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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:

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Keep Expecting A Miracle *continued...*

director. During the ceremony, Goldie's Place current executive director and Roberta's dear friend Johanna Dalton reflected on how Roberta's dream to help Chicago's homeless continues to come true over and over again:

"Roberta had a clear understanding that what people who are homeless need most isn't measured in money and things but in heart and hope. She became a touchstone for something so real and true that people and resources gravitated to it, and continue to do so."

It's no mistake that Roberta may be forever found and remembered in an organic setting surrounded by loved ones. It's also no mistake that it took ten years to come to her perfect final home. Roberta would be the first to explain, "Things happen at the time they're supposed to happen and they happen for the right reason."

That right reason began back in September of 2004, when Eric and Jean decided to just "see what's out there" in terms of buying a new home. Eric said they weren't really planning to move, but just for fun...

The first open house they attended turned out to be the house they would move into a month later.

"Both Jean and I got this feeling—nothing specific, just a really good feeling," said Eric.

They couldn't get the place out of their minds. Eric

and Jean returned for a second visit to take a closer look and to spend some time with the then current owners, Sally and Ladd Waldo. Jean was browsing through the Waldo's books and came across one called "100 Years of Unity." Knowing that Roberta had not only been a member of Unity Church in Chicago but was also a very active participant and volunteer, Jean asked Sally if they were members and if they had known Roberta—Sally said yes. Of course they knew Roberta.

The next time Jean and Eric visited the Waldos, it was for a celebratory dinner: Jean, Eric and Evan had purchased the Waldo's home and would soon be moving in. That night, Sally presented Eric and Jean with a photo that they had found while packing up all of their stuff. The photo had been taken 10 years earlier at the Waldo's 1994 housewarming party, and the Waldos wanted Eric and Jean to have it. In the photo was Eric's mom Roberta, smiling beautifully and sitting in the living room of Eric's new home. Next to Roberta, was a woman wearing a shirt that was all too telling; "Expect a Miracle" it read. Jean burst into tears.

"What are the odds?" Jean said of that night. "We picked this place. Isn't that astonishing? I never believed in the dead interfering with the living, but I don't know how else to explain this."

Roberta would: It was meant to be.

A Time of Thanksgiving...

Goldie's Place would like to express our most sincere thanks to all of you who have generously supported our efforts in the past fiscal year. Your generous contributions allow us to keep serving the people who need us the most in increasingly impactful ways. All financial contributions made during the 2008 fiscal year are listed below.

On behalf of all the staff and Board of Directors of Goldie's Place, we thank you for your generosity, friendship and faith in our organization.

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A support center for people who are homeless.

Fall 2008

Goldie's Place enjoys record participation at Job Training Workshop

By Eva Hofmann

Goldie's Place enjoyed the largest turnout to date for its three-day Job Training Workshop, held September 24—26. The event drew 16 participants, filling the classroom to near capacity. This is a 100 percent increase from the workshop held earlier this year, which was attended by eight people.

"We had no idea what a big turnout this would be," said Monica Horton Harris, supervisor of Goldie's Place Employment Assistance

Program. "We knew that nine people were surely coming, and another three were a possibility." This was the first job training workshop that Monica has led for Goldie's Place.

Among the key topics were resumes and job interview questions. Each attendee received a folder containing informational material, as well as sample resumes and resume worksheets. "My weakest points are the resume and how to handle the interview, and any kind of job training," said Denise, one of the workshop participants.

Another attendee, Sherry, agreed. "My biggest challenge would be training because I don't have a job history," she said.

These are the challenges often expressed by



Participants packed into the Goldie's Place Classroom for the three day Job Training Workshop

Goldie's Place participants. To address these concerns, Goldie's Place Job Coach Malvin Jeffries led attendees through an inventory of their transferable skills and helped them identify accomplishments.

In his role as job coach, Malvin does so much more than connect people with jobs. He focuses on teaching them to put the pieces together themselves. Through his workshop session, attendees were able to begin that process. After helping

participants reawaken their awareness of skills and accomplishments, Malvin discussed how this awareness could be applied to the job search. He also related his own job-search experiences.

"I really liked coming here and I really wish this program could have been longer than

Keep Expecting A Miracle

By Amy Abern

Goldie's Place founder Roberta Friend is finally home. Several of Roberta's family members and friends gathered for a ceremony to welcome Roberta ---who died ten years ago from a brain tumor --- to her final resting place.

Roberta's ashes were buried under a tiny herb garden on October 19, in front of the Evanston townhome belonging to her son Eric Levy, his wife, Jean Petrolle and their son, Evan. More than 20 people stood outside on that beautiful fall day to share stories and remembrances of Goldie's Place's "First Lady."

"This is so fitting --- so right for Roberta to be here," said Dexanne Card, one of the founding members of Goldie's Place. "I can still feel her presence."



Roberta Friend(right) at the Waldo's house in 1994, the same house that would coincidentally be purchased by her son 10 years later

Many people recounted the happier and funnier moments in Roberta's life, like how she declared the right to refer to broccoli as cauliflower because "After all", Roberta had said, "when you have a brain tumor, you have the right to rename all the vegetables."

