



A support center for people who are homeless

News Nuggets

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A Time of Thanks...

At the Holiday Season we are reminded of the many things we have to be grateful for all year round. At Goldie's Place, it starts with our participants—courageous men and women who share their stories and inspire us with their hope and grati-

tude in the face of great challenges. Through endless hours of dedicated efforts, our volunteers and staff create the atmosphere of love and caring that makes Goldie's such a special "place" to be. And, all of you, through your generosity

and kindness, help to keep us going us through financial or in-kind gifts. And so we send our deepest thanks to you and your family. May you be blessed with love and comfort and peace throughout the Holidays and the New Year!

Breaking Down Barriers

We are often asked how it is that a person becomes homeless. Of course, the answers are as many and varied as the people involved. Making unwise decisions leading to difficult obstacles is often a common thread. As a teen Joe S. was like many youngsters in our culture. He received little support from his family and went to live with a friend's family at the age of 13. Shortly thereafter, he chose drinking as an answer, broke into a store, landed in jail as a convicted felon—and had a terrible stigma attached to him at a young age.

Joe decided to take advantage of learning opportunities while serving in the correctional facility, and succeeded in acquiring useful skills. Once released, however, he was unable to secure the type of job he was trained for—the stigma followed him. He sought work of any kind, and ended up working two jobs nearly 19 hours a day to try and get by and support his wife and son. The pressure became too much, and given his untreated problem with substance abuse, he once again chose unwisely and went into a tailspin that found him once again incarcerated.

Now he is out again and determined to

do whatever it takes to overcome the challenges his past behavior have brought on. He was released early for his exemplary behavior and attitude. With assistance from Goldie's Place and other partner agencies, he is housed in a safe and sober living environment, has started working full time, and is working hard at restoring his relationship with his son. This time he has the extra boost to hurdle those barriers that seemed previously insurmountable. As he says, "Helping words from caring people at the right time made the difference. I was depressed over thinking it would be impossible for me to find work and make a normal life. I felt I would have to resort to drugs and dealing to sur-

"Angel" Gabriella Helps Smiles Shine

Gabriella Bovio Heligon arrived in Chicago—and Goldie's Place—just in time to help bring lots of smiles to our faces. Gabi came to the U.S. from Venezuela where she had completed her training as a Dentist at the Universidad Central de Venezuela. No stranger to being of service, her dental practice in Caracas helped to care for the less privileged in the rural town of Gurenas. So, when she learned that Goldie's Place needed Dental Assistants to work with our volunteer Dentists, it seemed quite natural for her to join our dental team.

Gabi has since found employment as a Dental Technician while preparing to take her qualifying classes for full Doctor of Dental Science status here in the States. However, she continues to work regular volunteer hours at Goldie's. Gabi's presence has made it possible to bring five more volunteer dentists aboard, and to double the number of patient appointments we provide. Thank you, Gabi for your giving spirit!

live." But a thought intervened, that he did have a choice. "Certain people took me by the hand, helped me keep making the next right choice." Step by step, that's how barriers are overcome. "Now I'm starting to actually feel good about myself. I have hope for the future. I don't want to lose that."



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Getting to Work: Jobs Are the Missing Piece

The conventional wisdom says that it's easier to find a job when you already have one. Imagine the difficulties when you don't have a job OR a home.

Goldie's Place helps people get the training, self-confidence and presentation skills needed to successfully find work. The problem is that so few jobs are available, particularly for people with special needs or challenges. And there is very

little being done to address this issue.

You'll be hearing more in the months ahead about how Goldie's Place is proposing to help find a solution to this need. If the problem of homelessness is to be resolved, not only must housing be made available and affordable, but jobs must also be available so people can sustain themselves in an independent living

environment. Greater attention must be paid, and greater effort applied, to workforce development and job creation for men and women who are homeless. We are reaching out for information, ideas and financial and professional support. If you feel you can help, please contact Johanna Dalton at our office.

HELP! Dental Service Bursting at the Seams

"It's hard to believe how fast it's happened. Of course, that's not counting the first six years..." Dr. William Bjork, the founder of the Goldie's volunteer dental service and its sole practitioner for six years, can barely control his excitement over the progress of the last few months. After the installation of the state of the art, two-chair dental facility last October, recruitment of additional dentists to provide services to people who are homeless began in earnest. "The response has been fabulous," adds Dr. Bill. "We now have five

dentists volunteering either a half or a full day each month, and they love it. We all inspire each other, and the patients... soothing their pain or restoring their smile brings such joy!"

We are now seeking additional experienced dental assistants to serve on a volunteer basis with the dentists. Dr. Bjork is also developing a "fast track" dental assistant training program where Goldie's participants may gain hands-on experience for potential employment. Much more good news to come!

Warm Reception On A Rainy Night...

...at the Glencoe Union Church, where Goldie's Place held it's Fall Social Dinner on November 18th. An abundance of delicious food was contributed by local area caterers and restaurants, including: Hel's Kitchen Catering, Apple A Day Catering, LaPasta Ria, Foodstuffs, and the students of the Culinary Institute of Kendall College. In the festive and comfortable surroundings of the Great Room of the church, staff and friends of Goldie's Place

shared their experiences and understanding of what it means to be homeless and what we can do to help. Special thanks to the members of the Glencoe Union Church, who graciously opened the church to us, to Eileen Cooper, Nancy Petrillo, Joy Murphy and Bill Brown for all their supreme efforts, and to all who added to the spirit of the evening. We will keep you informed of the timing of the next event and hope to see you there!

Save The Date...
Set your sights on

HOOPS
For the
Homeless 2004



April 24 is the scheduled date for the Sixth Annual Hoops For the Homeless 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament. Join us and bounce into action to help our friends who are homeless. Call us at 773-274-1212 for information about sponsoring a team or getting in the game yourself.

Fundraising Poll...We'd like your feedback!

In 2003, Goldie's Place saw its budget soar to a new high. That means we are doing more to get the people we serve back on their feet.

Unfortunately, that also means we need to increase the level of our fundraising. So, we are exploring new fundraising ideas and are asking for your help to choose the best ones.

Below, please check off the events you would be most willing to support, and return this form in the enclosed envelope.



BY THE WAY IT'S CHRISTMAS...



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Fund Raising Poll (Please Check Three)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly Social Dinners | <input type="checkbox"/> "Back On Your Feet" Jobs Sponsorship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goldie's Place At Wrigley Field/Cubs Game & Pre-game party | <input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball Tournament |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Folk Music Concert | <input type="checkbox"/> Watkins On Line Product Sales |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hoops for the Homeless Basketball Tournament | <input type="checkbox"/> Silent Auctions |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Raffles |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Suggestions: _____ |



BY THE WAY, IT IS CHRISTMAS!

Over the course of a year we work with over 1,100 men and women. On average, it costs \$200 to get a participant started back on the road to self-sufficiency.

Won't you consider adding one of them to your Christmas list? Simply include a donation along with this survey.

Your generosity will help brighten their holiday season...and yours!

MAY YOU AND YOURS ENJOY
A WARM AND WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON!

