

AT THE CROSSROADS

SUPPORTING
WOMEN'S
JUSTICE THEN
AND NOW**Crossroads Fund proudly awarded a \$26,374 grant to the Chicago Community Bond Fund (CCBF) this past December.**

The grant was awarded through the Women's Justice Fund (WJF) which was created circa 1995 at Crossroads Fund. By making this grant, Crossroads Fund transferred the assets and intent of the WJF to the newly-created CCBF, where it will continue to be used to support female victims of domestic violence.

During the 1990s, a bond fund model was utilized in other parts of the country and was seen as an effective way to respond to situations where a woman believed she would be killed if she did not practice self-defense. If an injury occurred to her attacker, the woman would call the police and would often be convicted of a crime, instead of having her actions be recognized as self-defense, at which point legal and bail support was required. Crossroads Fund created a "loan fund" as a way to raise funds and attention to these violent attacks and instances of sexism in the court system. The Women's Justice Fund utilized the model of a revolving loan fund, which meant that the money raised was loaned out and returned once court proceedings finished so that many individuals could receive its benefits.

Crossroads Fund/WJF raised the initial pot of money from a small group of donors who were committed to the issues surrounding battered women. Donors worked at organizations like Travelers and Immigrants Aid (TIA), Greenhouse Shelter, and Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers (CLAIM), and were counselors, lawyers, and activists. Their daily work around domestic violence meant that they interacted with women who were directly affected by this issue and were therefore eligible to utilize the revolving bail fund. According to WJF co-founder Alice Cottingham (and at the time Crossroads Fund Executive Director), "We saw the Fund as a way to express solidarity, challenge the injustice of a system that didn't protect women but threw the book at them when they defended themselves, and provide concrete assistance that greatly increased the odds that women would not be convicted [or] lose their children."

As the founders of WJF moved on to new chapters in their lives, the fund was used less and less. Chicago Community Bond Fund emerged as an alternative home for the Women's Justice Fund. The CCBF is a project that is committed to providing bond for people who are locked up because of their inability to pay, while also at the same time advocating for the elimination of bond entirely within the justice system. This past December, they organized around raising bail for Naomi Freeman, a woman who was being held in jail on charges of murdering her attacker.

Exploring ways to be supportive of this work, Jeanne Kracher, Crossroads Fund Executive Director, was part of a CCBF informational working group. Jeanne contacted Alice Cottingham and other WJF founders Gail Smith, Virginia Quinonez and Peggy Byrne, as well as the Crossroads Fund Board of Directors. The consensus was that the CCBF was a logical new home for the Women's Justice Fund and that the funds could immediately be used to support the release of Ms. Freeman. Alice Cottingham stated, "This seems like nothing but benefits to me. Moving to the CCBF means that bail loans are much easier for community members to learn about and access. WJF's move means that an organization singularly devoted to making bond available now has the potential to develop a large base of donors so that more women (and others) can benefit. Most importantly, it means that a fund created for one set of people to help them survive in the criminal justice system is now attached to a much bigger and more radical vision of social and economic justice, namely, the end of bond, one strategy toward transforming the current, broken system."

Crossroads Fund is thrilled to have been able to contribute to this great new project and looks forward to continue working with the Chicago Community Bond Fund as they develop and grow.

For more information about the Chicago Community Bond Fund, visit their website at chicagobond.org or call 1-844-END-BOND.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

About Crossroads Fund

Crossroads Fund supports community organizations working on issues of racial, social, and economic justice in the Chicago area. A public foundation, Crossroads Fund pools the resources of individuals, foundations and businesses, building a broad base of support for grassroots organizations working for social change.

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MEGAN CUSICK

is the Grassroots Specialist in the Office for Library Advocacy at the American Library Association. A former Chicago Public Schools teacher librarian and current CTU member, Megan has been involved in a variety of efforts to support fully-resourced neighborhood public schools in Chicago. She is a founding member of Chi School Librarians, the former Intellectual Freedom Representative for Illinois School Library Media Association, and an advocate for youth empowerment.



MARGARET J. HUNTER

is a licensed social worker currently serving as a Mental Health Clinical Practitioner at Heartland Alliance, where she provides counseling and advocacy for unaccompanied child migrants. After graduating from the University of Chicago, Margaret worked with immigrant communities in Paris, France then returned to the United States to pursue her Masters in Social Work. Margaret is passionate about serving refugee and asylum seeker communities in particular and advancing social justice at home in Chicago as well as abroad. Margaret participated in the Crossroads Fund's pilot Giving Project in 2015 and is a member of the Chicago chapter of Resource Generation.



AGNES MENESES

is the Director of Strategic Initiatives at Chicago Foundation for Women where she helps lead collaborative efforts to address issues impacting women and girls. Agnes spent twelve years as a Program Officer at Alphawood Foundation where she gained wide experience in supporting Foundation grantees ranging from arts, arts education and environmental organizations to those focused on addressing community needs and pressing social justice issues. Prior to joining Alphawood, Agnes served as a Manager of Annual Funds for the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago and worked in business and market development for PWC's Chicago office.



