

CROSSROADS FUND

Change, not charity

MEMBER OF THE FUNDING EXCHANGE

www.crossroadsfund.org

Spring 2003

Crossroads Fund Celebrates on April 11th



Neris Gonzalez, 2003 Ron Sable Award Recipient

Spring is fast-approaching and so is the Crossroads Fund's annual event, *Seeds of Change*. We look forward to bringing together activists, supporters, movers and shakers from across the city to celebrate cutting-edge organizing and raise critical dollars for social change. A wide mix of silent auction items, tasty food and drinks, live music, and, of course, great company, will characterize the scene—We hope you'll join us on April 11th for this perfect antidote to the George W. blues!

Each year at this gathering, Crossroads Fund honors exceptional individuals and organizations with the Ron Sable Award for Activism. Ron Sable was a Crossroads Fund Board member and widely respected activist deeply committed to progressive change and the interconnectedness of issues and struggles across communities. This year's award recipients:

NERIS GONZALEZ is a champion for social justice both locally and internationally. Her initiative and

courage led to a precedent-setting legal victory last year over Salvadoran generals guilty of human rights violations between 1979 and 1983. She has also created opportunities for economic empowerment and ecological awareness, while promoting community cooperation and leadership through her work with ECOVIDA (a Crossroads Fund grantee) in several Chicago Latino neighborhoods.

THE PEOPLE'S LAW OFFICE provides critical resources for social justice organizing in Chicago and beyond. Illinois is the leading state in a growing national movement against the death penalty, and the work of the People's Law Office in defense of death row inmates and its vigilance to expose the torture tactics of Former Chicago Police Commissioner Jon Burge, was key in moving our state to this groundbreaking point.

We are also especially honored this year to have **Laura S. Washington** and **Quentin Young** serving as Event Co-chairs.

To top off the night, Yoko Noge and the Jazz Me Blues will perform a smooth mix of swing, jazz, and blues. Band leader Yoko Noge is an inventive pianist and singer whose genius group of musicians includes critically acclaimed bassist Tatsu Aoki, a founder of Chicago's Asian-American Jazz Festival.

Take note: this year we will be at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington. While we are sad to leave our past years' venue, the HotHouse, our reason is a good problem to have: we have outgrown the space. Tickets start at \$50.00 and may be purchased by calling the Crossroads Office at 773.227.7676 or visiting www.crossroadsfund.org.

Again, we hope that you will join us for this special evening. It's a great way to raise your spirits and money for social justice at the same time!

About Crossroads

Crossroads Fund is a public foundation that raises money to support organizations working in and around Chicago for social and economic justice. Since 1981, we have distributed millions of dollars to hundreds of grassroots organizations—often the first foundation support for groups that go on to gain visibility and create lasting change throughout the city and beyond. Through grants, public programs, workshops and other technical assistance, we strive to reach a broad range of people and support a variety of paths toward progressive social change. A Board of Directors who work on the very issues that Crossroads supports helps to ensure accountability and effectiveness in grants decisions.

Each year, Crossroads Fund raises all of the money that we redistribute. We couldn't do it without people who show their commitment to social justice by pooling resources at Crossroads Fund. This provides a stable local support base for emerging and innovative strategies for change.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Crossroads Fund is a member of the Funding Exchange, a national network of locally-based community foundations committed to funding grassroots groups that address critical issues in their regions.

For more information, see www.fex.org.

2002–2003 Seed Fund Grants

The Seed Fund provides grants to organizations tackling issues that are often too new or too controversial to attract funding from traditional sources. Grants can support either a specific project, start-up costs, or general operations (often the most difficult type of funding to obtain).

This month, the Grantmaking Committee approved 17 grants for a total of \$76,000.

BEYOND MEDIA EDUCATION \$7,000 to create media for progressive organizing with a focus on girls' activism and women's incarceration.

773.973.2280 beyond@beyondmedia.org www.beyondmedia.org

ILLINOIS COALITION AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY \$7,000 to facilitate a coalition of organizations in setting a common strategy for death penalty abolition in Illinois, capitalizing on momentum from recent commutation of death row inmates.

312.849.2279 jboman@icadp.org www.icadp.org

JANE ADDAMS SENIOR CAUCUS \$7,000 for seniors organizing to improve access to social services, quality in-home healthcare, and affordable housing.

773.404.6429 jascl@dellempro.com

CHICAGO COMMITTEE TO DEFEND THE BILL OF RIGHTS

\$5,500 for ongoing education and advocacy regarding civil liberties and political repression, particularly in communities of color.

