

CROSSROADS FUND

Change, not charity

MEMBER OF THE FUNDING EXCHANGE

"Don't plan for our youth to fail. Build opportunities not jails!"

—Cheryl Graves, Children and Family Justice Center

NO ONE WAY WORKS, it will take all of us
shoving at the thing from all sides
to bring it down.

REVOLUTIONARY LETTER #8, by Diane di Prima¹

Our society has never quite known what to do with opinionated and rebellious youth—not when we were kids and not now. We accuse youth of not knowing, not understanding, impatience, and more. We make laws to “protect” children and youth and today we are creating an entire subculture to deal with what is perceived as “youth out of control.” There are special schools and classes, special prisons, anti-loitering ordinances, and statewide referendums that further limit the rights of children and teens.

A striking example of this is the recent passage of Proposition 21 in California. It has been called the “most draconian juvenile justice law in the nation.”² The heart of Proposition 21 is an increase in prosecutorial power to try teens as young as 14 as adults. Along with this is a call for increased prison construction (22,000 spaces in the next 30 years at a cost of \$1 billion).

In Chicago the introduction of a “zero tolerance” policy in the schools resulted in a 51 percent increase in suspensions and, in 1998, a 3000 percent increase in expulsions. In addition, Mayor Daley worked hard to recraft an Anti-Gang Loitering Ordinance which the US Supreme Court struck down in its first guise. But less than one percent of the 41,740 people arrested under the ordinance were found guilty of committing any crime.³

It is remarkably cynical to concentrate our civic energy and resources on controlling youth at a time when there has been a significant drop in the rate of

juvenile crime (since 1994 a 30 percent drop in the arrest rate for violent crime by juveniles).⁴

What isn't getting any better is the number of children who live in poverty. According to a recent report by the Children's Defense Fund,⁶ one in five or 13.5 million children live in poverty. Nearly half of those children live in extreme poverty (less than \$6500 a year for a family of three). Yet billions of federal welfare funds are sitting unused by states. The number of children without enough food increased nearly five percent from 1997 to 1998 and one-third of families leaving TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) had to cut the size of meals or skip meals because they didn't have enough food. 11.9 million children do not have health insurance; asthma rates are increasing fastest among low-income children whose families can least afford appropriate care; African American infants continue to die at twice the rate as white infants; in March 1999 over half a million children were in foster care (a 35 percent increase from 1990).⁵

“We call him ‘America's fifth child,’ the child representing the statistic of one in five children living in poverty. We neglect the fifth child, we don't feed him, we don't clothe him properly, we don't give him adequate shelter. We send him to school hungry, dirty, not dressed properly and expect him to compete with his peers for a quality education. . . . He lives in fear and we expect him to abide by the rules. But there is one thing we promise to do for him. If he gets into trouble we guarantee him a prison cell,”⁶ says Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund.

Poverty and the marginalization that comes with it are significant factors in the feeling of disenfranchisement that many young people experience. But

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About Crossroads

The Crossroads Fund is a public foundation that raises money to support organizations working on issues of social and economic justice. The Fund distributes money to grassroots groups throughout the Chicago metropolitan area. Crossroads funds broadly, but has identified some priority interests: low-income communities, civil and human rights (e.g. women, lesbian and gay), workers' rights, the environment, multi-racial efforts, and international solidarity work. Grants up to \$7,000 are made during biannual grant cycles to organizations with previous fiscal year expenses under \$150,000. Crossroads' grants provide both early start-up money and sustaining support.

Since awarding its first grants in 1981, Crossroads has been an important link between donors and activists with a shared commitment to a more just society. To insure that our grants have the greatest impact, the Crossroads board consists primarily of community members who are active on a broad range of social issues.

Proposal Deadlines

Crossroads has two general fund grant cycles per year. Proposal deadline dates for each year are **MARCH 1** and **SEPTEMBER 1**. Proposals must be delivered or postmarked no later than the deadline date.

Interested organizations should contact the office at (773)227-7676 for complete guidelines and application materials.



DANCIN' WITH THE GRASS

It's time again to put on your dancing shoes and celebrate progressive grassroots organizing in Chicago at **DANCIN' WITH THE GRASS**, Crossroads Fund's annual benefit. Join us on Friday, October 27 at the city's hottest venue for music, politics, and culture, the Hot-House. All are welcome to come!

