

Providence House Heartline

703 Lexington Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11221

www.providencehouse.org

Summer 2012

Deborah Giordano Joins The Providence House Social Service Team As Director Of Programs

Providence House is pleased to welcome aboard Deborah Giordano, LMSW as the Director of Programs for both the Homeless Services and the Parole Re-Entry programs.

Deborah has a wealth of supervisory and clinical experience working with the populations we serve to include prison re-entry, chronically homeless, mentally ill/chemically dependent, domestic violence victims and batterers, young adults and adolescents including LGBT and those aging out of foster care. She is a certified trainer in various cognitive behavior therapies such as Dialectical Behavior Therapy and Moral Reconnection Therapy. Both therapies were developed to help individuals break destructive patterns in their lives that are brought on by addiction, dependency and other life stress factors. Most recently Deborah has worked with a variety of social service organizations as a consultant to assess, develop and implement new programs as well as devise improvement plans for existing ones.



Deborah Giordano

Since her arrival in May, Deborah and her team have been diligently addressing the two major challenges our residents are confronting in this tough economic climate: securing affordable permanent housing and finding employment. In just four months since Deborah has assumed her position she has created and implemented a series of workshops (more on this in the next column) to address these and other issues of concern to our residents. Deborah brings a depth of knowledge, expertise and vivacity that will undoubtedly assure that all her efforts will be a success. Please join the Providence House community in wishing Deborah Giordano well in her endeavors on behalf of the women and children at Providence House. *CS*

Providence House Initiates Practical Workshops To Help Our Women Achieve Independence

On August 7th Providence House initiated a series of workshops created by Deborah Giordano and her social service team to address the issues and concerns facing homeless women and women on parole. These workshops are additional resources to complement and strengthen our current programs and services as well as being made available to clients served at other community agencies that serve the homeless.

The downturn in the economy has had a significant impact on the ability of our women to find affordable housing and secure employment. The workshops are designed to bring in professionals to present on practical topics relating to finding employment, locate affordable housing, enroll in job training and learn stress management techniques.

To give an example, one workshop recently given focused on job training opportunities. Presentations were made by three respected organizations that specialize in providing job training opportunities: Cambridge Institute, St. Nick's Alliance and The Hope Program. The attendees learned about training and employment opportunities in the social service field, maintenance, office work, retail, green jobs and home health care. Future employment workshops will concentrate on job interviewing skills, resume writing, dress for success and internet job searching.

Upcoming workshops include apartment hunting and how to effectively negotiate a lease with a prospective landlord; effective parenting skills (this is a 10 session workshop); budgeting and finances; and stress management through yoga.

Outside participants such as Henry Street Settlement, Dress for Success, Franklin Career Institute, St. Nick's Alliance, The Hope Program, Fortune Society, After Hours Health, and Rapid Realty will be facilitating future sessions. *CS*

CHASE \$5 MILLION GIVEAWAY PROVIDENCE HOUSE NEEDS YOUR VOTE!

Providence House was chosen to be a part of the **2012 Chase Community Giving program**. In this year's program, JPMorgan Chase customers and employees were asked to tell us which charities meant the most to them—and out of thousands of charities **Providence House** was one of them! Chase is inviting all of the eligible charity nominees to be a part of the voting phase, where Chase will be granting **\$5 million** to 196 local charities. **The big prize is \$250,000 to the charity with the most votes.** Voting will take place from September 6th-19th.

Beginning September 6, 2012 and ending September 19, 2012, Chase customers with a Chase online account and Facebook users can vote for **Providence House**. Chase customers with a Chase online account will receive two votes on www.ChaseGiving.com. Facebook users who

allow "Access" to the Chase Community Giving application will receive two votes on the Chase Community Giving application on Facebook. Facebook users will have an opportunity to earn one bonus vote on Facebook. This bonus vote may also be cast for **Providence House**. Chase customers who are also Facebook users can vote at www.ChaseGiving.com and Facebook. If a voter who is a Chase customer casts votes on both www.ChaseGiving.com and Facebook, the voter may vote for the same charity twice — once on www.ChaseGiving.com and once on Facebook. The same voter may vote a third time on Facebook if that voter earns a Bonus vote. The National Program grant recipients will be announced on or about September 20, 2012. Please note that once you log on to vote at www.ChaseGiving.com and Facebook you will be guided through the voting process. **Don't forget to vote for Providence House!** *CS*

Academia Maria Reina Students from Puerto Rico Volunteer at Providence House



Ana, Juana, Claudia and Miriam

Juana LaBoy, teaches religious education at Academia Maria Reina, a Sister of St. Joseph (CSJ) High School in Puerto Rico. Juana reached out to Sister Janet Kinney, Executive Director of Providence House to collaborate on a service experience for her students. Juana, along with Ana, Claudia and Miriam - three of her students - arrived in New York City in mid-July. They brought with them a strong commitment to the Sisters of St. Joseph mission and an enthusiasm to be of service to the women and children. They lived in our Providence House I residence - alongside the families - and worked on art projects

with the kids in three of our Brooklyn residences. They accompanied a few of the Providence House families on an outing to the Metropolitan Museum of Art where they experienced the beauty of creativity. They had the opportunity to share meals and daily life with the Sisters and families, immersing themselves in the mission through service. One of our Providence House managers shared that she "hopes they can come back and visit with us. It's nice to see young people trying to make a difference in someone's life. **Go Sister of St. Joseph High Schools!**" *CS*



Working on an art project with the children