



Inspiration Cafe Coffee®
A Blend of Good Taste and Goodwill

Drink To A World Without Homelessness This Holiday Season

For as little as \$40 per month, you can have 4 bags of Inspiration Cafe Coffee shipped directly to your home or office (48 continental States). Choose from a variety of blends expertly roasted by Intelligentsia including the IC custom blend in regular and decaf, Breakfast Blend, Kenya (limit one bag for the special \$40 price), Colombia, Italiano, Espresso, Fair Trade Organic and Sumatra. Coffee is specially ground for the type of coffee maker you use and whole bean is also available. Once you choose your blends, your coffee will be shipped automatically on a monthly basis and charged to your credit card. Inspiration Cafe Coffee - a blend of good taste and goodwill. Fill your cup again and again and drink to a world without homelessness this holiday season. Every bag sold supports Inspiration Corporation programs.

Please forward this information to all of your coffee loving friends and small offices who love good coffee. Inspiration Cafe Coffee would make the perfect holiday gift for family and friends!

Call Angela Bowen on 773/878-0981 x204 or email abowen@inspirationcorp.org while this offer lasts!!!!!!! ✨

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Inspiration Corporation is funded in part by the Chicago Department of Human Services.

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Inspiration CORPORATION

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Inspiration Adds Even More Housing For Guests

A few months ago you might have heard that Inspiration Corporation received another grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for more units of housing. This month it becomes a reality! We are almost doubling the size of our current housing program,

Ludien LaGrange Architects

with six new studio apartments in Uptown and nine new studio and one-bedroom apartments in Woodlawn. This brings the total number of housing units in our housing program to 27!!! The HUD housing program is open to anyone who is homeless. There is a 24-month limit to receiving the subsidy. At the end of the subsidy, the tenants are expected to be able to take over the rent payments on their own. For that reason, tenants must be willing to work with a case manager on securing stable income.

As part of the grant, Inspiration Corporation was able to hire Jonit Bookheim, former VISTA Case Manager/Housing Coordinator, as Housing Specialist. The role of Housing Specialist is to support tenants with regular visits, communicate with the landlords of the buildings, and maintain the necessary grant documentation.

Inspiration Corporation has been conducting a large-scale furniture drive to secure beds, dressers, tables, and chairs to furnish the fifteen new apartments. Thank you to everyone who has contributed. If you would like to donate small items, please contact Jonit Bookheim at jbookheim@inspirationcorp.org. ★

In Other Housing News...

Inspiration Corporation Associate Director, Laura Singer, and her husband, Sean, welcomed their daughter, Kitara Jade, into the world on September 17, 2004. Baby Kitara weighed exactly nine pounds at birth! Laura will return to work in January in the capacity of Director of Housing.

Meet John

John is a busy man. Since graduating from the Cafe Too restaurant skills training program, he has found a new apartment, worked as a cook at the Salvation Army, made new friends, and become a community activist.

John signed up for Cafe Too in February 2004. He thought he already knew everything about cooking because he already worked as a cook. However, he found that he had a lot to learn. For example, he learned about planning a balanced diet by including foods from a variety of food groups, and he learned how to make everything from scratch—**“even the tartar sauce.”** Though cooking in a restaurant requires a lot of physical

stamina, he enjoys cooking because **“learning about the people keeps the job interesting.”**

As a graduate of Cafe Too, he came to Inspiration Cafe occasionally for breakfast, and that is how he learned about the help offered in finding housing. Now he has a nice little furnished apartment, and he is planning on saving money for his future.

John is also standing up for his community. He has become a supporter of the Wilson Yards Project, a community redevelopment plan that will provide retail and housing opportunities for low - to middle - income people. He passes

out flyers, talks to people, marches downtown, and attends community meetings. Though he regrets not becoming a community activist earlier, he realizes that what matters most is what he chooses to do with his future.

Inspiration Cafe is happy to have John as an alumnus and a friend. John says, **“I’m surprised more people don’t know about the Inspiration Cafe and what it’s doing for the neighborhood. Hopefully, when the new Cafe on 4715 N. Sheridan Road opens up, more people will get the word.”** ★

The view from Broadway and Wilson

by Christopher Persons, Executive Director



It has become our two-year tradition at Inspiration Corporation to be a charity partner of the LaSalle Bank Chicago Marathon. The long and short of it is that we sign up runners who go about raising money on our behalf. Then they go run a marathon—26.2 miles. The elite runners—the Kenyans—finish in around 2 hours 6 minutes, which means

they are running about 4 - minute miles for 26 miles. A couple thousand of the 33,000 finishers run the marathon in 3 hours or less, the median time for everyone is about 4.5 hours. I couldn't run a 4 - minute mile for 26 yards.

This is my second marathon though and I can't brag about my time—two years in a row running the marathon in over 5 hours (5:12 and 5:23)—but I don't mind bragging a little about just finishing. For me and thousands like me (out of shape masochists), it's a battle of endurance over pain. Crossing the finish line to the still thousands of cheering spectators is an accomplishment in "Thank God it's over, I can't wait to do it again next year."

The spectators are what make the marathon a truly amazing race; their shouts, their high-fives; they reach out and pull us along. I've likened the marathon to a moving necklace winding through Chicago's neighborhood jewels. Through Boy's Town, Greek Town, the Westside, Pilsen and Chinatown we run and there are the spectators reaching out to us, thousands, tens of thousands, a million, cheering us on encouraging us to finish. They don't know you from Adam but there they are looking you in the eye saying, "You've got this! You can do it! Way to go!"