A highlight of the evening is the presentation of the **RON SABLE ACTIVISM AWARDS**. To challenge and change the world requires creative and collective efforts, from organizing with communities using theater to popularize causes to organizing resources in order to sustain grassroots work. Crossroads remembers Ron's activist legacy and tenacious spirit with these awards.

This year we are proud to honor the work of two incredible grantee partners. **CHICAGO ADAPT** has been keeping disability rights issues at the forefront of the public policy debate for over a decade. Through direct-action organizing ADAPT has helped to win significant victories in the areas of healthcare, accessibility, and transportation services. **INSIGHT ARTS**, a long-time Crossroads grantee, has been working in Chicago's Rogers Park community for 9 years. Using liberatory theater to organize, Insight Arts has become an institution of learning and creative action and serves as a national model for organizing youth and other marginalized groups.

The two individuals who will receive the **RON SABLE ACTIVISM AWARD** have demonstrated strong and sustained commitment to organizing resources for social change work in Chicago. Both are former board members at Crossroads and have worked unselfishly to support a vibrant progressive community in Chicago. **ANN CHRISTOPHERSEN** is co-founder and owner of Women and Children First, a feminist bookstore that serves as a cultural and political center for the women's, children's, and lgbt communities of Chicago. **NANCY MYERS'** activism crosses multiple issues, including work with Citizen's Alert, Nicaragua Solidarity Committee, and feminist organizing in Chicago.

Music is always a highlight of the evening and this year we are delighted to have **OO-RISO-LI (OUR VOICE)**, a Korean women's percussion group, to open the



Ron Sable Award winners Ann Christophersen (l) and Nancy Myers (r)

evening. Members play instruments traditionally used for harvest rituals and for calling people to collective action (historically to resist colonial powers). The members of Our Voice are women of different ages and backgrounds—mothers, community activists, and churchgoers. **KAN-WIN** (Korean American Women in Need), a women's organization working with victims of sexual and domestic violence, is their common thread.

Our featured band is being brought back by popular demand and they will keep our feet dancing all night long. Chicago's **FUNKADESI** is one of the city's most exciting bands mixing blues, funk, reggae, Afro-Caribbean, and Indian music.

"Dancin' with the Grass is an event like no other," says event co-chair Barbara Ransby. "It is a unique opportunity for diverse groups and individuals to get together, exchange ideas, and celebrate their victories." In addition to celebrating and sharing, this festive event raises vital dollars for grassroots groups working hard to change the face of Chicago's politics. Through the generous support of and sponsorship by individuals, organizations, and businesses, Crossroads is able to fund some of the most creative and radical social change work in the region. For more information, to purchase tickets, or sponsor the event, please contact Crossroads at 773.227.7676.

We look forward to seeing you on October 27th. Bring your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. There's room for everyone to dance!

—Rhoda Rae Gutierrez

CROSSROADS FUND NEWSLETTER

Fall 2000

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Crossroads Website Up and Running!

Have you ever recycled the Crossroads newsletter and then realized you wanted to get in touch with one of the groups that Crossroads funds? Is one of the organizations you work with looking for a foundation that supports progressive organizing? Do you want to be among the first to hear about the important work being done by the Crossroads Fund and the many groups supported through our grants? Did you just win the lottery and want to share the wealth?

Now you have quick and easy access to the broad range of services and resources that Crossroads offers both donors interested in supporting progressive activism in Chicago and organizations doing the work. This first version of our website has all the basics about Crossroads: grantee descriptions and contact information, guidelines, and information on how to become a donor. Take a look and let us know what you think. While up and running, the site is still a work in progress. We launched it that way to be sure to get your input as we continue to refine both its look and content.

EMAIL NEWSLETTER

We hope you will visit our website often, but we'd also like to take the initiative in keeping you up to

date on happenings at Crossroads with our email newsletter. All you have to do is send a blank email to: CrossroadsFund-Info-subscribe@Groups.com or click on the **CrossroadsFund-Info** link on the **Contact Us** page of our website, and you will:

- receive updates on grantees from the groups themselves, the challenges they face, their successes, and the work ahead;
- learn about the latest developments at Crossroads;
- get up-to-date information about the state of progressive activism and philanthropy in Chicago.

