



Deborah's Place: Eviction Prevention and Tenant Education

Deborah's Place, a supportive housing provider for women in Chicago, IL, has been providing services for long-term homeless women since 1985. Today, Deborah's Place has two innovative practices in their permanent supportive housing programs: preventing eviction and educating tenants in the humanities.

Also available are [sample documents](#) from Deborah's Place and a [photo tour](#) of two of their permanent housing buildings and the humanities education program.

Mission & History

"Deborah's Place, a private not-for-profit corporation, serves women in Chicago who are homeless or formerly homeless. Food, shelter and supportive services are provided by dedicated volunteers and staff so that women can be empowered to take back and maintain control over their lives."

The history of Deborah's Place is the story of a small group of remarkable, committed, economically comfortable women who, in 1985, converged with equally remarkable women who happened to be homeless.¹ Deborah's Place was originally created by a small group of women who were concerned about the number of women they were seeing living on the streets of Chicago in the mid-eighties. To this day, the organization remains true to its founding vision and continues to focus on serving women who are alone, disconnected from services and supports, and disabled.

Begun as an emergency overnight shelter in 1985, Deborah's Place has experienced steady growth over the past 19 years, allowing them to provide an array of resources that support the needs of women as they move out of homelessness and into housing. Now located at four sites throughout the city, Deborah's Place has become Chicago's largest provider of supportive housing to women who have been homeless.

Over the years, the agency has served over 3,000 women and assisted approximately half of them move into permanent housing. Currently, Deborah's Place serves 90 women in its residential programs and 129 women in its permanent supportive housing developments at any given time. In addition to these women, Deborah's Place also provides ongoing outreach services to women who have moved out of their programs and into other offsite housing of their choosing.

In FY '03, Deborah's Place served 452 women ranging in age from 18 to 70. Approximately 73% of these women were African American, 22% were Caucasian, 4% were Latina and 3% were of other races. All of the women served, including the 104 women who worked, were at or below the federal poverty level, and 70% of Deborah's Place participants were living with a disability.

Programs and Housing

In addition to its supportive housing (detailed after this section), Deborah's Place offers a range of housing and other services:

Dolores Safe Haven serves 15 women by providing a safe and supportive environment for women who are chronically homeless. Professionally skilled staff works to engage women and offer services that, over time, result in stable housing and improve quality of life.²

Irene's Daytime Support Center daily provides 30 - 35 women with a safe, supportive environment in which to begin their journey out of homelessness. Irene's offers access to creative arts, a noontime meal, group and individual counseling, showers, and laundry facilities to women who would otherwise be on the streets.

Teresa's Interim Housing Program assists 10 women for up to 4 months. This program provides structure and support in a temporary housing setting for women to hone daily living skills as they actively pursue their housing, employment, and education goals. "Interim housing" is defined in Chicago's Ten Year Plan as being different from transitional housing in that its goal is to move people into permanent housing within a four-month time period.

Marah's Transitional Housing Program offers women a place to stay for up to 2 years in a highly structured environment, encouraging participants to plan for and achieve personal goals and permanent housing. Over 80% of the women who leave Marah's acquire and maintain permanent housing.

The following services are open to all participants and tenants of Deborah's Place's many programs:

Case Management and Therapeutic Services are tailored to provide each woman with the support she needs to achieve her individual goals. Because many women at Deborah's Place are living with mental health issues, substance use issues, or both, case managers work intensively with residential staff to help women obtain housing, benefits, and services needed in order to remain housed.

Education and Employment Services focuses on exploring various humanities as a means to empowerment and increased critical reflection towards more active participation in civic life. Three Learning Centers, a Scholarship program and the Career Exploration Program (CEP), which includes humanities coursework and paid internship work experience, offer varied educational and vocational opportunities for the women of Deborah's Place. The organization's three Learning Centers are onsite adult education centers. One is co-located with Marah's Transitional Housing Program, the second is co-located with Patty Crowley Apartments/Teresa's Interim Housing/Dolores Safe Haven, and the third is co-located with the Rebecca Johnson Apartments.

