

# At The

# CROSSROADS

volume 6 number 1 Fall 2010

## CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF THE LISA FITTKO INTERNSHIP!

We are delighted to announce that this is the fifth anniversary of the Lisa Fittko Internship at Crossroads Fund. We look forward to hosting an intern this year. In 2005 several friends of Lisa Fittko approached Crossroads Fund about an internship program that would provide a young person with the opportunity to learn about a wide range of social justice issues and groups, while working to make change.

Over the time that we have hosted the internship, we have been lucky to work with four bright and talented young people. Rachel Wallis, the first Fittko Intern, spent her internship working on activities related to our 25th Anniversary, including putting together an exhibit that highlighted the work of our grantees over two and a half decades, and coordinating a campaign to raise money for HIV/AIDS work in Rwanda and in Chicago. Rachel is doing fundraising and communications work with three different activist projects: the Other Worlds collaborative; AREA Chicago; and the Chiapas Media Project.

Our second Lisa Fittko Intern Timothy Jones-Yelvington helped to put together a comprehensive evaluation of our grantees and their efforts for social justice. After the conclusion of his term, Tim was hired at Crossroads Fund as a Program Associate.

Lisa Avila was the third Lisa Fittko Intern. Lisa spent her internship working to expand our Technical Assistance programs, strengthening the trainings that we offer to grassroots groups. Lisa is now a social worker with families in Little Village.

Alexia Rice-Henry was the fourth Fittko Intern. Alexia worked primarily in the Development Department, on the annual event as well as other fundraising activities. Alexia is the Development Intern at Affinity Community Services, while she finishes her final year in Non-Profit Administration at North Park University.



*Lisa Fittko interns (left to right): Rachel Wallis, Alexia Rice-Henry, Tim Jones-Yelvington and Lisa Avila*



*The original Fittko Internship Committee (left to right): Jackie Kirley, Vreni Naess, Gloria Carrig, Sue Purrington, and Jackie Zevin*

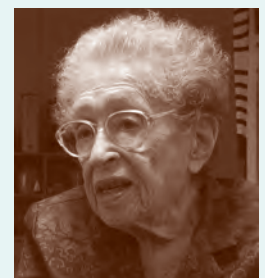
We will hire the fifth Fittko Intern this winter. Watch for a position description, and if you know any young people who would make great candidates please send them our way.

## ABOUT LISA FITTKO

All her life, on two continents, Lisa Fittko advocated and worked for social justice and political rights. From her teenage years until she fled Europe in 1941, Lisa worked to oppose fascism. She and her husband helped to lead people out of Nazi-occupied France into Spain.

When she settled in Chicago, Lisa helped organize Hiroshima Day in Hyde Park, was active as a precinct captain, tirelessly demonstrated against the Vietnam war, picketed for Farm Workers, helped to organize clerical workers at the University of Chicago, and served as board president of Harper Square, a housing co-op designed to integrate residents both racially and economically.

Lisa passed away in 2005. She is remembered by her friends, family, and a global community of individuals who are grateful for her efforts to fight fascism and injustice. Crossroads Fund is honored to be selected as the recipient of funds to support an internship in memory of Lisa Fittko.



*Lisa Fittko*

# ANNOUNCING THE 2010 GRANTEES!

## ABOUT CROSSROADS FUND

Crossroads Fund supports community organizations working on issues of 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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*The Campaign for Better Healthcare bus rally.*

We are pleased to announce our 2010 grantees! Read all about their work on the following pages. This year, in addition to grantmaking through our regular programs, Crossroads Fund responded to one of the most urgent issues of our times with a special Healthcare Justice Initiative.

The Campaign for Better Healthcare is working with three low-income communities of color on the South and West sides of Chicago to help grassroots consumers understand how the new healthcare reform legislation will impact them and their communities. They are also supporting these communities in organizing to ensure the legislation is implemented as inclusively as possible. The Campaign believes it is important for communities to see the benefit of the current legislation in order for more transformative changes to be possible in the long-term.

Health and Medicine Policy Research Group (HMPRG) is working with communities who access the healthcare safety net in Cook County, which includes community clinics, Cook County hospital and charity care at non-profit hospitals. HMPRG will organize these communities – many of whom still face significant barriers to accessing healthcare – to preserve and improve the local safety net and to advocate for more comprehensive reform.

In putting together this special funding initiative, we discussed some of the failings of the current reform, including gaps in coverage for undocumented immigrants and incarcerated individuals. We hope to create dialogues across our community of grantees that will elevate the role of healthcare in social justice work.

## WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Join our e-mail list and receive a bi-monthly newsletter reporting on current Crossroads Fund and community events. In an effort to save paper and resources, we are moving more and more online – please join us! Sign up by visiting our website at [www.crossroadsfund.org](http://www.crossroadsfund.org) or mail back the enclosed reply envelope with your e-mail address. **We won't sell or trade your name – ever!**

CROSSROADS FUND is a member of the Funding Exchange (FEX), a national network of locally-based community foundations committed to supporting grassroots groups that address critical issues in their regions. [www.fex.org](http://www.fex.org).

# HONORING A DECADE OF LEADERSHIP

Ten years ago, a great thing happened at the Crossroads Fund: we were fortunate to hire Executive Director, Jeanne Kracher. Under Jeanne's thoughtful leadership, Crossroads Fund has taken great strides, including:

- Passed the \$5 million mark in grants given away;
- Celebrated our 25th Anniversary as a Fund – and are looking forward to celebrating our 30th next year;
- Raised our first endowment gift of \$1 million and received the largest unrestricted gift ever (\$400,000);
- Established the Youth Fund for Social Change and expanded Donor Advised programs;
- Nurtured countless leaders in their work to create racial, social and economic justice in our city.

We will honor Jeanne's tenth anniversary with a special gift to our communities, the Building Strong Leaders Campaign, which will provide resources to support Crossroads Fund staff, board members and grantees to explore development opportunities and trainings, with an emphasis on building the next generation of leaders. The Building Strong Leaders Campaign will allow us to strengthen our internal capacity and serve as a flexible resource to support our grantees.

Our grantmaking has always focused on fostering the development of indigenous leadership in our communities. In fact, Jeanne came out of community work and was, at one point, a Crossroads Fund grantee! Thanks for all of your work Jeanne!



*Jeanne Kracher, Executive Director of Crossroads Fund.*



*Youth at the National Student Bill of Rights Peoples Movement Assembly at the U.S. Social Forum.*

## REPORT FROM U.S. SOCIAL FORUM

In 2010, Crossroads Fund helped facilitate opportunities for our grantees to build relationships with other activists, across issues and communities. One of the most notable of these was the U.S. Social Forum, which Crossroads Fund staff and many of our grantees attended, several with our support. The Forum brought more than 15,000 supporters of grassroots social change from around the country and world together in Detroit to strategize across issues for a more just world.

Our grantees led and participated in movement-building through People's Movement Assemblies, gatherings where grassroots activists and community members come together to create collective visions and action plans, like a national agenda to prioritize economic and racial justice in the LGBT/Queer movement, or a youth-led campaign for a National Student Bill of Rights to address inequality in our education system.

Events like the U.S. Social Forum provide needed space for grassroots activists to understand the interconnectedness of issues, brainstorm new ways to work more effectively, all towards building stronger leaders and movements. We look forward to helping support the creation of similar spaces locally in 2011.



## 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.

Anonymous (4)  
Bill Barclay & Peg Strobel  
Henry T. Chandler, Jr.  
Ferd Eggen \*  
Neena Hemmady  
Barbara Kemmis  
Patrica O'Brien  
Sheila O'Donnell & Nora Gallagher  
Bob Weissbourd  
Iris Young \*

For more information, please contact Jeanne Kracher, Executive Director, at 773.227.7676 or [jeanne@crossroadsfund.org](mailto:jeanne@crossroadsfund.org)

*\* in memory*

## 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:

- 👉 **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](http://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 OR RETIREMENT PLAN** 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 Sheila O'Donnell, Development Director, at 773.227.7676 or [sheila@crossroadsfund.org](mailto:sheila@crossroadsfund.org).**



*Mini golfers at the event.*

## FOURTH ANNUAL MINI GOLF, BIG CHANGE

On August 4, 2010, friends and supporters of Crossroads Fund gathered at the Diversey Mini Golf course for a round of golfing, delicious sandwiches, and fun to benefit the Crossroads Fund. Despite heavy rain during the day, the start of the outing saw a beautiful evening. Close to 50 people attended the event and we raised \$2,100 to support our programs. Thanks for coming out and we hope to see you next year!

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
Crossroads Fund's  
annual benefit celebration,  
*S seeds of Change,*  
will take place on:  
Friday, April 1, 2011  
at the  
Chicago Cultural Center  
77 E. Washington  
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

**CROSSROADS FUND** | change, not charity  
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