Christine Plautz

Barbara Y. Phillips

THANKS TO OUR OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS!

We would like to thank our former board Co-Chair Christine Plautz and Barbara Y. Phillips for their service to the Crossroads Fund.

COVER PHOTOS

Left: Photo by Jessica Koscielniak/Sun-Times

Right: Naomi Freeman who was released on bond on December 23, 2015

CELEBRATING THE CALL FOR JUSTICE AT SEEDS OF CHANGE 2016

Over 500 progressive changemakers gathered at the Chicago Cultural Center on Friday, April 8 to celebrate this year's movement wins at Crossroads Fund's annual benefit, Seeds of Change. The program honored Black Youth Project 100 (BYP100), the Coalition to Revitalize Walter H. Dyett High School, and the Invisible Institute. Event sponsors included Big Delicious Planet and Revolution Brewing.



BYP100 leaders Tasha Viets-VanLear, Charlene Carruthers, and Janae E. Bonsu



Darryl Holiday and Chaclyn Hunt of the Invisible Institute accept the Ron Sable Award for Activism



National Lawyers Guild and friends



The Coalition to Revitalize Walter H. Dyett High School receives the Donald F. Erickson Synapses Award



Rasmea Odeh



Becky Huinker, Alexia Ward, Megan Carney, and Jennifer Meresman



Carolina Gaete, Cecile Carroll, Kendrick Washington II, Xia Xiang W. and Mathilda de Dios



Lynda J. Tipton Memorial Award for Social Justice recipients Black Youth Project 100 (BYP100)



Giving Project member Jon Quinn and Alderman Carlos Ramirez-Rosa

View more photos and video from our annual benefit at crossroadsfund.org.

BECOME A PARTNER IN CREATING SOCIAL CHANGE

When you give to Crossroads Fund, your gift is pooled with others and becomes a significant resource to foster social change in Chicago and beyond.

Here are some ways you can give to Crossroads Fund:

JOIN THE GIVING PROJECT

and organize with other community members across race and class to fundraise and do grantmaking.

ATTEND OUR ANNUAL BENEFIT

and bring friends!

WRITE A CHECK

and return it in the enclosed remittance envelope. Find out if your employer matches contributions — that is an easy way to make your gift go much further.

BECOME A SUSTAINER

and have your contribution deducted from your credit card monthly or quarterly. As a sustainer, you can take pride in knowing that you are one of our most reliable sources of support.

CONTRIBUTE ONLINE

via our secure service. It's quick, convenient and safe — just log on to www.crossroadsfund.org.

HONOR OR REMEMBER SOMEONE SPECIAL

with a gift in their name.

CO-HOST A HOUSE PARTY

and help us spread the word about the good work of Crossroads Fund to your colleagues, friends and family.

REMEMBER CROSSROADS FUND IN YOUR WILL, INSURANCE AND RETIREMENT PLAN

and all three are easy ways to have a lasting impact for social justice.

OPEN A DONOR ADVISED FUND

and partner with us to have an impact on social justice issues.

ESTABLISH A CHARITABLE TRUST

to benefit Crossroads Fund, and reduce your tax burden.

For more information, please contact Emmanuel Garcia, Communications and Development Associate, at **773.227.7676** or emmanuel@crossroadsfund.org



THANK YOU CROSSROADS FUND VISIONARIES

These dedicated individuals have included Crossroads Fund in their will or estate plan, ensuring the long-term strength and stability of the fund and leaving a legacy of their values and vision.

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|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Anonymous (3) | Jeanne Kracher & Laura McAlpine |
| Bill Barclay & Peg Strobel | Nancy Fleck Myers |
| Henry T. Chandler, Jr.* | Susan Nussbaum |
| Ferd Eggan* | Patricia O'Brien |
| Sandy & Mark Ehlert | Sheila O'Donnell & Nora Gallagher |
| Susan K. Eleuterio & Tom Sourlis | Rachel Wallis & Alex Rocklin |
| Ruth & Dale Fast | Bob Weissbourd |
| Maggie Gibbs* | Tom Wilson |
| Linda Harlan | Iris Young* |
| Neena Hemmady | Jaquelyn Zevin |
| Barbara Kemmis | |

For more information, please contact Jeanne Kracher, Executive Director, at **773.227.7676** or jeanne@crossroadsfund.org

**in memory*



@crossroadsfund

CONNECT WITH US!

Visit crossroadsfund.org/annualreport2015 for the complete report.

Thanks to our donors, grantees, partners and friends for your support.

FIND OUR FISCAL YEAR 2015 ANNUAL REPORT ONLINE!

www.crossroadsfund.org

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CROSSROADS FUND | change, not charity