Deborah's Place is a mission-driven organization and all real estate and program development derives from this source. For example, the Patty Crowley Apartments were created when Deborah's Place realized that other affordable housing developers were not accepting Deborah's Place clients and other women into their housing. Deborah's Place recognizes housing as a critical element of choice for women who are homeless and as such, decided that they would create housing to serve women who were homeless and exiting their programs who could not access housing otherwise. Likewise, the implementation of an eviction prevention strategy and the Humanities Curriculum dovetails with the organization's desire to fulfill its mission.

Tenants

In its supportive housing projects, Deborah's Place serves single women without children in their care who are homeless.

- 100% of the tenants at the Patty Crowley Apartments were homeless and disabled when they moved into the building.
- A minimum of 50% of the tenants at the Rebecca Johnson Apartments were homeless and disabled when they moved into the building (100% were homeless).
- 100% of the women living at the Dolores Safe Haven were also homeless and disabled when they moved into the program.

Tenant referrals originate from Deborah's Place staff and other homeless services providers throughout the city of Chicago.

Deborah's Place estimates that at least 50% of the women they serve meet the definition of long-term homeless. In 2005, Deborah's Place will begin keeping formal statistics on this for the first time.

CSH's Role

CSH has been a strong supporter of Deborah's Place since 1993, including both technical and financial assistance. Over the past eleven years, CSH has provided Deborah's Place with a total of \$918,690 in grants through its grant-funded initiatives (for its housing, employment and supportive service programs, staffing Supportive Housing Providers Association, and creation of a social purpose business venture) and \$397,300 in loans.

Deborah's Place was part of CSH's Next Step: Jobs Initiative and employment services that are now part of the Education and Employment program grew out of this grant. CSH also funded the development of WomanCraft, a social purpose venture that employs women who are homeless in a business that creates handmade paper. CSH provided a \$360,000 grant, over 5 years, to support Deborah's Place in creating an outreach and engagement program for long-term participants in their overnight shelter. All of this assistance has helped support Deborah's Place's current growth and activities in serving women meet the definition of long term homeless.

Eviction Prevention

The mission of Deborah's Place is to empower women to take back and maintain control over their lives. While eviction may at times be a sadly necessary consequence of a woman's actions, placing a tenant back into the condition of homelessness defeats Deborah's Place's mission and is not consistent with their agency vision of ending homelessness. The overall goal of the organization's rather remarkable Eviction Prevention plan is to prevent evictions from Deborah's Place permanent supportive housing in order to keep current tenants from returning to homelessness.

History and Evolution

It has always been a part of the unwritten Deborah's Place culture that the organization work with women who have not been successful in other housing environments. Deborah's Place believes that everyone has the right to safe, clean, affordable housing, and it has always had a mission to provide services to those who appear to be especially challenged by current services and housing options.

About two years after Deborah's Place opened Rebecca Johnson Apartments, it created the Eviction Prevention approach in response to both internal and external forces. Internally, staff found in reviewing its own records and statistics that it had 10 evictions in its supportive housing units in one fiscal year and several barrings and terminations in its programs the previous year. They determined that they had to look at this challenge.

At the same time, externally, the Chicago Continuum of Care developed its 10-year plan to end homelessness, which includes prevention and housing activities. Approved in fiscal year 2003 with initial implementation in fiscal year 2004, the plan also includes a Housing First agenda. Supportive housing providers in Chicago will be expected to house even those who are considered the most challenging to work with or those who are not deemed "housing ready." Deborah's Place realized it needed to take a hard look at its policies and procedures, and evaluate how it would meet the goal of ending homelessness. Deborah's Place realized that it would need to be creative in its approach in working with those that society has given up on. Ultimately, Deborah's Place recognized that any woman it evicts from housing returns to homelessness and that this end result was not meeting their mission. The organization sees its eviction prevention approach as a homelessness prevention strategy in line with the plan to end homelessness.

