

Volunteer gives Hospitality House gift of her mother's piano



Judy Olson has given untold hours to serving meals to homeless guests at Hospitality House, Nevada County's community homeless shelter and housing program.

Last Monday, she gave even more: her mother's piano, freshly tuned by a generous anonymous donor.

To celebrate the occasion, Hospitality House Development Director Joanna Robinson organized a dedication ceremony just before dinner Monday, in the dining room at Utah's Place, the new homeless shelter run by Hospitality House.

To welcome the piano to its new home, Maestro Emeritus Paul Perry of Music in the Mountains kicked off the ceremonies with some Gershwin. He was followed by TV and film music veteran Stan Zabka, with a sing-along version of "New York, New York."

"This is your piano!" Olson told the guests.

"What's Utah's Place without music?" laughed Joanna Robinson, the widow of the legendary folksinger, social activist and homeless advocate U. Utah "Bruce" Phillips.

The plaque on the piano reads: "Donated to Utah's Place – April 2014, In loving memory of my Mother, Ethel M. Forsberg (1900-1983). Her beloved piano has a new life within a blessed new family."

Tom Durkin can be reached at tdurkin@vfr.net.