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Cupcakes are a Lovely way to battle homelessness

By Joanne Davidson
The Denver Post

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Elaine Asarch. (Courtesy of Allied Jewish Federation)

Cupcakes are all the rage now, and some of Denver's tastiest can be found at Lovely Confections, 1489 Steele St. (My favorites: the coconut and carrot cake flavors).

The owner is **Porche Lovely** and if her name isn't just the sweetest thing, what she's doing on Saturday is.

She's collecting diapers, wipes and formula for The Gathering Place and for everyone who drops one or more of these items off at the bakery between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., she's giving \$5 off the purchase of a dozen regular-size cupcakes.

And if you opt to pass on the discount, Lovely will donate cupcakes in your name to moms at the Gathering Place on Mother's Day.

The Gathering Place is Denver's only drop-in day shelter for women and children experiencing homelessness and poverty, and is located on High Street, not far from Lovely Confections.

"I have such a soft spot for the Gathering Place," Lovely says. "The women and families it serves are faced with extremely difficult circumstances, and their strength inspires me to see life differently and do whatever I can to help others."

Looking ahead.

Thursday's when both the Volunteers of America Guild, and the Center for Work

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Education and Employment are having fundraising luncheons. The volunteer guild's event is at the Grand Hyatt Denver and features an address by **Denise Brown**, who became an advocate for female survivors of domestic violence after the brutal murder of her sister, Nicole Brown Simpson; tickets can be purchased by calling 303-297-0408. At the Center for Work Education and Employment's 11:30 a.m. function at EXDO Event Center, the Silver Flame awards will be presented to **Cristal Anderson**, **Karen Thurman** and **Rebecca Towne**. Tickets can be requested by e-mailing kminer@cwec.org.

- The annual Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Awards will be presented at a luncheon Friday at the Westin Tabor Center; that evening, the Junior Symphony Guild (jsg.org) previews its 2008 Designer Showhouse at the Phipps Tennis Pavilion, with a cocktail buffet gala and VIP tours. Also, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Denver salute youth of the year **Shonnetta Henry** at Making Waves, a dinner celebration held at the Donald R. Seawell Grand Ballroom.

- Les Brown Jr. and the Band of Renown provides the dance music for the Colorado Symphony Ball, which begins with cocktails and a silent auction at 5:30 p.m. Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Convention Center. **Teresa Taylor**, executive vice president at Qwest, is chairing it with her husband, Pete ... Also on Saturday night, vocalist Jeffrey Osborne ("On the Wings of Love") is at the Sheraton Denver Hotel to headline the Urban League's Whitney M. Young Jr. Awards Gala. Call president **Sharon**

Alexander Holt, 303-388-5861, ext. 101 ... Rounding out the evening, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation honors Delta Dental President **Kate Paul** at its Dream Gala.

- The Jewish Community Relations Council is presenting its 2008 Leadership Award to **Elaine Asarch** May 12 at a luncheon held at the Grand Hyatt Denver. Asarch was the first chair of the JCRC board, a position now held by her son, **Chad**. Call 303-316-6466.

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