Implementation

Once Deborah's Place made the decision to directly address their eviction and barring/termination rate, the Director of Supportive Housing wrote a memo outlining an Eviction Prevention strategy. Two committees were created to oversee the implementation of the strategy: Barring and Termination Prevention Committee and Eviction Prevention Committee.

The Barring and Termination Prevention Committee oversees tenant policies and procedures and their implementation in the residential programs. This committee includes staff from each of the residential programs and is led by the Program Administrator of Teresa's, the Interim Housing program. This committee developed the Barring and Termination plan and serves as the decision maker on all decisions regarding barring or termination from Deborah's Place programs.

The Eviction Prevention Committee is led by the Director of Supportive Housing and includes the Property Manager, Case Management team and Director of Education & Employment program.

This committee developed the eviction prevention plan and serves as the decision maker on all decisions regarding termination from Deborah's Place supportive housing at the Rebecca Johnson and Patty Crowley Apartments. The committee currently meets monthly, focused on brainstorming strategies for assisting tenants at risk of eviction with housing maintenance.

The two committees determined how to implement the memo and developed the original plans. They reviewed and refined policies and procedures to support the eviction prevention strategy. Members of these committees were also responsible for reporting back to their programs/housing about the changes they were implementing and the philosophy behind the changes. These committees are currently reviewing Deborah's Place's entry criteria to make their housing more accessible. For example, in the past it required verification of where an applicant had been living for the past 6 months, which could come from a shelter provider, or police if living outdoors and seen regularly, etc. Deborah's Place changed this requirement to 3 months verification because it was finding that some women had difficulty remembering where they were living for past 6 months.

The changes that Deborah's Place made to prevent eviction were possible because they had support from the Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer who gave the Director of Supportive Housing the authority to implement a creative new approach.

The Four-Step Plan

As noted above, the Eviction Prevention Committee developed the following four-step plan for fiscal year 2003-2004. The plan went into effect on July 1, 2003.

- 1) The Homelessness Prevention Specialist (HPS) job description now includes a component on eviction prevention. Established in September of 2001, the position has the dual purpose of advocating for women who have been denied housing through Deborah's Place's supportive housing application process, while also advocating for current tenants at risk of eviction. Originally funded by a one-time Health and Human Services grant, this position is being funded for the next two years through grants from the Boeing Foundation and Baird Warner. The HPS has begun to identify criteria that will be used to decide that a woman is at risk of eviction. When women become delinquent in rent, have multiple housekeeping notices, or other lease violations, HPS will supplement the case management services that the tenants are already receiving. The hope is that the extra intervention will help women to address the issues that have put them at risk of eviction. Case managers who have tenants who have been identified to work with the HPS will be expected to be in regular communication with the HPS.
- 2) The case managers will work together to provide special programming for new tenants as they move into Deborah's Place housing. The case management team will develop this programming, with the goal being to assist tenants during their first three months in the building to adjust to housing and avoid the pitfalls that many face when they first move in, such as relapse or going off of medications.
- 3) Volunteers will be sought to work with the HPS, the Program Administrator for Housing Case Management, and the Director of Supportive Housing (DSH) on an Eviction

Prevention Committee. The Chief Operating Officer (COO) is also being invited to join this committee. This committee will be responsible for two tasks:

