



March 2009

## Downtown Women's Center eNewsletter

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Greetings from the Downtown Women's Center (DWC)! Thank you for giving a moment of your time to read our eNewsletter - a brief update of happenings at the Center and ideas for how you can get involved!

Though we face tough times, we are encouraged by the increased amount of support we continue to receive from donors and volunteers, both experienced and new. If you haven't already, we urge you to celebrate spring by bringing positive change to the community through a cause you support. Please read on for opportunities for involvement with DWC in the coming months; you can also visit our website at [www.DWCweb.org](http://www.DWCweb.org) for more information about the Center's impact on our community and how you can help. Thank you for making a difference!

#### You're Invited!

*Happenings at DWC*

- **Volunteer Orientation** is the best way to get started volunteering at DWC! The Orientation is a crash course on all of the important information needed to be a successful volunteer, and it will familiarize you with DWC programs, policies, and volunteer opportunities.  
**Next Orientation Date:** Monday, April 6, 6:30 - 9 p.m.
- **Volunteer Training** is a thought-provoking, discussion-based workshop that educates volunteers on the root causes of

homelessness, current events impacting homeless women, healthy boundaries, active listening, sisterhood, and how to make an impact in your community. It's perfect for folks seeking a volunteer role working directly with DWC participants. Volunteers must attend Orientation prior to the Training.

**Next Training Date:** Saturday, June 13, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- **Save-the-Date - Open House Gallery & Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony:** Thursday, May 14 / 325 S. Los Angeles Street

5-7:30 p.m. - Open House Gallery

- Tour the Downtown Women's Center
- Socialize with DWC staff and participants
- Enjoy tapas and punch
- View participant artwork

7:30-8:30 p.m. - Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony

Join us in honoring the good works of our amazing volunteers and be appreciated for all of the good deeds you do. Plus, take this opportunity to share your volunteer accomplishments with your friends and family! All are welcome.

*Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Vanessa Wai at [VanessaW@DWCweb.org](mailto:VanessaW@DWCweb.org) to sign up for any of the events listed above.*

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**Concert for DWC's Project Home:** In honor of International Women's Month - Erica Gimpel (TV actress, *Fame*) will be performing at a benefit concert for DWC's *Project Home*. The event will take place on Saturday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m. at Kula - 1231 Lincoln Blvd., Santa Monica. Tickets are \$20. Please contact Capital Campaign Coordinator Tracy Talaid at [TracyT@DWCweb.org](mailto:TracyT@DWCweb.org) or 213-680-0600, x 201 for more information.

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**Save-the-Date - 12th Annual Fundraising Gala:** Mark your calendars for DWC's annual dinner and auction, to be held the evening of Monday, September 21, 2009 at the Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion!

## **New Program Alert**

*DWC Live Talk, 3.25AM*

Have you ever had the urge to join a compelling conversation while listening to your favorite talk radio show? At DWC, participants now have an opportunity to do this daily by staging their own show! Since the beginning of the year, Senior Day Center Manager Faye Brown has facilitated discussions each morning at 7:30 a.m. about the day's most pressing television and print news stories. The activity takes the form of a formal presentation - each participant is given an opportunity to introduce herself to peers, state her opinion about a topic, and - once her point of view has been heard - other Ladies have a chance to react.

Some participants are eager to discuss the topic at hand, while others take a more in-depth approach by giving tips to peers about presentation style, such as pronunciation and posture. "I wanted the Ladies to focus less on the negative feelings about issues they are surrounded by each day, and instead to take positive, constructive steps toward understanding important news on the local, state, and national levels," says Ms. Brown, the activity's creator. "I truly enjoy this time with our participants, and it has allowed me to see another side of them." Though these intriguing discussions are not able to be picked up over local airwaves, DWC program participants are making their voices heard!

## **Spotlight on Participants**

*Remembering Regina*

DWC mourns the loss - and celebrates the life - of long-time and very dedicated program participant Regina Mosley. During her time at the Center, Regina touched the lives of countless members of the DWC community in many ways. She performed with the D.I.V.A.S. since the group's inception, providing a source of inspiration for both her peers and audiences all over Los Angeles. She also provided a shoulder to lean on and a patient, listening ear to many Day Center participants and residents through her active involvement in DWC's programs; her warm presence was always felt around the Center. In addition to her connection with DWC, she was incredibly engaged in her community; she took part in various activities through many other wonderful local organizations, holding several leadership roles. People whose lives she impacted came from throughout Los Angeles to pay tribute to their friend on a sunny day in February on DWC's

patio. We are saddened by this loss and will truly miss Regina; however, her legacy lives on in the minds and hearts of those who loved her.

## **Generosity Outside of the Box**

### *City Year Heroes Volunteers*

On Saturday, February 21, a group of 30 students from City Year Heroes gave back to their community by providing DWC's Residence building and surrounding area some much-needed aesthetic upgrades! The enthusiastic group - representing various schools from Los Angeles County - rolled up their sleeves to sand and paint fences as well as paint and refresh 47 Residence mailboxes. Upon finishing these tasks, the thoughtful volunteers took the project a step further - they wrote kind notes for each resident as a first addition to their newly-decorated mailboxes. "They were a joy to work with - they helped with facility enhancements that are essential to making DWC a home for the women we serve, and they accomplished it all with smiles on their faces," recalls Volunteer Coordinator Vanessa Wai, who hosted the group for the day. "The passion and dedication they brought to the project was outstanding!" We thank these young leaders for making an impact, and we commend City Year Heroes for inspiring a spirit of volunteerism in schools.

## **Community Spotlight**

### *Wisdom Holders*

As you may know, DWC is planning for a social enterprise to occupy available retail space at *Project Home*. This exciting endeavor will provide employment opportunities for DWC's program participants and support DWC's program operations, as well as bring a fresh new business to downtown Los Angeles. On March 5, 28 of DWC's active stakeholders gathered to provide their valuable insight at our latest Wisdom Holders meeting. People from a range of fields and levels of involvement participated, including social service providers, small business owners, leaders in the business community, design and advertising specialists, and DWC staff and residents. They discussed how to get the community invested and involved in this venture and how to effectively prepare our organization - including program participants - for this new opportunity. The wisdom shared was fruitful and extremely valuable; DWC senior staff are currently in the process of incorporating the information collected into plans to get the project off the ground. We thank all Wisdom Holders for sharing your thoughts - your knowledge is critical to DWC's success!

**DWC is on Twitter!**

Find us at <http://twitter.com/DowntownWomenCr>.