CROSSCURRENTS: NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

The website and email newsletter are just two elements of our new **CrossCurrents** program, designed to make sure all our friends and colleagues, activists and donors, funders and grantees are engaged with us in ongoing dialogue on the issues facing our neighborhoods, communities, and our city. In the coming months look for continued refinement of our website and email newsletter, public forums, discussion groups, and informal dinner gatherings. We hope you will jump in and join the conversation.

—Steven Feuerstein

Robin Hood was Right: A Guide to Giving Your Money for Social Change

The new edition of **Robin Hood was Right** is now available and it is proving to be a unique resource for donors, activists, and social change organizations alike.

ALFRE WOODARD in her introduction tells us why she gives, "Along with philanthropy for social change, it (activism) helps tip the scales. It amplifies the voices traditionally ignored and disregarded. It puts the power to solve problems in the hands of the people who bear the brunt of them. It holds governments and corporations responsible....Giving for social change connects us beyond the borders that separate us." She continues, "Doing good takes more than good intentions. It requires listening to and building partnerships with the people affected by the problems. It demands patience and resolve. It

requires funding. Even small amounts of money, given in strategic places, can have a lasting impact."

We invite you to take a look at the new **Robin Hood**. You will learn about the politics of giving and the differences between traditional philanthropy and social change giving, explore some of the personal issues that affect our giving including attitudes toward money and wealth, and learn how to take control of your money. In addition, the book has an extensive bibliography of social change groups, resources, and progressive foundations.

For more information contact Crossroads or the Funding Exchange offices—the numbers are listed in this newsletter.

Funding Exchange Member and Affiliate Funds

FUNDING EXCHANGE

666 Broadway, Suite 500
New York, NY 10012
(212) 529-5300

APPALACHIAN COMMUNITY FUND

(West Virginia & the Appalachian counties of Virginia, Kentucky, & Tennessee)
(423) 523-5783

BREAD & ROSES COMMUNITY FUND

(5-county region of greater Philadelphia & Camden, New Jersey)
(215) 731-1107

CHINOOK FUND

(Colorado)
(303) 455-6905

CROSSROADS FUND

(Metropolitan Chicago)
(773) 227-7676

FUND FOR SANTA BARBARA

(Santa Barbara County, California)
(805) 962-9164

FUND FOR SOUTHERN COMMUNITIES

(Georgia, North & South Carolina)
(404) 292-7600

HAYMARKET PEOPLE'S FUND

(New England)
(617) 522-7676

HEADWATERS FUND

(Minneapolis/St. Paul)
(612) 879-0602

LIBERTY HILL FOUNDATION

(Los Angeles County)
(310) 453-3611

MCKENZIE RIVER GATHERING FOUNDATION

(Oregon)
(541) 485-2790

NORTH STAR FUND

(New York City)
(212) 620-9110

THE PEOPLE'S FUND

(Hawaii)
(808) 526-2441

THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY FUND

(Southwestern Pennsylvania 10-county region)
(412) 243-9250

VANGUARD PUBLIC FOUNDATION

(San Francisco Bay area & Northern California)
(415) 487-2111

WISCONSIN COMMUNITY FUND

(Wisconsin)
(414) 225-9965

Visit the Funding Exchange and sister funds at www.fex.org

Spring 2000 General Fund Grants

In June 2000, the Crossroads Fund Board of Directors awarded \$80,000 to 15 Chicago area organizations working toward social, economic, and political justice.



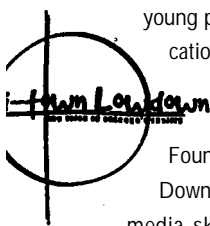
AFFINITY was founded five years ago to address the need to decrease isolation and promote inclusion for lesbians, bisexual women, and transgender people of African descent. They provide a community center that offers opportunities for Affinity members and community residents to collectively participate in education, support services, and activism. Through their programs, Affinity aims to link the importance of wellness and empowerment to the issues of gender, sexual orientation, race, and culture. **\$7,000 (773) 324-0377**

Founded in 1983 by a group of Guatemalan exiles, **CASA GUATEMALA** began by organizing around human rights violations and repression in Guatemala. As more Guatemalans fled to the US, the group began to address the needs of the Guatemalan community in the Chicago area. Their primary mission is to organize the Guatemalan community to promote leadership in addressing issues such as, job training, ESL classes, housing, child and health care, and training on immigration and legal rights. They also work to promote a model of cross-cultural, multi-ethnic relations between the Guatemalan community and other groups in Chicago.