- a. The committee will begin their work by going through the supportive housing rules. For every lease violation, the committee will identify a natural consequence for the violation of that rule. As guidelines, the committee members will use the mission and values of Deborah's Place. It will also keep in mind the concept of "natural consequences." For instance, when my apartment is messy (in regular housing), what might some of the natural consequences be? What might happen if I use illegal drugs in my housing? If I have a fight with my neighbor? The committee's job will be to address underlying behavioral issues, not to punish or judge.
 - b. Once the committee has outlined the potential violations and resulting consequences, the committee (without the DSH and the COO) will continue to meet as often as deemed necessary to review decisions made by the housing team on lease violations. Any recommendation for eviction must go through the Eviction Prevention Committee. The committee will need to write a justification for any recommended eviction. The justification must include the following: the rule that was violated; what interventions staff has already made to avoid eviction; how the eviction fits in with the mission and values of Deborah's Place; how the eviction is a natural consequence for the behavior presented; and why eviction is the only option in this case. Recommendations can then be presented to DSH and COO, who would make the final decisions.
- 4) When a tenant is at risk of being evicted, a Deborah's Place [Eviction Request Form](#) is filled out, ideally by the Property Manager. A copy of this form gets sent to the tenant, the Chief Operating Officer, the Property Manager, the Homelessness Prevention Specialist, the Case Manager, and the tenant's Advocate. The tenant selects the person they want to be their Advocate. Tenants may select whomever they wish, and usually tend toward a staff person who has known the tenant for some time in a capacity other than as case manager. Once this form is submitted, the tenant and their Advocate present their case to the Eviction Prevention Committee. As noted above, their recommendation goes to the DSH and COO, who make the final decision. Deborah's Place uses this process for all evictions, including nonpayment of rent.

If the final decision were to go ahead with the eviction, then the legal eviction process would begin. This process does not begin prior to the committee process. If they determine not to evict the tenant, there may be some requirements that the tenant will need to comply with such as making a payment plan for money owed.

Substance Use

On the issue of active substance use and relapse, onsite case managers and tenant service coordinators work with each woman individually to address issues before they jeopardize tenancy. Staff coordinates with local treatment and detox providers to identify appropriate options. Deborah's Place is trying to move toward a harm reduction model in addition to the traditional treatment and 12-step models it has used in the past.

Deborah's Place notes that substance use appears to impact housing in two major ways: 1) inability to pay rent and 2) behaviors that may be lease violations or non-violation behaviors that are resulting in some chaos within the building. Left unaddressed, staff points out, either of these can lead to eviction. In addition, the local public housing authority requires a Drug-Free Rider as a condition of using a Section-8 subsidy. Using substances is a breach of this agreement, and staff is concerned that it could potentially lead to loss of subsidy on the unit, and, therefore eviction.

Lease and House Rules

To date, Deborah's Place hasn't made any changes to the house rules and lease related to implementation of the eviction prevention plan. However, their Eviction Prevention Committee will be looking at both the rules and lease in the future to determine if it would be beneficial to make any changes related to this new organizational approach. Staff stresses that part of the goal of the Eviction Prevention Team is to create an environment that is available to as many women who need it as possible. One of the ways to accomplish this is by making the entry eligibility criteria as flexible as possible so more women can access the housing. Deborah's Place expects to work toward a list of house rules that reflect only those rules that are paramount to major issues of safety.

Tenant Involvement

Deborah's Place would like to see some tenant involvement in the Eviction Prevention process but it has not been able to put this in place yet. While tenants cannot be involved in the confidential decisions regarding other tenants, they could be part of the recommendations for consequences for lease violations. A couple of tenants could be invited to join the staff Eviction Prevention Committee to help design lease violation consequences, or case management could work with tenants to set up their own committee to make recommendations. Deborah's Place will probably wait to include tenants in the process until it reduces some of the staff resistance to the process. At this point, the eviction prevention philosophy appears largely at odds with the property management philosophy. Property management is focused on protecting the assets of the organization, and has long considered eviction as a primary tool to achieve this goal.

The Results

During fiscal year 2002-2003, Deborah's Place evicted ten women from their 129 units of permanent supportive housing in two buildings. Since implementing Eviction Prevention on July 1, 2003, Deborah's Place has evicted two women from their 129 units of permanent supportive housing. Both evictions were for unit abandonment. One woman moved in with her boyfriend and the other moved to another city. Both had left belongings in their units when they moved out.