312.939.0675 zola2642@aol.com

KOREAN AMERICAN RESOURCE & CULTURAL CENTER \$5,500 for youth organizing and advocacy around the rights of undocumented youth.

773.506.9158 krcc@krccweb.org www.krccweb.org

AFFINITY \$4,500 to build a strong and sustainable organization offering leadership, social justice and support programs for the African American lesbian community.

773.324.0377 Affinity95@aol.com www.affinity95.org

LATINO UNION OF CHICAGO \$4,500 to organize day laborers around protection of their rights, and work toward legislation supporting workers' rights programs at city, state and national levels.

773.247.6624 joselandaverde@hotmail.com

WESTSIDE MINISTERS COALITION \$4,500 for leadership development and organizing among Westside residents, to bring positive community change through a range of intergenerational projects and partnerships.

773.626.3000 Westcoalition@aol.com westcoalition.org

CASA GUATEMALA \$4,000 for organizing within the Guatemalan community connecting media projects, cultural work, and community services, and to link local efforts with projects in Guatemala.

773.334.9101 casaguatemala@aol.com casaguatemala.org

A Little Help From Our Friends: Mobilizing Resources Through House Parties

Anyone who knows the Crossroads Fund knows that we support grassroots organizing for social change. What fewer people realize is that each year, we must do some organizing of our own to raise every dollar that we redistribute as grants and services. In recent months, over thirty Crossroads Fund supporters volunteered to help make this possible by opening their homes and inviting friends and colleagues to learn more about the Fund.

"The Crossroads Fund and the groups it supports are urgently needed at this critical moment in our society, but this is also a particularly challenging time to raise necessary dollars," stated host Omar McRoberts. "This is a simple way to take our giving a step further, helping ensure that Crossroads continues to thrive, even in these unstable times, as a key resource for grassroots groups working for social justice."

Five house parties hosted since October have

featured discussions with Crossroads grantees on such topics as affordable housing, women's and girls' leadership, and economic development. So far, this initiative has brought over a hundred new supporters to the Fund, raising over \$15,000—all with a little help from our friends.

Many thanks to our grantees who helped make these events a success, as well as our hosts and co-hosts: Bill Barclay and Peg Strobel, Andrew Deppe and Stephen Weiser, Ann Christophersen, Omar McRoberts and Shelley Davis, Ken Snyder and Rebecca Vnuk, Prexy Nesbitt, Linda and John Hillman, Cynthia Bianchi and Fernando Rizzo, Neena Hemmady and Joy Wright, Beth Richie, Catlin Fullwood, Jackie Kaplan and Ann Perkins, Barbara Kemmis and Gina Medalle, Alice Cottingham, Mary F. Morten, Lawrence and Betsy Benito, Iris Young, Lisa Pickens and Karen Long, Lucy and Peter Ascoli, Gary Arnold, Harry Chandler, and Chirag Mehta.



Mary Powers and Jani Hoft catching up at Ann Christophersen's home, where people gathered with Crossroads Fund grantees Beyondmedia and CLAIM.

For more information, or if you would like to host or co-host a house party, please contact us at 773.227.7676 or clare@crossroadsfund.org.

COMMUNITY OF UPTOWN RESIDENTS FOR AFFORDABILITY AND JUSTICE (COURAJ) \$4,000 to promote the development of a community that meets the needs of low and moderate income Uptown residents. **773.769.2085**

PARTNERSHIP TO END HOMELESSNESS \$4,000 to gain support for implementation of the Continuum of Care, a strategic plan to end homelessness in Chicago. **312.566.9255** partnership@interaccess.com

CAMPAIGN TO END THE DEATH PENALTY, CHICAGO CHAPTER \$3,500 to organize families of former death row inmates and the wider community to abolish the death penalty in Illinois and beyond. **773.489.5867** akim007@speakeasy.net nodeathpenalty.org

COALITION OF THE CHICAGO AMERICAN INDIAN COMMUNITY \$3,000 for start-up costs to promote collective action and strategic planning within the American Indian community. **773.275.5871** rjsmith@aic-chicago.org

ELGIN FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS \$3,000 for training, leadership development, and organizing among low-income Latino community members in Elgin regarding protection of human rights. **847.888.3215** Elgindhh@yahoo.com

LATINO ORGANIZATION OF THE SOUTHWEST \$3,000 to launch a participatory community research and assessment project to create an economic development plan for the Latino community on the Southwest side. **773.925.0397** raztecal@hotmail.com

NATIONAL BORICUA HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK \$3,000 for work in the Puerto Rican community on voter registration, defending civil liberties, and education regarding the US military on the island of Vieques. **773.342.8022** info@boricuanacional.org boricuanacional.org

WOMEN OF FAITH FOR PRISON JUSTICE \$3,000 to identify and address injustices and unmet needs of women and their families affected by incarceration. **773.468.2667** pat.davis@lssi.org

Thank you to our Grantmaking Committee volunteers:
Dale Asis, Lavida Davis, Jeff Edwards, Susan Motley, and Martha Wright.

