



September 2009

Downtown Women's Center eNewsletter

News From the Heart of Skid Row

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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!

This fall, we will continue to focus on developing strategies and tools that best meet the ever-increasing and changing needs of the homeless individuals we serve. The DWC community is celebrating the launch of the newest addition to our Workforce Development program, we helped empower mothers on Skid Row through an important and groundbreaking Summit, and we are continuing to engage our supporters to help us raise critically important awareness and resources during these difficult times. Please read on for opportunities for involvement with DWC in the coming months; you can also visit our website at 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

Volunteer Orientation

Saturday, October 17th, 9:00 - 11:00 am
Wednesday, November 18th, 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Volunteer 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. Leave with your first assignment in hand!

If you are a first-time volunteer, please visit our [volunteer web page](#), fill out a group or individual volunteer application, and submit online or via mail.

Location: Downtown Women's Center
325 South Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Volunteer Training

Saturday, October 17th, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Volunteer Training is a 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. This is a perfect training for Volunteers seeking a role working directly with DWC participants.

Location: Downtown Women's Center

*Please RSVP for Volunteer Orientation and/or Volunteer Training to **Volunteer Coordinator Vanessa Wai** at Volunteer@DWCweb.org or (213) 680-0600.*

"Solutions Exist" Advocate Training

Wednesday, October 21st, 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Do you want to join the fight to end homelessness? Learn more about the social issues that contribute to homelessness and how DWC's nationally recognized permanent supportive housing model is a solution. Empower yourself and the community to challenge the stigmas and stereotypes of Skid Row. You will leave this Training with the skills needed to educate your peers on behalf of DWC!

Location: Downtown Women's Center

RSVP: Please contact **Community Outreach Assistant Steven Alvarez** at StevenA@DWCweb.org or 213-680-0600

New Program Alert!

DWC Learning Center Now Offering eBay Proficiency Course

Creating accessible workforce development resources and opportunities for women in our community has been DWC's priority this year. This began recently with the implementation of DWC's S.E.T. To Succeed (Skills Enhancement Training) program - a hands-on experience for Ladies ready to enter or re-enter the workforce. Now, DWC proudly introduces a new workshop created with the help of participant feedback and recent educational needs assessments: *Selling on eBay!*

Learning Center Instructor Patricia Avarette - who mentors women on a one-on-one basis and facilitates workshops to increase their marketable skills - created a curriculum for this course based on new trends and desired skills in today's job market. The weekly class is designed to teach the procedures for researching, listing, tracking, selling and shipping goods on eBay. Participants can use these skills to establish and run their own eBay store or to list and sell individual items on eBay. The workshop will last eight weeks and has enrolled 12 women in the pilot round. Once women have graduated from the course, they are welcome to continue to use the Learning Center to access a range of other activities designed to help advance their employment preparedness, including resume writing workshops, Internet job search assistance, and more!

If you would like to support DWC's Workforce Development program, we are accepting donations of items to sell on eBay. New or gently-used donations of consumer electronics, clothing and accessories, unique books, movies and documentaries, camera equipment, sports memorabilia, and collectibles would be greatly appreciated and will directly help homeless and very low-income women move toward self-sufficiency through this unique program. Donations can be dropped off or mailed to the Center at:

325 South Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Please remember to indicate on your donation that it is to be earmarked for DWC's Workforce Development program/*Selling on eBay* course. If you have questions about donating in-kind goods, please contact **Development and Events Coordinator Amber Sheikh** at AmberS@DWCweb.org or (213) 680-0600.