Lessons Learned

- Having a hearing prior to implementing formal eviction procedures gives an opportunity for the tenant to take responsibility to correct their behavior.
- Staff does not necessarily agree with the eviction prevention philosophy. The most skeptical staff person has understandably been the Property Manager, whose role is to protect the building and the agency by insuring that the property doesn't lose money. Deborah's Place expected resistance from this staff person because their role is in natural conflict with the notion of eviction prevention. However, the organization was surprised to find that not all case management staff support this policy. Some describe it as "enabling." To mitigate these barriers, the organization plans to provide more training in harm reduction. In

addition, Deborah's Place is prepared to allow staff who find this policy in conflict with their own personal values to leave the organization, so that those positions can be filled by people who feel this philosophy is a good fit for them.

Suggestions

- Adopt an eviction prevention policy. The significant reduction in evictions speaks for itself.
- Offer plenty of training and patience. More intensive training for staff on the purpose and process of eviction prevention would be helpful. Deborah's Place is also going slower in implementing some changes (such as reviewing the rules and leases) than it expected.

Humanities Programming

Increasing public engagement in society among members who have been disenfranchised for some time is no easy task. At Deborah's Place, "humanities are the primary tool with which it gives back to our country's democracy its poorest citizens." Robert Maynard Hutchins wrote:

The liberal arts are the arts of freedom. To be free a man must understand the tradition in which he lives. A great book is one which yields up through the liberal arts a clear and important understanding of our tradition...It must follow that if we want to educate our students for freedom, we must educate them in the liberal arts and in the great books.³

Three specific elements of the Deborah's Place Education and Employment Services Program are focused on this effort of educating participants for freedom: the Learning Centers, The Advocacy Project and the Career Exploration Program (CEP). Courses taught in these three projects give participants the opportunity to advance their learning through the exploration of art, music, literature, history, and film.

Humanities as the Antidote to Poverty and Chronic Homelessness

The Deborah's Place Humanities model is based on the work of Earl Shorris.⁴ Shorris discussed the idea that people living in poverty suffer not only from the lack of material resources, but also from a lack of "advantaged" education and exposure to the arts which enables human beings to think more critically about the world in which we live. He theorized that people who are poor participate less in the collective life of our society, the participation known as "citizenship." The Humanities Curriculum focuses on including those who have often been excluded, and on providing them with the stimulus to become engaged in the life of society.

Learning Centers

Deborah's Place's three Learning Centers provide a space for women to explore their skills, abilities, and interests in a supportive environment. Elective humanities courses are taught year-round by Education Services staff on a range of topics, such as philosophy, literature, art history, US History, music, and film study. Thematic topics are selected each year by program staff and participants, and themes run year-round, changing topics each quarter. For FY '03, the topics included "Crime and Punishment" and "Social and Cultural Norms." For FY'04, the topics are "Love," "The 20th Century," "The Natural World," and "Ancient and Modern Heroes."

Participation in all humanities classes is elective, and classes typically are 6-12 weeks in length. Each Learning Center offers between 3 and 4 humanities courses each week, in addition to monthly field trips to cultural institutions. These classes are open to all Deborah's Place participants and tenants. For a curriculum discussing Plato's Allegory of the Cave, see <http://www.eduref.org/cgi-bin/printlessons.cgi/Virtual/Lessons/Philosophy/PLT0200.html>. For a curriculum discussing Herman Hesse's *Steppenwolf*, see http://www.eduref.org/cgi-bin/printlessons.cgi/Virtual/Lessons/Language_Arts/Literature/LIT0205.html

As an addition to the Humanities Curriculum, Deborah's Place holds weekly Socrates Cafés. The Cafés provide continuing philosophy education for current and former Humanities Curriculum participants, an introduction to philosophical inquiry for other Deborah's Place participants, and a forum for discussing ethical issues impacting the daily work and lives of Deborah's Place participants, staff, and volunteers. Chris Phillips, the author of the book *Socrates Café*, conducted the

inaugural forum at Deborah's Place on the topic "Why do bad things happen to good people?" Since then, Cafés have addressed topics including "What is love?," "What is safety?," and "What is diversity?" In addition to formal learning opportunities, the Learning Centers offer art and craft supplies, a book and video lending library, computers with internet access, individual tutoring, and a scholarship fund to pursue external educational and vocational opportunities.

