

## Goldie's Place Wish List

- 3-Step ladder or step stool
- Air purifier for clothes closet, housed in building basement
- Women's skirt hangers
- Heavy duty plastic bags or paper shopping bags for clothes closet
- Heavy duty vacuum cleaner

### Acknowledgements for this issue

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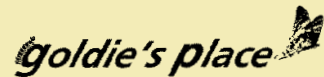
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Printed by  
**In Color Graphics**

*Thanks to all for your generous contributions 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

6230 N. Clark  
Chicago, IL 60660  
tel (773) 274-1212 fax (773) 274-1270  
email: hope@goldiesplace.org

If you would like to support the Goldie's Place Dental Program on an on-going basis, consider becoming a "Tooth Fairy!" Each Tooth Fairy gift is like a smile in waiting for a grateful person who is homeless.



## Smiles... continued

Chicago Health Outreach), two days per week. This will provide another 700 patient visits per year.

"Looking at the finished product, it's like a dream come true," says Dalton. "Roberta [Friend, visionary founder] would be so proud!"

## We couldn't have done it without you!

Goldie's Place gratefully acknowledges the important contributions of the following individuals and private foundations to the successful opening of our new, modern two-station dental facility at our offices at 6230 North Clark Street. This highly collaborative effort could not have been achieved without the dedicated efforts and resources of all those involved.

Dr. William Bjork, D.D.S.  
Chicago Health Outreach / Spang Center for Oral Health  
The Washington Square Health Foundation  
The VNA Foundation  
The Dewan Foundation  
R. Samuel Clark, Consultant

Your concerned action will help provide quality dental care and treatment to the underserved homeless members of our community for many years to come. On behalf of our friends who are homeless, the staff and Board of Directors of Goldie's Place, please accept our most sincere thanks and deep appreciation.

## Louise Williams continued

down where I can understand it. Now I think I can do this!" Another participant needing employment support, planned to go to Goldie's just to change the phone number on her resume. Instead, she received a compassionate and warm welcome from staff and the high quality talents of our newest Job Coach, Billy Taylor. Her report to me was full of appreciation. "I learned a lot from him on how to make my resume more effective. I was really impressed." Therefore, she returned to learn more. After receiving a boost in confidence and a more effective resume, she is now back on track with full time employment at a salary that will allow her to provide for her

daughter as a single parent. Finally, the new Goldie's Place has an awesome atmosphere. During my volunteer activities helping referred women in the Clothes Closet, I've sensed feelings of safety and comfort.

In conclusion, on behalf of women and men who are formerly homeless, becoming self-sufficient—some quickly or slowly—thank you, Johanna and staff. And most of all, Goldie's Place's backbone of volunteers, Board members and donors. I believe we're just beginning... I believe I can hear Roberta and God say, "We haven't seen anything yet!"

## Yes, I want to be a Tooth Fairy!

Please tuck \$\_\_\_\_\_ under the Goldie's Place pillow.  
Or tuck \$\_\_\_\_\_ each month under the Goldie's Place pillow.

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Card: \_\_\_\_\_

# goldie's place

6230 N. Clark  
Chicago, IL 60660  
tel (773) 274-1212  
fax (773) 274-1270  
email: hope@goldiesplace.org

*A supportive center for people who are homeless*

Fall 2002

## Modern Dental Office becomes a reality...

# Making a dream come true with smiles



Dr. William Bjork talks about the dental expansion at the Greek Islands celebratory dinner. (Dinner Page 2)

When Dr. William Bjork first came to Goldie's Place in 1996, the thought of providing dental services to people who are homeless was just a glimmer of a dream. On October 31, that dream will take a giant leap forward as a new, modern two-chair dental facility begins operating in the Goldie's Place facility in Edgewater.

### Wasting no time

It all started from a conversation between "Dr. Bill" and our founder, Roberta Friend, when he told her of his desire to help people have healthy teeth and smiles for the joy of doing it, rather than for pay. That was in 1996, shortly after the office was opened. In less than six months, in January of 1997, Dr. Bjork started treating patients. He had assembled the components for a portable "M.A.S.H."-type dental unit, items he was able to locate and donate. This basic equipment was augmented over time with an upgraded portable suction unit, a free-standing directional light, and other items. He scheduled regular hours two days a month, doing extractions, cleanings, exams, fillings and other treatment, and has maintained this commitment for over five and a half years, even after moving his residence to Indiana.

Though these improvements were helpful, the portable system and the small amount of space available made the dental set up, at best, challenging to work with. Dr. Bjork envisioned recruiting other dentists, and eventually also hygienists, to volunteer their time to this important work, and, to experience the rewards of being of service. If Goldie's Place could just provide a more user-friendly setting, he felt sure that other dentists would follow in his footsteps. With the new equipment in place, the process of recruiting a second volunteer dentist will begin.