\$5,000 (773) 348-8979

CHI TOWN LOW DOWN is a multi-media coalition of young people that offers a communication network for youth to voice their issues, call for action, and organize themselves. Founded in 1996, Chi Town Low Down trains youth about critical media skills, supports them to use newly acquired skills to produce print, video and internet media, and apply these media to social



change actions. The group prints a free quarterly bilingual newspaper and distributes it citywide. **\$7,000 (773) 334-8287**

CHICAGO ADAPT began in 1983 to demand access to public transportation for people with disabilities. Since then, the group has been at the forefront of bringing the issue of disability to public debate as a civil rights issue rather than a medical issue. They apply methods such as grassroots organizing, participation in the legislative process, and non-violent civil disobedience to achieve their goals. Chicago ADAPT's current work includes reforming home care services or Personal Assistance Services, and advocating for passage of the Medicaid Community Services and Support Act, a federal bill that would redirect Medicaid funds away from institutions and into community based, consumer controlled programs. **\$7,000 (773) 348-2841**

Formed in 1991, **CHICAGO INTERFAITH COMMITTEE ON WORKER ISSUES** educates and mobilizes Chicago's religious communities on worker issues to improve wages, health care, and working conditions, especially for low-wage workers in the Chicago area. The group has become a model for organizations around the country for improving the relationship between the labor and religious communities. Chicago Interfaith Committee on Worker Issues currently focuses on mobilizing religious support for the local day laborers' organizing activities and organizing congregations of color and trade unions to work together to provide real opportunities for young people of color to enter building trades apprenticeship programs. **\$5,000 (773) 728-8400**



Founded in 1993, **COMMUNITY ISSUES TASK FORCE (CITF)** is an organization made-up of residents of the Lathrop Homes and Hamlin Park neighborhoods. With a membership comprised predominantly of low-income residents, CITF focuses its work in three basic areas: bringing jobs to the neighborhoods; organizing a community-based Welfare to Work program; and training parents to work in area

schools. Their accomplishments include effectively organizing to keep the Vienna Beef factory in the neighborhood—it provides 500 living wage jobs—over a luxury condominium development. Their recent momentous victory was winning a contract that will deliver 300 jobs to local residents at a new retail outlet. **\$7,000 (773) 549-5025**

The **COMMITTEE TO END THE MARION LOCKDOWN (CEML)** was organized 13 years ago to fight against the brutality of the first control unit prison in the United States. Recently, CEML began the Prison Phone Project, a campaign to tackle an unfair business practice by the phone industry in Illinois. Illinois phone companies make 35 percent to 55 percent of their profits (about \$25 million) from prison phones calls by charging three to four times higher than calls from home phones. CEML's work includes a class-action lawsuit against the State of Illinois and the various phone companies to end their exploitative policies. CEML is also demanding that calls from prisons be billed at the same rate as home phones; the State of Illinois not accept commission from the phone companies; and prisoners calls not be recorded.



\$4,000 (773) 235-0070

ECOVIDA began in 1997 as an alternative model that promotes healthy ecological system within low-income, urban Latino communities. Through a popular education process, ECOVIDA educates community members on the importance of caring for the ecological system; creates ecologically sustainable opportunities for economic empowerment; and develops and enhances social awareness and leadership capacity within the Latino community for social change. Working closely with women and youth, ECOVIDA organizes four main programs: aquaculture (raising fish in homes), vermiculture (organic recycling), urban agriculture (community gardens and urban farming), and creative spirituality. The group's recent accomplishments include opening the Oscar Romero Ecological Training Center to organize young people through the urban agriculture project. **\$5,000 (312) 243-0687**

In 1995, a group of young Korean Americans established the **KOREAN AMERICAN RESOURCE AND CULTURE CENTER (KRCC)**. Since then, the group has worked to



build youth activism and leadership through activities such as pro-active campaigns and educational programs, dialogue and exchange with other

minority groups, and preservation of Korean ethnic and cultural heritage. KRCC's current activities include organizing the Korean American community around projects such as the Census 2000, Chicago Area Worker's Centers, and National Advocacy Day—Fix '96 (so-called, "immigration reform") Campaign. This year, KRCC marked its fifth anniversary by moving from an all volunteer run organization to having a part-time staff person.