Advocacy Project

Advocacy activities had previously been housed in Deborah's Place administrative division. In order to produce a more effective grassroots advocacy movement, in 2004 the organization's advocacy activities will be housed in Education and Employment Services, demonstrating Deborah's Place's belief that advocacy is in actuality one element of lifelong learning and necessary to engaged citizenry.

Run out of each Learning Center, the Advocacy Project allows tenants to organize around issues of importance to them, promotes and implements advocacy strategies, and teaches participants about the history of civil disobedience. Through this project, participants become active in the sense of the Aristotelian notion of "political," and have the opportunity to make significant and lasting impact on the structures in which they live.

Tenants help lead the advocacy project by defining the advocacy agenda. For FY '05, the advocacy themes identified by the participants and tenants of Deborah's Place are affordable housing, quality healthcare, and living-wage employment. Additionally, with August 2004 being the 40th anniversary of the ratification of the Economic Opportunity Act, an additional strand of programming will focus on the impact of this piece of legislation, and the legacy wrought from it.

Learning Center staff who facilitate this project are year-long volunteers who have a commitment to social justice, simple community living, and service. Education and Employment Services staff has developed an advocacy training manual and training modules in order to ensure more successful strategies and significant impact. A sampling of the topics covered in the training include: history of civil disobedience, advocacy nuts and bolts, forming collaborations and coalitions, and policy updates on the three advocacy areas for this year. The trainings approach advocacy through a humanities perspective, calling on philosophy, literature, and history to frame current issues and events. This unusual approach is an outgrowth of the organization's interest in studying humanities with participants and tenants. Deborah's Place hopes that, if nurtured and developed, this program might become a model for homeless services providers across the country.

Career Exploration Program (CEP)

CEP is designed to assist women in defining the role of philosophy, ethics, aesthetics, and meaningful work in their lives. Departing from traditional "Welfare to Work" programming, the curriculum includes Business Ethics, Economic Theory, Philosophy, and the other humanities. CEP also provides an earned income from internships for women who may have never worked before. Most CEP participants are living with chronic disabilities and are not able to work full-time, yet have a desire to work and feel part of the working community. This is an idea integral to the recovery process for people with mental illness: that restoration of a meaningful life is possible despite serious mental illness.⁵ CEP takes up to 40 new participants each fiscal year, and involves two phases. In Phase I of CEP, participants attend class three days a week and intern for 8 hours a week. In Phase

II of CEP, participants continue to intern 8 hours a week, while pursuing individual goals. Internships are found both within Deborah's Place and in the broader Chicago nonprofit community.

In keeping with the relational model of service, the employment services activities are rooted in the therapeutic value of work. Work provides not merely an income, but status, relationships, and connections to the society outside our doors. For women who are homeless, the ability to view oneself as a "worker" more than just "homeless" is of an equal value to the wages earned.

Research has shown that the majority of people with disabilities desire to work; however, rates of competitive employment among this population range between 10-20%.⁶ Supported employment remains the dominant model of intervention, yet the rates of success are questionable with standard dropout rates lingering around the 40% mark, and average length of employment at 70 days.⁷

Deborah's Place approaches employment not as purely competitive placements, but rather as what is "gainfully employed" for individual participants. In accordance with the definition used by the United States Secretary of Education, "gainful employment" is defined as any employment outcome that is consistent with individual strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, and informed choice. While gainful employment is not synonymous with competitive employment, the term is inclusive of competitive employment.⁸

For CEP participants, work is viewed as one component of their life. It is the means to an income which will support some core life activities such as housing and food, but it is also the means to some of the "extras" which are not provided by the housing programs and services of the organization such as shampoo of your choice, food of your choice, and clothing of your choice. Many of the women who want to work do not have formal work histories that enable them to be competitively employed. The overwhelming majority of CEP interns (80%) have chronic mental or physical health disabilities that also act as a significant barrier to competitive employment. One industry standard, provided by the Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation, notes that people who are severely psychiatrically disabled are 0-15% employed.² Assisting the women with overcoming their internal barriers to competitive employment is a long and arduous journey.

