



## Gospel choirs set to sing for Project Place

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A job with Project Place kept Don Sterrett out of prison, gave him a few more months with his mother before her death and, most important, allowed him to make a positive difference in the world.

"Had I not landed that job I was in real danger of being sent back to prison," said Sterrett, who now serves as a role model for current clients in his role as operations manager at Project Place. "I could have gotten a job delivering pizzas, but I wouldn't have been able to give back."

Today Sterrett will get some help singing Project Place's praises when the nonprofit agency holds its fifth annual gospel brunch at Boston's Fairmont Copley Plaza.

Three gospel choirs will perform - the Handel and Haydn Society Young Women's Chorus, the John D. O'Bryant African American Institute Unity Gospel Ensemble and the New England Conservatory Community Gospel Choir. There will also be a singalong led by a Project Place client, according to Project Place development associate Alison Hunt.

Last year the event drew about 400 people and raised more than \$70,000. This year, the goal is 600 attendees and \$100,000 raised, Hunt said.

The event will be hosted by WCVB's David Brown, co-anchor of Newscenter 5 EyeOpener, and Mayor Thomas M. Menino will be in attendance. A silent auction will feature a range of prizes including Red Sox tickets, beauty treatments and vacations. This year's event will also feature a pledge drive to staff and update the Project Place computer lab, said Hunt, who emphasized that proceeds will be used for job training and case management for homeless clients.

"We're really trying to help people who are motivated and ready to change their lives," she said.

The gospel brunch is 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today at the Fairmont Copley Plaza, 138 St. James Ave. Tickets, \$80, are available at the door.

Credit: By JENNIFER ROES