One of the more emotional offerings came from Roberta's ex-husband, Don Levy.

"I wasn't a very good husband or a very good father," said Don. "I know that. And Roberta found it in her heart to forgive me. She helped pave the way for me to have a relationship with my son. Roberta had so much love inside of her."

It's that love that inspired Roberta to open Goldie's Place 12 years ago. She was the organization's visionary founder and first executive

continued on pg.4...

Volunteer Spotlight: Patricia Hock

Treasure in the Goldie's Place Back-To-Work Clothes Closet

by Morgan Martinaitis

Patricia Hock is one of the tireless volunteers that helps to keep our clothes closet in top shape. She is a "regular" at Goldie's Place, sometimes volunteering as often as once every week to sort through and organize the bags full of clothing donations we receive.

She first heard about Goldie's Place through her church, Unity In Chicago, where she also volunteers and found Goldie's Place appealing because of the unique ways in which we



Pat Hock shows off her 'treasures' in the Back-To-Work Clothes Closet

serve participants. "I didn't know of any other place that was doing this at the time," she says of the combination of programs and services offered to our participants.

In addition to organizing the clothing by size and style, Pat also works one-on-one with Goldie's Place participants to help find them "lovely clothing."

Pat feels that the Clothes Closet is a valuable extension of the employment program. "I know that I feel a lot more confident when I'm dressed appropriately," she explains. "So I work with them to find

things they feel good in." She says the experience is just as rewarding for her as it is for the participants. "The clients and I do the treasure hunt together to find things they like. And when we find things, it's like finding little treasures. It's really fun and it's really uplifting."

Goldie's Place has found a treasure in you, Pat! Thanks for helping to make 'shopping' at the Back-To-Work clothes closet such a pleasant experience for our participants.

If you are interested in helping us with our Clothes Closet or other volunteer opportunities at Goldie's Place please call us at 773-271-1212

Welcome to our New Staff Members

Courtney Francis - Director of Strategic Program Development

Courtney began her work at Goldie's Place in April of this year. As Director of Strategic Program Development, Courtney is responsible for developing and implementing strategic plans that ensure Goldie's Place achieves both its short term and long term goals. She works closely with the employment team to develop procedures and processes to make certain that the high demands for our programs and services are met in the most efficient way possible.

Courtney has had a 20-year career in social services and education that she says was driven by her interest in the human condition and how to improve people's lives. After graduating from Brown University, Courtney worked as a case manager for the Salvation Army, and it was the fond memories of her experiences with homeless individuals that triggered her desire to work with people experiencing homelessness.

"I think there is an impression out there that homelessness has decreased, and that it's much less of a problem because it's less visible to some people," she explains. "But it's not true. I think that there are calculated efforts to make people believe that. So I wanted to help improve the lives of people who are homeless. That is what Goldie's Place does."

Courtney says part of the reason she was so drawn to Goldie's Place was because of the thoughtful approach they have toward the services they provide. "Goldie's Place is not just bricks and mortar. We are truly providing supportive services that people need to sustain themselves, and the people here genuinely care about the participants and how they receive us."

As the driving force behind the Goldie's Place 3-year plan for enhancement of the Employment

Assistance Program, Courtney is now focusing on improving the program by increasing job retention and finding employers that offer quality jobs that can lead to self sufficiency. Her background in education fits very well with the important role education and training play in an individual's ability to obtain living wage employment. "Our goal is not just to get Goldie's Place participants any old job. We want to make sure they are getting quality jobs, with liveable wages, permanency and opportunities to move up. The idea is to help people get beyond entry level jobs to make progress toward a better future. They just have to believe they can do it. That's what Goldie's Place is about."

Monica Horton-Harris - Supervisor of Employment Assistance Program

Monica joined Goldie's Place in August of this year as the Supervisor of the Employment Assistance Program. She is responsible for overseeing the day to day operations of the program and provides leadership and guidance to staff. She works one on one with participants, coaching them and providing support and guidance as they make their way on the path toward independence and self-sufficiency. As a key contact with our Employer partners, she works to match a job candidate's skills with the needs of the company.

Before joining Goldie's Place, Monica was a Supervising Human Resources Analyst for the City of Chicago. Though she worked for many years in Human Resources, Monica explains that she started her career in the nonprofit sector and remained involved in human services in her spare time.

It was this strong interest in social services and work in the nonprofit sector that eventually led her to reevaluate her career in Human Resources, and make the move toward her passion. She feels as though she has found the perfect fit at Goldie's

Introducing our new E-Newsletter

Goldie's Place eNews Nuggets

We'd like to stay in touch with you, but mailing costs keep going up. So we are launching the Goldie's Place eNews Nuggets to make the process fun and easy!

With our bi-monthly newsletter you'll be the first to hear about:

- upcoming events
- program and services updates
- participant success stories
- volunteer opportunities

And we want to hear from you too!

The eNews Nuggets will also be a way to enable more 2-way communication between all of us here at Goldie's Place and our supporters! Feel free to reply to any emails you receive from Goldie's Place with questions you may have or to tell us what you'd like to read about in our next eNews Nuggets.