Spotlight on Community

Women's Summit 2009

Downtown Women's Action Coalition (DWAC), an advocacy collaborative working to meet needs of women downtown, held their annual Women's Summit 2009 at the Star Apartments on

August 12. The event - titled "Crimes Against Motherhood" - was attended by more than 40 downtown residents, community activists, and service providers. The Summit hosted a panel of speakers including **L. Wallace Pate**, a private civil rights attorney; **Ana Storey** of the **Legal Aid Foundation Los Angeles**; and community members **Michelle Yvonne Autry** and **Yadira Enriquez** of **SRO Housing Corp.** DWAC is comprised of participants in the community, **DWC**, **L.A. Community Action Network**, and **SRO Housing Corp.**

Women in the Skid Row community often find themselves victims of losing their children to the Department of Child Protective Services due to a variety of complex social issues. The discussion forum provided resources, legal advice, and community support to women who have lost access to their children. When families are separated, they often don't have the resources to restore their unit, which can inflict further emotional pain and increase their struggle. The Summit stressed that families in the Skid Row Community should be treated on a case-by-case basis to maintain a holistic approach and, ultimately, better provide for the family-related needs of the entire community.

To learn more about DWAC, please visit their [web page](#).

How You Can Help

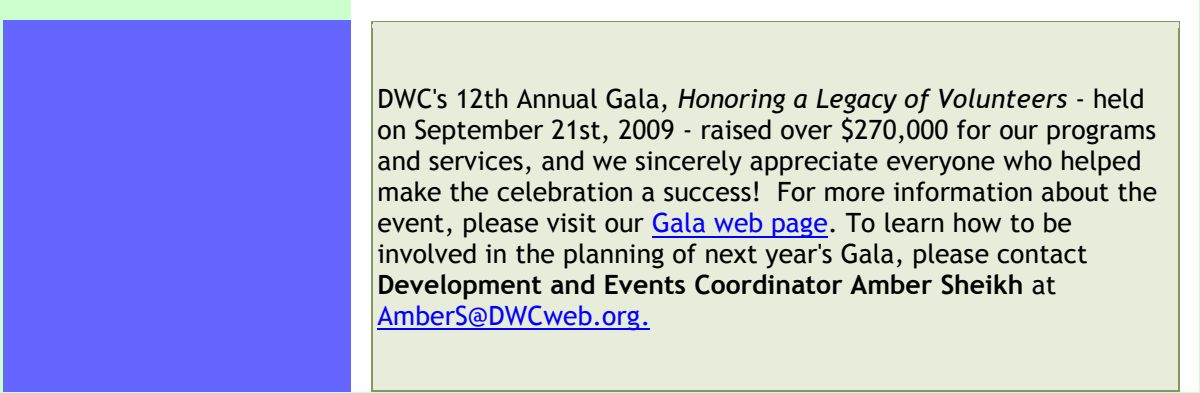
Quickly and Easily Sign-Up to Participate in our Affiliate Program

As you may know, you can help support DWC by doing something you do all the time - shopping for groceries! Simply register your Ralphs Club Card with the **Ralphs Community Contribution Program** online at Ralphs.com, using the Downtown Women's Center NPO number 83933 and your Ralphs club card number. Every time you shop for groceries and swipe your card, DWC will automatically earn a rebate. As each of DWC's thousands of friends and supporters register their card - to do something most of us already do several times a month - we can turn each rebate into something much bigger! The more you shop at Ralphs the more you help DWC provide essential resources to homeless women on Skid Row.

If you are currently enrolled in the Ralphs Community Contribution Program - even if you registered recently - your account needs to be renewed as of September 1, 2009. Please take a moment to register for the new term at Ralphs.com or by using the scanbar letter at the register of your local Ralphs. Thank you for your continued support!

Thank You!

DWC's 12th Annual Gala a Success!



DWC's 12th Annual Gala, *Honoring a Legacy of Volunteers* - held on September 21st, 2009 - raised over \$270,000 for our programs and services, and we sincerely appreciate everyone who helped make the celebration a success! For more information about the event, please visit our [Gala web page](#). To learn how to be involved in the planning of next year's Gala, please contact **Development and Events Coordinator Amber Sheikh** at AmberS@DWCweb.org.