

Goldie's Place has new opportunity for long-term growth

A generous donor is providing an exciting opportunity that will impact Goldie's Place programs and services for years to come. Driven by a desire to give back to the community and help our brothers and sisters who are homeless, this benefactor will enable Goldie's Place to use a building worth up to \$1 million for the next 20 years.

The building has not yet been selected, but with a team of volunteer professionals and the support of 40th Ward Alderman Patrick J. O'Connor, we are in the process of locating and planning the new space with an eye toward the future. We are looking at facilities on the North Side of Chicago in or near the Edgewater area, where Goldie's Place has been located since its inception in 1996.

"This is a chance for us to really envision the

growth and direction of Goldie's Place in the near and distant future," said Johanna Dalton, executive director of Goldie's Place. "We are looking to increase the number of people we serve over the next five to ten years, and we want our new facility to accommodate that growth."

Johanna also sees this bequest as a way to attract such other resources as volunteers, in-kind donations and grants. "Private foundations look positively on these types of large donations. It opens the door for collaboration," she said, "and allows us to leverage support from so many other sources."

Goldie's Place will keep our friends, volunteers and participants informed throughout the process of acquiring and planning the new space.

Attendees go to bat for Goldie's Place at Cubs fundraiser

Goldie's Place scored big at its third annual Wrigley Field event. It was our most successful Cub's event ever, netting more than twice the profits we enjoyed in previous years.

The two-part event began with a "pre-season warm-up." More than 50 people joined us on March 23 at the newly renovated Stadium Club, located at Wrigley Field, for our "Goldie's Place Grand Slam Dinner." Attendees enjoyed great food and an open bar, and participated in a raffle and a silent auction.



As part of the event, Goldie's Place sold ticket packages and sponsorship packages for the July 31 game, where the Cubs played against the Arizona Diamondbacks.

The ticket packages featured terrace-level seating, a pre-game-day dinner on the upper-deck patio with ballpark food (all-you-can-eat) and beverages before the game.

The sponsorship package offered a sky-box super suite experience, which featured a bar and lots of good food including buffet-style trays of fruit, sandwiches and appe-

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tizers and desserts throughout the game. On what turned out to be the day that the future Hall of Famer was traded, an autographed Greg Maddux official game day shirt was auctioned off in the sky-box to an appreciative fan of Greg and Goldie's Place.

Goldie's Place sold 135 tickets to the terrace reserve, and the sky box was filled to its 55-person capacity. Despite the heat that evening and a poor performance by the Cubs, we had a great turnout and a good time was had by all!

continued on back...

Devona Sinclair—another Goldie's Place success story

While Devona Sinclair does not fit the profile of a Goldie's Place participant, her situation illustrates how life can turn on a dime, no matter what our plans or expectations. More importantly, Devona's story demonstrates that, with a little help, people can pull themselves out of a bad situation.

Devona and her four boys—ages 10, 8, 6 and 3—moved from Michigan to Chicago in late July to escape a domestic violence situation. Currently, they live in a shelter, and it's a far cry from the suburban lifestyle to which they are accustomed.

But Devona is resourceful. As soon as she came to the shelter, she sought out a case manager, who referred her to Goldie's Place. Devona made an appointment immediately and, within a few days, met with employment specialist Tina Morgan. Tina performed an assessment of Devona's goals, experience and skills, which were considerable. Devona took it from there.

"I had a number of leads, and Goldie's Place helped me tremendously by allowing me to use their computer to perform my own job search," said Devona. "It was summer, and my boys had not yet started school, so I brought them with me to Goldie's Place. Some days we were there for three or four hours, and the staff was very patient with my children."

Goldie's Place also provided Devona with a voice mailbox for a local phone number. That way, potential employers did not have to know she was living in a shelter.

It took just a little over two weeks for Devona to find a job. In fact, she received a number of job offers. The position she accepted was as a supervisor with Gate Gourmet, a caterer of airline food, located at O'Hare airport. "I don't have

experience in catering, but customer service is related to any type of job," she said.

Devona hasn't stopped there. She's been working on getting a job with Amtrak, and is looking forward to her final interview. "Initially, I applied with them for an assistant conductor position," she said. "But my background is in management, and Amtrak policy is to find the best position for a prospective employee. They directed me toward a position supervising the staff that works in the 'convenience store' car."

And, as if things aren't moving quickly enough, Devona is expecting to move to an apartment any day now, and she's trying to get her school-age sons into a better learning environment. "My children will be testing to get into schools with gifted programs," she said. "Right now, my 10-year-old is doing work that he did in third grade, and he needs to be more challenged. There are a number of good schools in Chicago, and I'm sure my kids will have no problem getting into one of them."

Devona is moving quickly because she wants a better situation for her children as soon as possible. "My boys are not used to living in the city, and they've always had a nice home and lived with two parents. I'm trying to make this transition as short as possible for them."

Goldie's Place enjoys record job placements in 2006

We are pleased to announce that 40 participants were placed in part-time or full-time jobs through Goldie's Place in 2006. This is the highest number of placements ever, and a significant increase from previous years.

From 2002 through 2006, Goldie's Place helped more than 150 people who were homeless or formerly homeless to find jobs.

During that same five-year period, we provided services to an average of 1,000 people per

year. Each year we have worked on helping about 210 people per year find employment, with an average "jobs-found" rate of 14%. In light of the fact that more than 55% of our population is chronically homeless and a large percentage have multiple challenges, we are encouraged by this level of success.

