printer
- Educational materials: books, work plans, tapes
  - Fax machine
- Stapler and copier supplies
- Adjustable shelves for Clothes Closet
- Drawers to sort and store new underwear donated by Target
- Folding screen to provide a changing area for the Clothes Closet

## Acknowledgements for this issue

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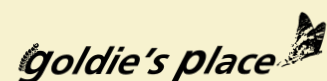
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*Thanks to all for your generous donations of materials and energy!*



Our mission is to assist adults who are homeless to become self-sufficient by providing life skills, education, and support, based on our belief in human potential and broad spiritual principles.

For Volunteer opportunities please call or visit us at

6238 N. Clark  
Chicago, IL 60660  
tel (773) 274-1212  
fax (773) 274-1270  
email: gp@interaccess.com

## "I've Learned to Love"

### A Participant Shares His Thoughts

Ray Borrego has been an important part of Goldie's Place from the beginning. He offers one-on-one and group counseling to men and women with substance abuse problems, often holding groups where other counselors will not go. William Felton wanted to share these thoughts on Ray's impact on him: "If someone asked me what I think of Ray Borrego, I would say loyal, supportive, lover of aiding the



Ray Borrego (on left) counseled William Felton as a Goldie's Place participant for almost a year.

human race. I met Ray some time ago. I was very hopeless and lost. Ray Borrego showed me how to walk through things and remain sober. Ray is one of my primary sources of support. I say if you have not met him, I suggest that you do. Ray is one of Goldie's Place's best assets to me. Yes, Goldie's Place has a lot of people behind it, and Ray is just one of them. I've learned to love."

### A Note From the Agency Manager *continued*

tion and referred from a half-way house, comes up from the Clothes Closet beaming: "I found three pairs of pants in my size! And look, these two tops match perfect! I have a job interview at Target Thursday. And I got this dress...I haven't had a dress in five years!" We give her some handmade lavender soap, made by participants of a partner agency. "O-o-oh, ladies like me made this soap?" She closes her eyes and smiles. "It smells like my grandmama." As she was leaving, thanking us profusely, I said, "No...thank you for coming and letting us help!" She turned, startled, and then a bigger grin

### Honorary Board Launch *continued*

supported our work through volunteering, spreading the word and, not the least, generous tithes. Their on-going encouragement has been instrumental to our weathering the storms faced by a relatively young agency.

Unity embraces people and beliefs of all spiritual paths. Reverend Ed recently initiated the current series of services entitled "Many paths, one presence" which celebrates traditions as diverse as Buddhism, Native American beliefs,

spread across her face. "Bless you!" she said. But I already felt blessed!

We have many exciting projects coming up in the next year and lots of volunteer opportunities, the Hoops 3-on-3 Tournament Committee, a new initiative with our Outreach Committee, formation of a mentoring group, to name a few. Give us a call...the smallest efforts will touch someone. With a growing number of spirits being added to the wonder that is Goldie's Place, I look forward to working with and meeting you all!

Mohammadism, and the Kabbalah. In much the same way, Goldie's Place celebrates the human potential in each individual and seeks, through broad spiritual principles, to help their unique talents to be expressed.

We are honored to have Reverend Ed Townley join our Honorary Board and will continue our dedicated efforts to earn his support, as well as all of yours.

Johanna Dalton

# goldie's place

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*A supportive center for people who are homeless*

Spring 2001

## Alderman Patrick O'Connor and Reverend Ed Townley Are Welcomed to New Honorary Board!

As we look to the new millennium and the enhanced role we'd like Goldie's Place to play, we are especially pleased to launch our new Honorary Board with charter members the Honorable Patrick J. O'Connor, Alderman of the 40th Ward, and Reverend Ed Townley of Unity Church in Chicago.

Alderman O'Connor has been a friend of Goldie's Place since the early days when we first opened our doors in the Edgewater storefront location. Over his 18 years in office, he has seen his constituent community grow and change and helped to guide that change in positive directions. He credits his success as a leader and advocate for the community to recognizing people and organizations that do things right. "I'm not an expert in all things, but I have a great appreciation for people that have vision and good ideas,

and know how to get things done." The Alderman is getting a lot of things done himself. At his State of the Ward message last month, he detailed over a dozen community improvement and service enhancing initiatives. "I'm happy to lend my support to an agency like Goldie's Place which is really making a difference," he said. The Alderman is also making a real difference in the 40th Ward, and we are proud to welcome him to our new supporting board.