### A true collaboration

The successful achievement of this ambitious goal is the result of an extensive team effort. At every step of the way, good hearts and minds, in the form of individuals and organizations, lent their support—from planning and visioning to financing to implementation. (See back page, "We couldn't have done it without you!") "Each of the capital grants we received was contingent upon the others coming through," said Johanna Dalton, Executive Director. "It was very rewarding to see the whole process come together."

### Smiles...the real reward

As Dr. Bill often says, "seeing that happy smile on the face of a man or woman who's just gotten treatment and knowing you've helped put it there is what it's all about." Over the past year, Dr. Bjork's volunteer hours served more than 80 individuals over 169 patient visits. Bringing a second volunteer dentist on board two mornings a month will immediately double those numbers. Our plans are to bring on a third and fourth dentist as the need continues to demonstrate. And, the new facility will host the services of our partner in this expansion, the Spang Center for Oral Health (dental division of

*Smiles...continued on back*

## "We haven't seen anything yet!"

by Louise Williams

I guess long-time supporters of Goldie's Place have wondered "whatever happened to Louise?" Well, I'm very much alive and kickin'! Most important, I've got a home and am staying positive by the grace of God. This year my faith has really been put through a test, being unemployed, attending school full time, and fulfilling the role of a wife and parent. Yes, it's been a journey! However, I have made a point of staying in touch with Goldie's Place.

Through my activities of street outreach, HIV prevention, and self-help meetings, I come in contact with a lot of homeless and formerly homeless women and men who are in recovery. I know that those who are in more stable living environments also continue to face dilemmas. Even after three or more years of "living life on life's terms", they still face many of the same challenges I've encountered, such as lack of education, stable employment or child care, etc. A life-style change from the world of homelessness and addictions is an on-going physical, emotional and spiritual process.

Goldie's Place has been living up to and beyond their mission statement in a Roberta Friend fashion, by opening the door for even these women and men who are struggling to become self-sufficient. It has excited my soul and made me proud to hear the testimonials and praises of their experiences at Goldie's Place. A woman working on her GED, praised the tutoring support of one of our newest volunteers, Barbara Atkinson, saying "we meet once a week, and she's right there on time! Louise, she really breaks things

*continued on back*

# Greek Islands Dinner Celebrates Program Expansion “Family Style”

The flaming cheese, Grecian chicken and spinakopita were among several traditional Greek dishes enjoyed by a group of forty five friends and supporters of Goldie’s Place at the Greek Islands restaurant on Halsted Street on August 27<sup>th</sup>. The group gathered to celebrate the progress made over the past year in expanding the Job Coaching / Employment Assistance program and the volunteer-staffed Dental Care Program and learn of the latest developments in installing our modern, two station dental facility.

Dr. William Bjork, affectionately known by patients and staff as “Dr. Bill,” gave a brief talk on how far we’ve come since the days when he wore a head lamp and had to stand up to deliver dental treat-

ment to homeless adults. “The dream I envisioned and shared with Roberta Friend in 1996 is now coming to reality,” said Dr. Bill, “and I am so happy and grateful to the many people who have helped make this possible.”

“The family-style service complemented the ‘family’ feeling of the evening,” said Stephanie Weidner, Vice President of the Board of



Directors and organizer of the event. The Greek Islands provided a wonderful setting, and the plentiful variety of appetizers, entrees and desserts made for a fun and fulfilling evening. “Everyone had



such a great time,” Stephanie added, “we’re planning another dinner very soon.”

**The date has been set! See the box below for info.**

Far Left: Johanna Dalton and Dr. Bill Bjork with event organizer, Stephanie Weidner



## In the Words of Our Participants...

### Help for Today and Hope for the Future

“Goldie’s Place helped me to restore my smile from the inside out,” said Joelle, a young woman who received dental treatment from Dr. Bill Bjork in September. Comments like this are often heard at Goldie’s. As much as it means to one’s outward appearance to restore a person’s smile—or get a professional-looking resume and interview outfit—it means even more to their self-confidence and how they feel about themselves. Here are some thoughts in their own words.

“Goldie’s Place didn’t just give me hope for my future. They helped build my self-confidence by fixing my teeth!” Charles Meyer

“Knowing people care and are willing to help is definitely something worth smiling about!” Joelle

“I appreciate Goldie’s Place for their program and staff. God Bless. They’re awesome here. Thank you.” Kevin M. Evans

“I really appreciate this service, at the age of 52 with no insurance or means of support. I think that this service is very necessary for people [who] have no support. Thank you, Dr. Bill.” Luke Holloman

## Fell Company helps spread “Happy”-ness through clothing donations

“They have given of themselves without really being asked,” says Jerry Abern, speaking of the Fell Company, a family owned clothing company located in Winnetka, Illinois. Jerry, who is the Tutoring Director for Goldie’s Place, works part time at the Fell Company, and has often brought in donations of unworn men’s clothing from the store to be distributed to participants who are homeless.