\$5,000 (773) 506-9158

The **OCTOBER 22ND COALITION AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY, REPRESSION, AND THE CRIMINALIZATION OF A GENERATION AND THE STOLEN LIVES PROJECT** was formed

to fight the epidemic of police brutality. For the past four years, the Coalition has organized massive protests in Chicago as a part of the National Day of Protest on October 22nd. Throughout the year, the group maintains and develops the Stolen Lives Project, which documents incidents of the most extreme form of police brutality—murder—by collecting evidence from families and community members. The coalition seeks to unify various communities such as people of color, poor people, and LGBT, to build a broad-based movement to stop police brutality. **\$4,000 (773) 528-1701**



PINTIG ("PULSE") CULTURAL GROUP was founded in April 1991 to serve the voice of the Filipino American community by engaging in active cultural work that uses art as a means to celebrate the community's



rich history and culture. PINTIG's guiding philosophy is that "art

serves as a common language that links community members to each other and to those communities with whom similar experiences are shared, and in doing so empowers the community and renders it a

potent force for social change." This year, PINTIG will focus on a repertory production and educational series program dealing with the issue of how US militarization affects the culture and political life of struggling economies like the Philippines. The group will also begin to develop a blueprint for a Community Arts Center that they see as essential to their vision as their work for social change becomes institutionalized in our communities.

\$5,000 (773) 293-2787

In 1998, the **PRO.ME.SA COALITION** established the Arnold Mireles Center for Human Rights and Community Rights, a collaborative effort between six grassroots organizations including the Health Advocacy Project of Little Village, Erie Neighborhood House, and the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. (Arnold Mireles was an organizer in southeast Chicago who was assassinated by a slumlord he was trying to hold accountable.) The goal for the Center is to create a network of human rights promoters who act to mobilize their communities and act as resources for community members to understand and find creative solutions to human rights abuses. The Center's activities include: a series of trainings on personal development, community organizing and human rights; documenting human rights abuses and follow-up; and working on a 24-hour Spanish language hotline for victims of discrimination.

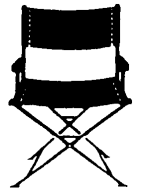
\$5,000 (773) 542-8870

ROGERS PARK COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK (RPCAN) is a membership-based, multi-issue organization working for community empowerment and social justice with the leadership of low and moderate income residents. The core of RPCAN's current work is fighting gentrification by organizing tenants around housing quality, displacement, saving affordable housing with HUD-owned buildings, and organizing small merchants affected by a planned TIF in the community. In all aspects of their work, RPCAN tackles broad and complicated aspects of gentrification through their Sustainable Community Agenda, a long-term strategic plan developed by community members that covers issues such as jobs and sustainable economic development, affordable housing, school reform and education, and

community safety and police accountability. **\$5,000 (773) 973-7888**

WOMEN IN THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR (WIDC) is a nationally renowned media-arts organization committed to exhibiting and promoting media made by women that reflects a diversity of culture, experiences, and analysis. WIDC

believes that media can be used as a tool to engender dialogue between individuals and between communities, while fostering a democratic space in which understanding, criticism, and activism for social justice are nurtured. WIDC's programs include the Annual Film and Video Festival, GIRL TALK (regularly scheduled workshops for young incarcerated women), and Youth Media Literary Project. **\$5,000 (773) 907-0610**