For more information or to sign up, visit our website www.goldiesplace.org or send an email to news@goldiesplace.org.

Place because her position allows her to combine her Human Resource skills with her nonprofit background.

Monica says that working at Goldie's Place has really opened her eyes to the current crisis surrounding homelessness. "There are so many people like me and you who have just fallen on hard times," she explains.

But Monica is confident that Goldie's Place is making a difference because they offer something other places don't. "We have staff that works to show people that we care about the outcomes in their lives. Part of that is giving them that undivided attention, and the other part is letting them know that it can get better and giving them the tools so that it *will* get better."

"Go-Getters" Job Club gets underway Goldie's Place

By Eva Hofmann

On Saturday, October 4, Goldie's Place opened its doors to the members of the newly created 'Go-Getters' Job Club. Introduced during the Goldie's Place Job Training Workshop on September 24—26, Job Club meetings take place every other Saturday at Goldie's Place. An optional program open to all Goldie's Place participants, the Job Club offers additional assistance and support for members seeking to step up their job searches. It also offers information and support to those who have found work in order for them to maintain their employment.

During meetings, the group spends 45 minutes discussing a specific topic. This is followed by lunch and an hour for one-on-one work with staff. Each Job Club meeting is tailored to the goals and standards set forth by those in attendance. The three primary functions of the Goldie's Place Job Club are:

1. To provide a space for networking.
2. To provide information and knowledge.
3. To provide methods for continuing the path toward self sufficiency.

Job Club members are expected to honor their commitment to attend meetings. Members must call at least one day in advance if they are unable to attend a meeting they have signed up for.

In addition, members are expected to be on time, just as they would be expected to

show up promptly for a job interview or for work. And just as with an interview or a job, members must call if they expect to be late.

Members are expected to set goals, commit to them thoroughly and follow through. They also are required to bring a clear, attentive mind to meetings.



Job coach Malvin Jeffries speaks to the 'Go-Getters' inside the Goldie's Place Classroom

Goldie's Place asks members to offer feedback and express what they want to learn in order to maximize the benefits of Job Club membership. Members also are expected to seek and offer support, and be respectful of the opinions and experiences of others.

During the first meeting, attendees, who dubbed themselves the Go-Getters, discussed their needs for computer skills, interviewing skills, a G.E.D., a career, and a job that pays a living wage.

Together, the group developed a list of goals, which included independent living,

finding homes, staying sober, staying "prayed up," having success, and investing in the community. They also discussed the differences between a career and a job. Members determined that a job is what you have as you work your way toward a career, and a career is something you develop, something that is long-term and something you love.

Also discussed at the meeting were alternative solutions to a rough time. Participants suggested such activities as taking a walk, praying, writing about emotions and meditating.

After lunch, the interactive session focused on helping participants set up email accounts, as well as working with them on resumes and cover letters. The second Job Club meeting, held October 18, offered a follow-up session that focused on refining each individual's resume and cover letter.

Plans for future Job Club meetings include computer literacy tutorials using LYNDIA.com, an online service that provides video tutorials on basic internet searching and computer programs like Windows XP desktop, Microsoft Office and others. This service was sponsored by the Goldie's Place Associate Board. Job Club members will be among the first participants to use this service. In addition to advancing their computer proficiency, computer literacy tutorials allow participants to add these computer skills to their resumes.

Job Training *continued*

three days," said Cynthia, one of the workshop attendees. "I liked the way they treated us and talked to us. They encouraged us to work—to get out there and search. I really want to work."

To help one another—and themselves—participants suggested they exchange information and network about job opportunities.

The last day of the workshop featured a presentation given by a representative of I.C. Stars, a not-for-profit organization that offers vocational training opportunities in IT computer programs. Founded in Chicago in 1999, I.C. Stars offers programs for adults with high-school diplomas or GEDs, and aims to develop 1,000 community leaders by 2020. Using project-based learning and full immersion teaching, I.C. Stars provides opportunities for change-driven future leaders to develop skills in business and technology.

All who attended completed the workshop from start to finish. After the final session, people stayed to take part in other Goldie's Place programs, including the clothing closet, job assessment and job coaching. They made follow up appointments, which everyone has kept so far.

Each participant received a certificate of completion from Johanna Dalton, Goldie's Place executive director.

The next workshop is scheduled for January. Based on feedback from participants and evaluations by staff, it will be extended to five days instead of three days, and will be separated into modules, with each day focusing on a specific module. "We're going to include a section that teaches people how to do internet job searches," said Monica Horton Harris. "A lot of people who come to Goldie's Place are not yet

computer literate, and it takes time to show them how to set up an email account and how to do a job search on the internet," she said. "These days, you can't even put in an application as a stock clerk at Walgreens or Jewel without knowing how to operate a computer. I am hoping we can get some computers donated so we can offer more hands-on experience to more participants."

With the success of this workshop and increased interest and participation, the goal for Goldie's Place is to offer workshops more frequently throughout the year. This would not have been possible in Goldie's Place previous facility on Clark Street. But with a new, more spacious building, Goldie's Place now has the ability to host in-house workshops and offer this service to many more people who are trying to turn their lives around.