Thanks to all our staff, employers, donors, volunteers, and especially participants who helped make this possible. With your support, we hope to break that record in 2007!

Goldie's Place Clothes Closet gets a makeover!



For 10 years, Goldie's Place participants have been "shopping" for interview clothing and on-the-job outfits at the Goldie's Place Clothes Closet. Duane Barnes has

helped make that shopping experience easier and more enjoyable.

Duane came to Goldie's Place in response to a request for volunteers to work with participants. As part of the orientation process, he was given a tour of the office, including the Clothes Closet.

As it happens, Duane is a former employee of Sears, where he worked for 35 years. And for most of his tenure there, he worked in clothing. "I saw that there was a better way to present it," he said. "I felt it was too crowded. There was so much clothing to go through, and people couldn't get through the aisles."

Duane knows a thing or two about effective use of space. He'd spent 7 years of his Sears career doing store layouts and revamping old stores. "Essentially, all I did was use vertical space so we could get stuff off the floor and have aisles so people could see what was available to them," he said.

One of the first things Duane did was create a handrail going down the steps to the Clothes Closet, making the trip down a much safer one. And, because Duane has been away during the winter months, and is involved in two

other businesses, it took him about two years to complete 95 percent of the Clothes Closet.

"There are some finishing touches that need to be done," said Duane. "There are small areas where we can maximize the use of all the space that's available. If possible, I'd like to paint it so it's nice and white and bright. We're also going to take a look at changing the lighting."

"I want to make the place more appealing to people who are looking for clothes," he said. "These are people who are not in a good place to begin with and, to walk down into a space that's crowded

and not well-lit would not be very encouraging. Rather, it would remind them of where they came from. I just feel they deserve better."

On occasion, Duane spends time with participants who are shopping for items of clothing. "It's been really interesting," he said. "My experience at Goldie's Place has changed my entire view of people who are homeless. I learned that the reasons they became homeless are sometimes due to situations beyond their control. Now I have a whole new appreciation for what they're trying to do to get back out there."

We Couldn't Do This Without You...

Thank you, thank you, 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 between 10/1/05 and 10/13/06.

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If you have reached age 70 1/2 there is a new tax law that may be beneficial to you if you plan to make charitable contributions in 2006 and 2007. By making a "qualified charitable contribution" directly from your IRA, the contribution is federally income tax free to you.

Check with your tax advisor to see if you are eligible to take advantage of this feature of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 when making your contribution to Goldie's this year.

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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.

Goldie's Place 

For Volunteer opportunities please call or visit us at

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

Goldie's Place welcomes new staff members

Goldie's Place is pleased to introduce you to the following new members of our team:

Holly Paul, our new dental assistant and receptionist, joined us in August. In addition to providing chair-side assistance to our volunteer dentists, Holly schedules all the appointments. "I feel good about helping people who are homeless achieve good dental health," she said. Holly is a recent graduate of the Illinois School of Health Careers, where she received her dental assistant training.

Amini "Mya" Jackson has served as office coordinator and intake specialist since August. She holds a bachelor's degree in Russian and business administration. Much of Mya's professional experience has been in the non-profit arena, most recently at the Safer Foundation. It was there that she met Board President David Disabato, who told Mya about Goldie's Place and referred her for an interview. "I absolutely love working here," said Mya. "I love the fact that I'm giving back and assisting our participants, and I enjoy coming to work every day."

Howard Wait joined Goldie's Place in July as senior employment specialist. A native New Yorker, he brings to his position five years' experience in human services with adult and youth employment programs and the Digital Divide community technology center. He also served as assistant director of workforce development pro-



grams for Asian Human Services. "Working here at Goldie's Place is a unique situation for me, because we're focused on a distinct group of people who share common challenges," he said. "I'm learning employment through the lens of the homeless care system. It's interesting to see the different ways we can provide services for our participants. I also like enjoy working with a small, intimate staff."

Sheila Hobson (not shown) joined the Goldie's Place staff in mid-September as a consultant providing part-time accounting services. Her responsibilities include general accounting and financial reporting. Sheila has performed accounting services for two decades, mostly in the not-for-profit arena.

Previously, she worked for the Community Emergency Shelter Organization, Latino Youth, Inc. and Altgeld Community Foundation. Sheila now provides services to about 5 or 6 small-business and not-for-profit clients. "Goldie's Place is a good fit for me because I tend to be comfortable in mission-driven environments," she said. "I believe in the Goldie's Place mission and love what they're doing. Also, I'm excited about their new building opportunity, and look forward to being a part of that project and helping with growth and expansion. Goldie's Place services are very impressive, and the staff and management are great. I'm looking forward to a long successful relationship."

And so is Goldie's Place! Welcome Aboard!

Cubs fundraiser *continued*

The entire two-part event—including the pre-season Grand-Slam dinner, silent auction, raffle and ticket sales—raised over \$23,000.

"I felt a warmth and desire from everyone to help Goldie's Place and was very impressed with the overall turnout," said David Disabato, President of the Goldie's Board. "I enjoyed meeting everyone and discovering how many talented and caring people believe in the mission of Goldie's Place: to assist adults who are homeless to become self-sufficient. I can't wait 'til next year!"

Plans are underway for the Goldie's Place 4th

annual Grand Slam event, and we plan to hit it out of the ballpark this time. Goldie's Place will keep you abreast of details about the event as plans are firmed up.

Goldie's Place gratefully acknowledges the following sponsors of this year's Cubs Grand Slam Event:

Grand Slam Sponsor, Michael Ezgur, Terrapin Properties;

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