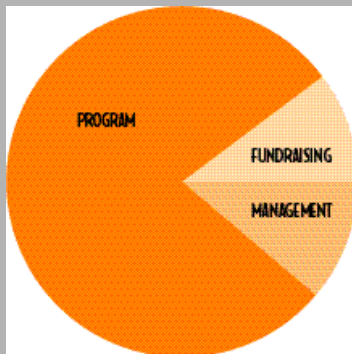


In 1997, women media educators who recognized that women's grassroots agendas were not a part of the "information revolution" formed the **WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION PROJECT (WiiP)**. Partnering with women most in need of media support because of geographical, political, or financial isolation, WiiP aims to promote grassroots women's agendas through media work. They offer access to equipment and training in media analysis, production, and distribution. The group is also working to establish women's media centers in various communities. WiiP's most recent accomplishment is a collaboration with Chicago Legal Aid to Incarcerated Mothers (CLAIM) on the video, *Visible Voices*. The video project is a vehicle for organizing women prisoners and former prisoners to discuss the affects of incarceration on their children, the policies of the prison system, and to develop ways to challenge unjust treatment of women prisoners.

\$4,000 (847) 869-6888

Statement of Financial Information

Revenue and expenditures for the year ended June 30, 1999



SUPPORT & REVENUE

Contributions	\$306,250
Net Assets Released from Restriction	\$201,545
Investment Income	\$6,982
Special Events	\$8,214
Total Revenue & Support	\$526,351

EXPENDITURES

Program	\$414,001
Fundraising	\$53,989
Management	\$58,940
Total Expenses	\$526,930

Excess of support & revenue over expenses	(\$579)
Unrestricted net assets, beginning of year	\$67,710
Unrestricted net assets, end of year	\$67,131

PROGRAM includes:

- all grants—general operating, emergency, technical assistance, capacity building, and donor-advised grants
- grantmaking—expenses related to grantee outreach, proposal evaluation and review, record keeping, follow-up evaluation, program development and evaluation
- education, training and communications—technical assistance, consultation, conferences, trainings, gatherings, and publications that provide information about grantee organizations, programs and services, social justice issues, and progressive philanthropy for grassroots organizations and donors
- volunteer coordination—student interns, program volunteers

FUNDRAISING includes printed materials, postage, special events, and meetings

MANAGEMENT includes financial management, administrative record keeping, correspondence, and response to informational requests

Crossroads thanks Tony Ruzicka of Tony Ruzicka & Associates for audited financial statements, contributed pro bono annually in memory of Jessica Patt.

Youth Organizing

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youth know that what they need to get out of poverty is opportunity. And they know that civil society can build opportunity into its infrastructure—the resources are available.

Chicago's youth are working hard to make their voices heard in City Hall, corporate and foundation boardrooms, and in neighborhood institutions. They are working within the system by trying to hold it accountable to the needs of youth and they are creating their own environments and opportunities for realizing their full growth and potential. They are creative, smart, resilient, and determined to make the world they live in better for everyone. In the process they nurture and educate themselves. They don't want answers. They want results.

YOUTH FIRST

"How can you say youth are the future and continue to pour money into beautification, civil servant salary increases, and jails?" William West posed this question to Mayor Daley at a public hearing on the city's proposed budget for next year. **COMMUNITY JUSTICE INITIATIVE/YOUTH FIRST** (CJI/Youth First), a coalition of ten community based youth activist groups that called a citywide Youth Summit in October 1999.⁷ Over 700 young people attended. They developed a platform for "positive youth development in Chicago" in the areas of health, sports, and jobs and they went back to their schools and neighborhoods to find out what their peers thought. Paramount to them was the inclusion of youth at all levels of public policy work—conception, planning, and implementation. They worked hard to get meetings with city commissioners and with Mayor Daley. Their message, "invest in programs that invest in youth."

CJI/Youth First activists did their homework and came to the meetings prepared to talk concrete numbers with anyone who would listen. And they did. CJI/Youth First brought its proposal to meetings with a number of city commissioners and to the preliminary budget hearings for the FY2001 city budget. According to Debi Chess-Mabie, a community organizer with CJI/Youth First, "It's a huge step. They're looking at what we're proposing. It's about economics." CJI/Youth First has a five point proposal: a ward by ward needs assessment by and for youth, increased city funding for summer jobs for youth, Community Panels for Youth (a successful program that is an alternative to litigation), assessment of health services for adolescents and

development of youth friendly Chicago Department of Public Health clinics, and a fund for proposals written for, by, and evaluated by youth.

Chess-Mabie says, "Youth know that the money is there and that it is not being invested in programs that address their needs." She extends the same request to funders that CJI/Youth First is making to the City: put young people first, give them the opportunity to get involved in meaningful ways, and include youth in decision making.