By creating an Honorary Board, Goldie's Place seeks to broaden its



Agency Manager Libby Tessner, Alderman Patrick J. O'Connor and Board Member Johanna Dalton at the Alderman's State of the Ward breakfast at the Community Spirit On Line Café at 6326 N. Clark St.

### A Note From the Agency Manager

by Libby Tessner

Hi everybody! I'm the new Agency Manager, and I'd like to start by telling you how I came to Goldie's Place. I started my career in social services at a small social service agency in 1976. While the agency had several contracts with state agencies, it also had an outreach program to neighborhood street kids. That was the program where I learned the most, and was trained by the best teachers possible—the kids. I listened. I learned that what they were doing to survive made perfect

sense, and I quickly came to admire their spirit. I saw that whatever might be offered in the way of church or government programs was meaningless without the presence of a warm human connection of respect and trust to bridge the gap.

I had been out of social services for several years and was looking for a place to volunteer my time to help. I had given up on trying to find work at an agency that valued the human connection above all else.

reach into the community, in part by aligning itself with impactful leaders. Reverend Ed Townley of Unity Church in Chicago is just such a leader. Returning to Chicago to become the church's senior minister in 1998, Reverend Ed is a powerful and inspiring speaker who has brought a fresh, expansive vision with him. Long a progressive force within the Unity movement, Unity in Chicago has really spread

its wings under the guidance of Reverend Ed.

Goldie's Place's has deep roots in Unity, which in turn has

*continued on back*

And then I found Goldie's! I feel blessed to be among you all and to have the joy of adding my spirit and energy to Goldie's Place - the Board, the staff, the volunteers, and all of you, our friends. But most of all, for the privilege of helping our participants find and renew their spirits, and helping those spirits to soar.

I am constantly amazed at how the smallest of connections and contributions helps. Wanda, on proba- *continued on back*

# Still a teacher...Now "Volunteer of the Year" ... Tutoring Director, Jerry Abern!

by Joan Abern

"I love to teach!" says Jerry Abern and it really shows! Jerry jumped right in and took charge of the Tutoring program at Goldie's Place when he joined the Board in 1998, but he was already putting his warm, caring approach and professional teaching expertise to good use.

Last Fall, Jerry received the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Institute for Positive Mental Health, in honor of his volunteering with the Institute for the past five years. They were so impressed with his dedicated service that they named the award, the first of its kind, the Jerry Abern Volunteer of the Year

Award! When he first started volunteering after retiring, Jerry remembers, "It felt good to get back in the groove. The main thing is to get [people] back in the mainstream!"

Jerry's volunteer activities with the IPMH overlap the services he provides to Goldie's Place participants: teaching adults who are trying to regain their self-sufficiency, but the focus is somewhat different. At IPMH, he tutors people who have been on disability for mental health problems, offering math, spelling, and social studies, which he uses to build students' self-confidence, improve their

ability to speak in front of a group, and improve their written communications skills.

At Goldie's Place, Jerry uses his self-esteem building and teaching skills by working with men and women who are homeless on a one-to-one basis. He teaches them a gamut of subjects ranging from basic reading to preparation for the GED.

All of us at Goldie's Place are proud and grateful to have Jerry's wonderful energy and spirit enriching our lives!

## 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament celebrates the best of Goldie's Place...You can help make it even better!

"I wish these photos could really give you a picture of how good it feels to be a part of our Helping Hoops event!" Carolyn Wilson, a major force behind the scenes at last year's HOOPS, is heading the committee for this year's effort. "I've been involved in organizing other 3-on-3 competitions, but giving participants as well as

sponsors the opportunity to show their stuff makes this special." Last year's champions were repeat winners. And if they have anything to say about it they'll be three-peat-ers. "It wasn't easy...they faced some stiff competition. It was fun to watch!" says Bob Swedlow, co-chair of last year's event. Some of the players just

enjoy getting out there for kicks, while others have serious talent to display. Everyone gets to enjoy the fun in a great atmosphere.



Hoops action on the court.

HELPING HOOPS 2000

Hoops 2000 champions Team Captain, Robert Lee Roy Shannon, Obie Tann, Reggie Brown



Team members take a break.



