



May 2009

## Downtown Women's Center eNewsletter

### News From the Heart Of Skid Row

#### In This Issue

[You're Invited!](#)

[Spotlight on Community](#)

[Generosity Outside of the Box](#)

[MSW Interns Making a Difference](#)

[How to Help](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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!

The spirit of community has been especially strong in recent weeks at DWC. Our Ladies, volunteers, and staff have gathered with our neighbors for a lovely day in the park; our organization prepares to make our television debut; and former MSW interns have touched the Center with their passion and fascinating research that will help DWC further our mission to end homelessness for women. 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!

#### **You're Invited!** *Happenings at DWC*

#### **Jump in the Lanes, Help Make a Change!** Tuesday, June 16th, 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Join the **DWC Public Outreach Team** and **Special Guest Host Ashlan Gorse of E! TV** for a night of bowling for a cause! A fee of \$25 per person includes 2 hours of bowling, shoe rental, and 1 raffle ticket. In addition, 20% of food and beverage purchases will be donated to DWC!

Location: Lucky Strike Lanes at LA Live  
800 West Olympic Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90015

Event opens at 6:30 pm; bowling starts at 7:00 pm

RSVP: Please visit [www.firstgiving.com/DWCbowling](http://www.firstgiving.com/DWCbowling) to order tickets. For questions, please contact DWC at 213-680-0600.

---

### **South Pasadena Art Walk** Saturday, July 25th, 5:00 - 9:30 pm

Take a walk for a cause! Stroll through the streets of South Pasadena, enjoy fine art made by DWC's participants and local artists, and participate in a silent auction at this wonderful event. You can even sample some wine at WineStyles! Proceeds from Art Walk will benefit DWC's *Project Home*.

Locations: SOPA Studios, Fremont Gallery, SoPas Gallery, SPACE, Zinnia, Common Thread Studio, WineStyles, and Thomas R. Field Antiques

All are welcome!

For more information please contact **Capital Campaign Coordinator Tracy Talaid** at [TracyT@DWCweb.org](mailto:TracyT@DWCweb.org) or 213-680-0600 x 201.

---

### **Save-the-Date - 12th Annual Fundraising Gala** Monday, September 21, 2009, 6:00 pm

Mark your calendars for DWC's annual dinner and auction, to be held at the Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion!

### **Spotlight on Community**

#### *Women's Day in the Park*

Strike a pose! It was another unforgettable day in Elysian Park on Friday, May 15 when hundreds gathered to honor the women in our community with a day of fun and togetherness. The annual celebration included craft-making, great food, groovy music, helpful resources, and the much-anticipated talent and fashion shows. The popular event is coordinated by the **Downtown Women's Action Coalition (DWAC)**, a collaborative of downtown service providers including DWC. This year, **Senior**

**Day Center Manager Faye Brown** and the "DWC Models" put on a wonderful show, showcasing all the latest and greatest styles with poise and a dash of attitude. After her scene-stealing runway performance with her Chihuahua, Heidi, DWC program participant and second-time fashion show model **Bettina** remarked: "I enjoyed it as much as I did last year!" About the event, she adds "I'm glad to bring everyone joy and to give people a good time. I really appreciate this event." At the end of the day, all women in attendance were given fabulous gift bags as they boarded the chartered buses that shuttled them to-and-from the event; many also left with some new friends and resources, as well! We thank everyone who devoted their time and effort to making Women's Day in the Park 2009 a reality - congratulations on another successful event!

## Generosity Outside of the Box

### *Women in Film*

Lights, Camera, Action! Thanks to the support of **Women in Film**, DWC is preparing to make our television debut! **Women in Film** - a group of talented and generous individuals who work to empower, promote, and mentor women in the entertainment and media industries - will be executing the exciting 30-second public service announcement (PSA) project, which has already been thoroughly planned. The stars of the film will be Day Center participants and residents, who are eagerly awaiting this great opportunity to make their voices heard. The filming, editing, and distribution phases will occur over the next several months, and we expect to have our PSA up and running this fall. We are so grateful to have been chosen to receive these generous services and are eager to implement this extraordinary outreach tool.

## MSW Interns Making a Difference

*A note of appreciation from Director of Counseling and Services Cheryl Castillo, MA ASW*

Each year, DWC is host to two first-year MSW Interns from the USC School of Social Work. As part of their internship, they are required to complete a project that identifies a need within the agency and create a program component that could be implemented to meet that need. This requires gathering extensive knowledge of the organization, the participants it serves, and the problem it addresses, as well as conducting in-depth research in the field, including a needs assessment. Upon the completion of their MSW Internships in April, **Interns Joanna Wakeland and Jamaica Murphy** accomplished projects that provided useful information to DWC staff with recommendations and tools to make implementation more feasible. As Director of Counseling and Services, I feel that it is a wonderful opportunity

to have such bright students at our agency providing their time and dedicating their energy to creating such thoughtful work that lays the infrastructure for important services.

Joanna's project, entitled "Conversation Companions: Providing Healthy, Supportive Relationships that Guide Women to Self-Sufficiency," provided research that built upon her experience and the need - decreasing feelings of social isolation - that she had identified in her one-on-one counseling work with participants. Joanna recommended creating a volunteer opportunity that would allow volunteers to act as Conversation Companions for the women DWC serves. Joanna facilitated a discussion among staff on the viability of this recommendation and generously agreed to conduct additional research and to begin building the infrastructure needed to implement such a program successfully. We hope that she will continue to work with DWC to make this possible.

Jamaica's project, entitled "Learning How to Love Yourself," provided the curriculum for an eight-week Self-Esteem Group that she created and facilitated. Approximately 20 women participated in one or more sessions and, overall, the Ladies who participated demonstrated an increase in self-esteem compared to their initial standing. Jamaica recommended that the workshop be facilitated by an Intern a minimum of twice per year and expanded to twelve weeks to allow for further skill-building and practice; DWC plans to implement this with the arrival of our new USC MSW Interns in Fall 2009.

Many thanks to Joanna and Jamaica for their hard work on these projects and the positive impact they have made on DWC programming and the women we serve!

## How to Help

### *DWC Pledge Program*

Our new pledge program has been launched! By pledging to give a monthly, quarterly, or annual gift automatically by credit card, you will help DWC continue to provide vital meals, housing, and supportive services to the growing number of homeless women impacted by the current economic crisis. In fact, a monthly gift of just \$25 will provide 13 women with a warm meal, a shower, clean clothes, and a safe community in which to begin to restore their sense of personal stability.

[Click here](#) or contact **Senior Director of Development and Finance Molly Moen** at 213-680-0600 to sign up!