Why try and change the system from within? According to Chess-Mabie, "It is a long and hard struggle but we do it because it works."

INSIGHT ARTS

Insight Arts (IA) is a community based arts organization with a distinctly radical vision. It is based in Rogers Park. Most of the youth that participate in IA programs are significantly at risk in a neighborhood that is growing increasingly less responsive to the needs of its low-income and poor residents. The way IA is organized is as important as its work. Decisions are made with a high degree of input from youth themselves, participation of parent and family committees, and oversight by program staff. IA offers free arts education classes to youth and adults, presents regular performances, exhibitions and other events, and provides rehearsal space and administrative support for a wide range of performance collectives.

Young people from the neighborhood come to Insight Arts because it is a community center that supports their creativity and encourages them to develop their own voices. Executive Director Craig Harshaw says, "It's essential that art that is experimental, challenging, and controversial be experienced by as wide an audience as possible. Our classes increase literacy, nurture individual creativity, and engage youth in critical thinking." With these skills doors may open more easily, confidence and self-esteem will grow, and these youth will have a chance to build a better life for themselves and their community.

IA has a strong commitment to collaborate with groups working on a wide variety of social and economic justice issues at city, state, and national levels. They are expanding both the boundaries of their work and the audiences for it. At the annual conference of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty young people from IA performed two original works: one explored the situation of women on death row and the other, teen reaction to the juvenile death penalty.

Insight Arts actively cultivates relationships with

sister groups in Chicago and around the country. This year IA had a unique connection to youth activism in California that has resulted in further broadening of what some are calling a “new youth movement.” The strategies and tactics that were successful in mobilizing youth against Proposition 21 in California may prove to be equally powerful in other states. Harshaw is impressed with the ability of this generation of youth to make connections across issues without sacrificing their own needs and work. He criticizes the powers that be for “not looking at the systemic reason for youth violence—racism, sexism, social and economic injustice. They too easily explain it as ‘youth out of control.’”⁸

Harshaw would like to see funders and public policy makers include youth and learn to use “youth-friendly language that is accessible to youth.” He encourages funders to broaden their thinking and work with community-based groups

such as Insight Arts to find ways to insure the sustainability of youth organizations. In the meantime, IA continues to expand its base and increase its impact while cultivating and nourishing the young people of Rogers Park.

NO ONE WAY WORKS. These are just two examples of the activism of Chicago area youth. Crossroads is committed to continuing to fund a broad range of youth-directed organizations not because youth are the future but because they must help make our future. —Chris D’Arpa

⁸Revolutionary Letters, Diane di Prima (City Lights Books, 1974)

⁹“No Power Like the Youth,” Robin Templeton, *hip Mama: the Parenting Zine* (#23 The Teen Issue 2000)

¹⁰“Isn’t it Time to Put Youth First?” Community Justice Initiative/Youth First from the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health website.

¹¹The State of America’s Children Yearbook 2000, Children’s Defense Fund

¹²Ibid.

¹³Ibid.

¹⁴Community Justice Initiative/Youth First was founded in 1997. There are currently ten coalition members: Alternatives, Inc., Chi Town Low Down Alternative Press, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, Children and Family Justice Center of the Northwestern University School of Law Legal Clinic, First Defense Legal Aid, Ida B. Wells Behavioral Health Services, Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health, Prison Action Committee, Southwest Youth Collaborative, and Youth Struggling for Survival.

¹⁵According to both Harshaw and *hip Mama*, Proposition 21 succeeded in mobilizing youth in California. “The by-product of the passage of Prop 21 is that we now have a stronger youth movement,” said 17-year old organizer Pecolia Manigo in *hip Mama*. Her organization, Third Eye Movement is part of Critical Resistance Youth Force, a coalition of 38 youth groups in California.

RESOURCES

CHILDREN AND FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

Northwestern University School of Law Legal Clinic
312.503.3100
www.law.nwu.edu/depts/clinic/cfjc/index.htm

CHILDREN’S DEFENSE FUND

202.628.8787
www.childrensdefense.org

COMMUNITY JUSTICE INITIATIVE/YOUTH FIRST

773.476.3534 ext. 28
www.cjiyouthfirst.org

HIP MAMA: THE PARENTING ZINE

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Welcome New Board Members!