Volunteers are all smiles!

### Gearing up for 2001...Goldie's Place Needs YOU!

We're setting our sites even higher for this year's tournament. Slated for a Saturday in October, date TBD, we're looking to double participation and sponsorship, and thereby double our outreach impact to the community.

We're looking for energetic committee members with...

- PR experience, media or sports celebrity connections
- Access to Bulls, Hawks, Bears tickets
- Friends and associates with a desire to play AND make a difference!
- Access to sports related, entertainment or travel items as Prizes

- Graphic artist experience
- Press release and letter writing experience
- Connections with corporations looking for an opportunity to invest in an organization and an event they can be proud to support, participate in and see direct results!

Respondents to this newsletter will be invited to our late March meeting. Don't sit on the bench...get in the game to help end homelessness! Fill in the following and fax to, Carolyn Wilson at Goldie's Place (773) 274-1212 or mail in the enclosed envelope:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Carolyn...Count me in for the 4th Annual Helping Hoops!

In the boxes above I've checked what I'm best at and most interested in.

Best weekday night(s) to meet:  
M Tu W Th F (Circle 2)

## You Won't Go Unnoticed at Goldie's Place

Since late November of 2000, office manager Nowanna Santelli has been a helping hand to Goldie's Place and the homeless. According to Nowanna, "The homeless are those who do not have a fixed address whether they are sleeping in the streets, shelters, or transitional housing."

Once they are clients of Goldie's Place, the following programs are available: employment support, tutoring, substance abuse counseling, dental care, clothes closet, and referrals to supplemental services where appropriate. Nowanna is responsible for processing and distributing the proper paperwork in regard to these programs based on their referral.

Beyond her other office duties, such as greeting the client, directing traffic, and answering the phones, Nowanna also spends about 10 of her 30 hours helping in the Clothes Closet. Here men and women are, according to Nowanna, "Free to pick out what ever they can carry." The donations provide clothing, shoes, and accessories for job interviews and every day use.

Since her employment, Nowanna has noticed many enduring qualities about Goldie's Place. One of which is that "participants evolve into volunteers." Recently Enterprising Kitchens donated slightly damaged, home-made bars of soap. One of the women employed there had once received help from Goldie's Place and made the suggestion to do so.

"The homeless are often shuffled through programs in a very impersonal way." With this donation, Goldie's Place was able to offer a number of aromas in the luxurious soap to participants. "They are so used to getting just what they need. Because it was not expected, it became an emotional opener," says Nowanna.

Furthermore, "In other places there are walls, definite divisions. Goldie's is such a small organization that it allows us to work as a team. At Goldie's Place

### Homeless Facts

- In Chicago, twenty-two percent of homeless people are employed.
- The average age of a homeless person in the United States is nine years old.
- Twenty-two percent of homeless people are veterans. There are more homeless veterans today than U.S. soldiers who died in Vietnam.
- 18,000 units of public housing in Chicago are slated for demolition, displacing 42,000 people.
- In Illinois, 40% of all households cannot afford a market-rate two-bedroom apartment, and 33% cannot afford a market-rate one-bedroom apartment. This ranks the state 12th worst in the nation in the gap between income and rental costs.
- A person must work full-time and earn at least \$8.29/hour to reach the federal poverty level for a family of four (\$16,588). According to most recent Census Bureau report, 2.3 million people worked full-time in 1997 yet were below the poverty line.

we all say 'hi' and 'goodbye'." Goldie's Place knows "the person that you are not looking in the eye is thinking that they are untouchable. Here we try to let them know that they are."

Arienne Custer  
Volunteer

Heartfelt thanks...to the all of the friends of Goldie's Place who support us with their energy, in-kind donations and financial contributions. We gratefully acknowledge the most recent contributions listed below:

#### Up to \$99

Abern, Jerry & Joan  
Batchelder, Brett  
Bernstein, Marcia  
Dalton, Johanna  
Houston, Rose  
Longden, Marsden & Sanna

#### \$100 - \$999

Frolichstein, Seymour & Susan  
Martinez, Ivan  
Metzger/Mcguire  
Molzahn, Fred  
Murphy, Joyce  
Pence, Dennis

Regan, Kathleen  
Schwager, Michael  
Van Duzer Jr., John

#### over \$1000

McMaster-Carr  
Unity Church  
Bjork, William