Goals

The overall goal of the Humanities Programming is to increase the tenants' capacities for housing, citizenship and income. Each year, Deborah's Place reviews their program and sets goals to improve in the coming year. For fiscal year 2005, Deborah's Place has set the following goals:

- Goal 1: Participants will stabilize in housing.
 - ✓ Indicator: 70% of Education and Employment Services participants will secure housing, maintain housing, or improve housing status.
- Goal 2: Participants will obtain/maintain income to meet their needs.
 - ✓ Indicator: 20% of DP participants will be working each quarter.
- Goal 3: Participants will increase capacities as citizens and community members
 - ✓ Indicator: 50% of Education Services participants will increase their human capabilities.¹⁰

Results

Of the women participating in the Humanities Programming at Deborah's Place during fiscal year 2003-2004, 70 improved their housing status, 247 maintained their housing status, and two had negative moves. Of the women who improved their housing status, 31 obtained housing (2 at Patty Crowley Apartments, 6 at Rebecca Johnson Apartments and 23 to offsite housing), and 31 increased their status among residential programs once and 8 increased their residential status twice. "Increasing residential status" indicates that a woman has moved within Deborah's Place's continuum in a positive direction toward longer-term housing. Housing maintenance, family reunification, and moving to market rate housing are also measured.

In addition:

- 90 individual women (321 duplicated) participated in Socrates Café,
- 145 individual women (1,341 duplicated) participated in humanities programming, and
- 88 women used scholarship funds, averaging \$244 per person.

Lessons Learned

- Having the women determine the themes for the year increases attendance at the courses because they are studying topics of interest to them.
- Humanities education is a key component of helping people move from welfare to increase economic independence. Deborah's Place points out that the humanities are the disciplines that make us most fully human. They provide us with a language of speaking about ourselves and about our place in the world. They give us a context and a framework within which we make decisions about the course of our lives. We need to do more to help people be capable of living in a fully human way, and this involves exploration of timeless ideals presented in literature, philosophy, art, music, and the great historical documents of our nation as well as others.

¹ "It's Ok Here" A History of Deborah's Place, Center for Urban Research and Learning, November 2001

² A Safe Haven is a form of supportive housing that serves hard-to-reach homeless persons with severe mental illness who are on the street and have been unable or unwilling to participate in housing or supportive services. Safe Havens serve as a refuge for people who are homeless and have a serious mental illness. US Department of Housing and Urban Development, www.hud.gov.

³ Robert Maynard Hutchins, *Education for Freedom*, 1943, p.14

⁴ Earl Shorris, *Riches for the Poor*, 2000

⁵ Spaniol et al. (1997) Psychological and social aspects of psychiatric disability. Boston, MA: Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation, Boston University.

⁶ Provencher, et. al, *The Role of Work in the Recovery of Persons with Psychiatric Disabilities*, *Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal*, Fall 2002, p.132

⁷ Provencher, et. al, *The Role of Work in the Recovery of Persons with Psychiatric Disabilities*, *Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal*, Fall 2002, p.132

⁸ U.S. Federal Register, 1995

⁹ Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation, Boston University, 2003 website.

¹⁰ "Human capabilities" is from *Women and Human Development: The Capabilities Approach* by Martha Nussbaum. In this book, Nussbaum enumerates the qualities one needs to cultivate in order to be a "fully functioning" human being. Several of these qualities, including "sense imagination and thought," "practical reason," "affiliation," and "control over one's environment," are things with Deborah's Place assists women in cultivating. The program uses as a measurement the number of women participating in Humanities courses, Socrates Café, and the in-house Scholarship Fund.