Crossroads Fund is delighted to welcome four new board members. They came on in June and are veterans of one grantmaking cycle. **HARRY CHANDLER** is a computer professional who graduated with a masters degree in Computer Science from DePaul University. Harry has been on the board of Access Living (AL advocates, organizes and educates for the rights of people with disabilities) for five years and is currently chair of their Program Committee and member of the Executive Committee. He is particularly interested in the Crossroads Fund because he wants to “raise awareness of progressive politics in Chicago and around the country.” **PRUDENCE BROWNE** moved from New York to Chicago four years ago to attend the School of the Art Institute. She proudly refers to herself as an “art school drop-out.” Prudence works at Street Level Youth Media. In addition, she is active with an emerging queer people of color national organizing effort and with local community work as a member of Queer to the Left and WiiP (Women’s International Information Project). **ROBERTO GONZALES** has been working with youth for 12 years in immigrant communities around the US and in Chicago. He is a co-founder of Video Machete and works at the Associated Colleges of the Midwest Urban Studies Program. **JAMES THINDWA** is on staff as Lead Organizer at Chicago Metro Seniors in Action. He is also co-director of Chicago



Jeanne Kracher with new board members Prudence Browne, Rob Gonzales and Harry Chandler (l to r)

Jobs for Justice and a board member of the Gillard Institute which links up “at-risk” youth with senior mentors. James is a musician who plays guitar and percussion with an informal band on the southside.

It’s great having Harry, Prudence, Roberto, and James on board. We are grateful for the experience, energy, and fresh ideas they are bringing to our work.

We also welcome three interns. **CLARE GOLDEN** comes to us from the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago and will be working at Crossroads through next May. **J.T. GARCIA** and **JULIA WEITZER** are both Colorado College students in the Urban Studies Program of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest. J.T. and Julia will be working with us for the Fall grant cycle until January. —Jeanne Kracher

CROSSROADS FUND

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Gerardo Montemayor
Lisa Marie Pickens*
Barbara Ransby
James Thindwa
Tom Wilson
*on leave

STAFF

Karin Candelaria Program & Finance Coordinator
Inhe Choi Program Director
Jeanne Kracher Executive Director
J.T. Garcia, Clare Golden, and Julia Weitzer Interns

What Can You Do To Help Crossroads Today?

There are many ways to give. If you haven't made a contribution recently, please do so.

WRITE A CHECK This is the simplest way to donate.

MAKE A PLEDGE Make a monthly pledge to maximize your donation or make an annual pledge over several years to help ensure Crossroads' longevity.

TRANSFER STOCK Avoid paying capital gains tax and still receive a tax deduction by giving stock that has appreciated.

MAKE A BEQUEST Make a lasting gift by leaving Crossroads part of your estate. Encourage your parents or grandparents to do the same.

ESTABLISH A TRUST Certain trust options may reduce your taxes and benefit Crossroads.

GIVE REAL ESTATE AND OTHER PROPERTY Donate a personal residence, even a vacation home, while retaining the right to use it during your lifetime. Gifts of real estate can help you avoid eventual capital gains or estate taxes.

DONATE LIFE INSURANCE Donating your policy to Crossroads affords tax advantage while allowing you to give a larger gift.

ESTABLISH A MEMORIAL Honor someone you admire and/or love with a gift. We'll convey your feelings and our delight.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EMPLOYER MATCHING Find out if your employer has a policy of matching your charitable contributions.

DONATE IN-KIND GIFTS Goods or services, such as office equipment, printing, design, photography, and other professional expertise, can be extremely valuable to Crossroads.

SPREAD THE WORD Help us to widen our base of support by introducing Crossroads to your friends. We will be happy to send information, meet with them, or help host a house party.

BUILD THE RESERVE FUND Consider making a donation to our reserve fund. You may make either a one-time gift or a pledge over several years.

VOLUNTEER We rely on the volunteers to truly make Crossroads a community foundation. You can help us with large mailings, special events, and other projects.

For further information, please contact Crossroads at 773-227-7676.

Crossroads Fund is a 501 (c) (3) organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

CROSSROADS FUND

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