That's why Inspiration Corporation is such a good fit for the Marathon. This is what we do. We cheer people on and pull people through their personal marathons; through addiction, through homelessness, through hopelessness. My marathon is just a symbol of their journey. You, our volunteers and supporters, are the amazing spectators reaching out to them pulling them to the finish. Thank you from all of us. We couldn't finish without you. ★

Greetings From Pete

Hello, my name is Peter Beale-DelVecchio. I started full time here in September as the Associate Director for Operations and Development. My first connection with Inspiration Café was back in 1993 when I helped serve a meal at the Wilson location. Over the years since I have volunteered at other meals. The fact that the mission is carried out in an atmosphere of dignity and respect is what kept me coming back.

Chris Persons and I did some work together at another non-profit. I am thrilled to be working with him again and the fantastic staff that he has surrounded himself with. My job as we continue to grow is to work with Jennifer Salopek to be sure we have the appropriate systems in place to function well and to work with Angela Bowen to be sure that we are doing all we can to generate revenue.

In August I finished my MBA at Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management. My focus was in Public/Non-profit Management. My wife Jacqueline and I live in Edgewater with our two sons Patrick (3) and Nathan (2).

I look forward to meeting you the next time you are at Inspiration Corporation. Please be sure to stop in and introduce yourself. Feel free to contact me at pbealedelvecchio@inspirationcorp.org or 773-878-0981 x219. ★

Cafe Too Graduation



Another successful class of Cafe Too students graduated on Friday, October 1, 2004! Session 20 of the job training program consisted of 9 graduates. To date, 143 students have graduated from Cafe Too.

Cafe Too is a restaurant skills training program providing skills and employment opportunities within an atmosphere of dignity and respect to people facing barriers to self sufficiency.

The 12-week training program focuses on a variety of subjects: basic culinary skills and concepts, reading and converting recipes, following and taking direction, teamwork, sanitation and safety, restaurant service, and job-readiness soft skills.

Each participant receives sanitation and safety training recognized by the National Restaurant Association and the City of Chicago. They also qualify for their food-service sanitation and safety license. In addition, students gain hands-on experience in two ways: they prepare and serve dinner to guests and alumni for five weeks, and they prepare and serve lunch to the paying public for eight weeks during the internship period of the program. Once placed into employment, graduates are eligible for indefinite supportive services to ensure retention in the workplace. ★

SaraLee
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is a generous supporter of the Cafe Too Job Training Program

REMEMBER - Cafe Too is open to the public every **Thursday** and **Friday** for lunch from 11:30 am - 2 pm.
Mention this ad and receive 10% off your total lunch bill!

The 15th Annual Anniversary Dinner



Our 15th Annual Anniversary Dinner will take place on Saturday, November 20, 2004 at Inspiration Cafe. This exquisite event is a culinary feast of many courses and each course will be expertly matched with wine selections. We are thrilled to announce that Chef Emeritus Jean Banchet will be returning this year to prepare the meal together with Chefs Patrick Chabert and Michel Coatrieux from the French Culinary Experience and special guest Chef Dominique Tougne from Bistro 110. At this event, the Inspiration Cafe dining room is transformed into formal dining space and guests have an intimate meal prepared especially for them by top French chefs. This event promises to be a phenomenal success. If you are looking for an unforgettable celebration, please contact us. Tickets for this event are extremely limited and are selling very quickly. The price is \$250 per person and all proceeds benefit Inspiration Corporation. Call Angela Bowen at 773/878-0981 x204 or email her at abowen@inspirationcorp.org for further information. ★

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Staff Changes

We are pleased to announce that although we have had to say goodbye to Angela Hahn, who was a wonderful and dynamic Case Manager at Inspiration Corporation for three years, we have two new staff members in the Case Management Department. Shannon Fahy is a Social Worker with a warm smile and great ability to engage with people. She received her Masters in Social Work from Ohio State University and has a background in crisis intervention, addictions, and women's issues. She has ably taken over an entire caseload and will be a great addition to Inspiration Corporation.

Rebecca Jones is our new Americorps*VISTA/Case Manager & Weekend Engagement Center Coordinator. She has had a very successful beginning in taking over the reigns of the Weekend Engagement Center from Angela, and she is quite enthusiastic about learning how to be an excellent Case Manager. She is insightful and talented in the areas of understanding issues confronting our Guests and Alumni. In addition, both Inspiration Corporation and The Living Room Cafe are fortunate to have two interns each from the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration to enlarge the resources of our Case Management Department and provide new energy and talent to our team.

Peter Beale-DelVecchio recently joined the Inspiration Corporation family as Associate Director for Operations and Development. He received his Master of Business Administration degree from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, a Certificate in Human Resource Management from North Park University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the College of the Holy Cross. He worked for Jane Addams Resource Corporation as an instructor for a year. He worked at Saints Faith, Hope & Charity for ten years in the positions of Director of Youth Ministry, Director of Junior High Religious Education, Director of Technology, and Director of Administrative Services before joining Inspiration Corporation as Associate Director for Operations and Development.

Jennifer Salopek recently took over for Chad Wolbrink as Director of Operations. Jennifer has served in various capacities at Inspiration Corporation before assuming her new position as Director of Operations. She worked as an AmeriCorps*VISTA at Inspiration Cafe for two years where she worked as the Program Assistant for the job training program, Cafe Too, and later as the Executive Assistant and Healthy Living Coordinator. She joined Inspiration Corporation in 2002 as the Volunteer Coordinator & Development Associate before becoming the Development Manager and then Director of Operations. Utica J. Gray replaced Jennifer as Development Manager. Utica received her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Northwestern University, her Master of Science in Human Services Administration from Spertus College, and has three years of development experience. ★