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FACES IN THE CROWD

Housing resource head to expand services for families and seniors

Amy Goldstein brings high energy to help the community

By VALERIE SWEETEN CHRONICLE CORRESPONDENT

Sept. 30, 2010, 4:33PM

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Resources

AMY GOLDSTEIN

• **AGE:** 44

• **FAST FACT:** • Served on the Houston Housing Resource Inc. Board of Directors from December 2008 to May 2010

QUICK QUOTE: "I'm hoping to bring a vision of how to best help people who live in public and supported housing. I learned a lot when I worked in the Jewish community and other community organizations and will bring that experience to the help create links to communicate."

Two months in her new position as director of Houston Housing Resource Inc., Amy Goldstein hopes to bring a vision of hope to its clients.

She was named to the position after two years of service on the HHR board of directors.

Houston Housing Resource Inc., located at 2640 Fountainview, is a non-profit affiliate of the Houston Housing Authority. It is available to assist local families and seniors served by the Houston Housing Authority. Its goal is to move families toward self-sufficiency and keep seniors safe.

Goldstein, a southwest Houston resident, has plans to enhance and expand the HHR programs, focus on seniors' needs and work with local job training, health care, educational and cultural organizations.

Some of her ideas include establishing a memorial endowment fund and being partners with city officials on Lemonade Day, an event designed to teach children about entrepreneurship and giving back to the community.

Goldstein has a bachelor's degree in Middle Eastern history from the University of Michigan and a master's degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Her work experience includes 18 years in New York City with organizations such The Anti-Defamation League, Hadassah, B'Nai Brith International and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

She has also been on the National Leadership Council at the Republican Jewish Coalition and political director for AIPAC Southwest Region.

In 2005, she came to Houston and began Gold Public Affairs, a consulting/public relations business and worked with clients in the nonprofit and communication fields.

Al Calloway, a HHR board member, and Deacon Joe Rubio, vice president of Catholic Charities, have both worked with Goldstein on community projects.

"She sees potential of the local scene and seems to care about the population we're going after," Calloway said.

"She's sensitive to their needs. With her experience, she knows the resources we need to tap into with her special set of skills. She's very bright and knowledgeable and a good match for the agency."

A variety of skills

Rubio collaborated with Goldstein over the past two years on community related endeavors. He agreed that Calloway is an "intense, very bright and wonderful" individual.

"I am impressed by her will to get things done. She's very well-educated in a humble sort of way that she uses for the group's benefit. She brings all kinds of skills to help public housing and will give the tools needed toward self-sufficiency. This is not easy work," Rubio said.

Goldstein, a Detroit-area native, grew up with her mother, Carolyn Barnett-Goldstein, a writer, and her grandmother, Ann Barnett. Her father, Melvin, is an attorney.

She initially wanted to be a professor after she graduated from college, but changed her mind.

"I thought I was attracted to sharing ideas, but I wanted to implement them instead," said Goldstein. "That's what drew me to my career working with non-profits doing advocacy and policy work."

When she was invited to serve on the Houston Housing Resource board of directors in 2008, she knew this was the place where she could reach out to people in need.

Now she hopes this is a chance to take HHR to another level.

"This is a great opportunity to help people in the community," Goldstein said. "I really want to teach them to fish and give them the ability to make a living. I know some have had a very difficult time. I want to help them see their dream horizon and achieve their real potential instead of their perceived potential. We want our neighbors to be successful because success is possible in Houston."

In her free time, Goldstein enjoys spending time with her 7-year-old daughter, Molly, and being active at United Orthodox Synagogue and in various Jewish community organizations.

For information, visit www.HousingforHouston.com.

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