Additional Grants & Programs (July 2002–February 2003)

DONOR ADVISED

Campus Greens \$7,150

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Cuentos Foundation \$3,000
San Lucas Workers Center \$2,820
Nuclear Energy Information Service \$2,755

WORKSHOPS /OUTREACH FOR NEW & EMERGING GROUPS

Seed Fund Orientation 10/02
Proposal Writing 101 10/02
Coming soon:

Technology and Grassroots Organizing

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Race, Civil Liberties, and
the War on Terrorism 9/02
The Death Penalty in Illinois:
A Post-Election Public Forum 11/02

For more information on our grants, programs and workshops, visit www.crossroadsfund.org or call 773.227.7676.

Welcome New Board Members

BILL BARCLAY, Senior Vice President of Strategic Planning at the Chicago Stock Exchange, has a history of activism that dates back to the anti-war movement during the 1960s.

DEMETRIS GIANNOULIAS, Chief Financial Officer of Broadway Bank in Chicago, is interested and involved in community organizing and economic development in low income communities.

OMAR MCROBERTS is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Chicago whose published works include analyses of the intersection of spiritual institutions and politics.

CHIRAG MEHTA is a Research Associate at the Center for Urban and Economic Development at the University of Illinois at Chicago, focusing on labor and community issues.

SHEILA O'DONNELL is the Director of Annual Support at the Oxbow program of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She is also the former President of the Board of Directors of Women in the Director's Chair.

ELLEN SCHUMER, Executive Director of COFI (Community Organizing for Family Issues), has extensive experience across a range of organizing styles.

Information is Power

Want to stay in the loop? Have news to spread? Don't miss out! Join hundreds of Crossroads supporters who contribute to and/or receive monthly online updates. This Crossroads Fund e-newsletter includes news and events from grantees, goings-on at the Fund, and other happening events around the city.

It's easy—just send a blank email to: CrossroadsFund-Info-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Or, mail us the enclosed envelope with your email address (and a contribution, if you're feeling especially generous!)

To submit an item for posting, send it one month in advance to dj@crossroadsfund.org.

Ways to Give

When you give to Crossroads Fund, your gift joins with many others to create a significant financial resource that will foster positive and fundamental social change throughout Chicago and beyond. Whether you can give \$25, \$250, \$2,500, or upwards of \$25,000, you are an important partner in efforts toward social and economic justice. Here are some options:

COME TO OUR ANNUAL BENEFIT and bring friends! See inside for details.

WRITE A CHECK It's simple. Also, does your employer match charitable contributions? This is a great way to leverage your dollars for change.

TRANSFER STOCK OR REAL PROPERTY and avoid capital gains taxes, while receiving a tax deduction.

CONTRIBUTE ONLINE with our secure service. It's quick, convenient, and safe way to contribute with your credit card: www.crossroadsfund.org.

BUILD THE RESERVE FUND and help guarantee a stable pool of resources for grassroots groups over the "long haul."

HONOR SOMEONE SPECIAL with a gift in their name—also a means of remembering and continuing an individual's commitment to social change.

MAKE A BEQUEST Make a lasting gift by leaving part of your estate to Crossroads Fund. Encourage your family members to do the same.

ESTABLISH A CHARITABLE TRUST Certain trust options may reduce your taxes now or in the future, while benefitting Crossroads Fund.

DONATE LIFE INSURANCE This affords a tax advantage while enabling you to give a larger gift than you might otherwise find possible.

SPREAD THE WORD Help widen our support base by introducing friends, family and colleagues to Crossroads Fund.

For further information, visit our website at www.crossroadsfund.org or call us at 773.227.7676.

CROSSROADS FUND

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Save the Date

APRIL 11, 2003

Crossroads Fund's Annual Benefit,
Seeds of Change

The Chicago Cultural Center
78 East Washington

To purchase tickets or for
more information,
visit www.crossroadsfund.org
or call 773.227.7676