Harold “Happy” Fell has been particularly generous in facilitating donations of store inventory. Our thanks also to Orrin Hild and Neil and David Fell. When Fell closed their Highland Park location, they donated several “black beauty” hanging wracks and hangers, sorely needed for the Clothes Closet Program. Housed in the basement of our storefront location, the closet specializes in interview appropriate clothing for men and women, and offers seasonal and every day wear.

The store has also donated Gift Certificates as prizes in support of raffles.

## “The people we serve at Goldie’s Place have taught me a lot...” by Billy Taylor, Job Coach



Since starting as a Job Coach about a year ago, I’ve learned to respect people in ways that I’d never considered before. The environment here allows us to assist people in a respectful and personal manner by sharing what we believe in, along with a cup of coffee, toiletries and a nice suit of interview clothing or a warm winter coat—things that I’ve taken for granted.

Goldie’s Place is refreshing and I can see the surprise in people when they first come in. Eliza Mindell, our Program Assistant / Office Manager is a very compassionate person who greets everyone in a caring way, and this makes a big difference when people come to see us. People meet Liza and from there they enter the bright, upbeat office and I can see them relax and lift their heads a little.

Building trust is very important. After working on a skills assessment and resume, assisting participants in the clothes closet gives me another opportuni-

ty to interact with the person socially and strengthen our rapport. We like asking their opinions and suggestions on anything, and get a lot of good ideas from our participants. We try to give them the support they need to take that step forward in finding a job and a stable place to live and to be there for them along the way.

Working at Goldie’s has allowed me to recognize some of the “real” issues that our people face. Transportation is a big problem for the homeless. I’d never considered that even if a person wants help and is willing, he or she may not have a way to reach the help or the job that they may be qualified for. We offer wonderful services that are critical, and still there are so many other things that people need. We empathize and look for solutions to these other needs, too.

A man from San Antonio who came here for job assistance and clothes told us that he had to leave the friend’s house where he was staying. We hooked him up with an agency that got him into a halfway house, got him a haircut and helped him with carfare. He showed his appreciation by

coming here regularly to do volunteer work, helping us in a lot of ways. There are many other stories like this where we get to share in and help individuals on their journey. This is the kind of work that I’m proud to be doing, it’s more than just give and take; it’s offering and sharing.

We all like to laugh and keep a positive spirit. A big part of what we do is offer people hope—another thing a lot of us take for granted—and a sincere respect for who they are. Goldie’s place has helped me in so many ways but most importantly it has helped me to realize that I want to work in this field permanently.

**Billy Taylor joined Goldie’s Place in July of 2001 to help expand the number of people who succeed in finding employment. Through his efforts and those of our other Job Coach, Bill Heidkamp, 41 people reported finding jobs in the last year.**

**Thank you...from the Goldie’s Place family to the family of friends who support us with their energy, in-kind donations and financial contributions. We gratefully acknowledge the financial contributions received since January, 2002.**

**\$1,000 and Over**  
The Chicago Community Trust  
Unity Church in Chicago  
The Irvin Stern Foundation  
Household International  
Bank Financial  
Dr. William R. Bjork, DDS  
Christine M. Butler  
Vintage Group  
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David & Maxine Unger  
Sally Weiner  
Carolyn Wilson

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Angela Maurello  
Nancy Pettillo  
Anne Scheetz, M.D., S.C.

Jeff and Kimberly Smiejek  
Samantha Stenzel  
Marcia Flick  
Sue Cohn-Galler  
Erol Jacobson  
Donna & Matthew Heidkamp  
Conrad Lawrence  
Kevin & Colleen Murphy  
Jacob & Leslie Osojnak  
Kathleen M. Regan  
Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Amy Abern  
M.A. & Deanna Allswang  
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Barbara B. Wilkerman  
Johanna Brocker  
Matthew Jiovanni  
Lauretta Saffell

### Save the date! November 19th at the Greek Islands

It’s a perfect chance to socialize, enjoy a delicious family-style feast, and help our friends who are homeless! To reserve a space, please call Eliza (773) 274-1212 or confirm by email at eliza@goldiesplace.org. \$50 per person or \$80 for you and a guest includes Greek Islands dinner, dessert, wine and other beverages. Free valet parking. Please join us and bring your friends! Response requested by November 11th.

### Fell continued

“It’s so much fun working for them,” says Jerry. “It’s gratifying to know they really believe in what we do at Goldie’s. That says a lot about them, too.”

**The Clothes Closet Program of Goldie’s Place relies on donations of clothing from dozens and dozens of concerned and generous individuals and organizations each year. These garments are given free of charge to men and women who are homeless and greatly in need. All of us in the Goldie’s Place family extend our deepest thanks to the Fell Company and each and every other in-kind donor for your continued and loving support!**