

At The

CROSSROADS

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CROSSROADS FUND GRANTEEES PUSH BACK AGAINST BUDGET CUTS

Over the last several months, organizations across Chicago and the nation have anxiously watched as government officials on the state and federal level debated what funding would be cut in the name of austerity. Crossroads Fund grantees are doing more than just watching, they are taking to the streets and the halls of power to protect social services from devastating cuts.

On February 25th, 2011, a broad coalition of Chicago grassroots organizations, including current and former Crossroads Fund grantees, gathered for a teach-in about the impact of cuts to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. The group, which included members of the Jane Addams Senior Caucus, the Metropolitan Tenants Organization, Kenwood Oakland Community Organization, and more, then moved downtown, where they blocked rush hour traffic as part of a civil disobedience. As Liz Brake from the Jane Addams Senior Caucus explained, "The Republicans want to cut \$2.5 billion from LIHEAP, the Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program, but keep \$2.5 billion in drilling subsidies for the oil

industry. They plan to cut \$8.9 billion from low-income housing but keep the same amount for mortgage deductions on vacation homes."

Crossroads Fund grantee groups go beyond protesting cuts, and are proposing alternatives to provide more funding and end budget deficits. On March 19th, parents, teachers, and community members marched from the Jenner Elementary Academy of the Arts to a nearby Cadillac dealership, to call attention to the fact that Tax Increment Financing Districts siphon tax dollars from neighborhood schools, often directing funding to profitable corporations, like the luxury automobile retailer. And on April 12th, a coalition of 10 Chicago organizations, including Crossroads Fund grantees Southside Together Organized for Power and Lakeview Action Coalition, protested outside of Bank of America, to demand that the corporation and others like it pay the \$3.8 billion in taxes that they should have paid this year, but which they avoid thanks to government policies that favor corporations.

STAND UP FOR WORKER RIGHTS!

Dozens of Chicago activists traveled to Madison, Wisconsin to support weeks of protest against draconian anti-union laws proposed by the governor. Current and former Crossroads Fund grantees, including Southside Together Organized for Power, Chicago ADAPT, Jobs with Justice, Iraq Veterans Against the War, and Youth Fund Grantees Fearless Leading by the Youth (FLY) and Gen Y organized caravans of marchers to support the protests. In Chicago, thousands turned out on April 9th to mark the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, and to proclaim solidarity with workers at the "We Are One" rally.



FLY youth at the Wisconsin Capitol.

Photo by Sarah Jane Rhee.

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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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.

Crossroads Fund was excited to welcome a new slate of board members in January, 2011, including:



Kaberi Banerjee Murthy is the Program Director for Education, Arts and Culture, and Civic Affairs at Crown Family Philanthropies. She has spent nearly a decade as a grantmaker, working at local, regional and national foundations. Kaberi is a National Director for Resource Generation, a Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow, and a member of the Asian Giving Circle in Chicago.



Alejandra L. Ibañez is a Program Officer at Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation. She immigrated to the United States from Chile in 1977. Since making Chicago her home in 1989, Alejandra has worked in both the public and non-profit sectors, including serving as Chief of Staff to Illinois State Representative Sonia Silva and serving as Executive Director at Pilsen Alliance.



Mark Rodriguez currently serves as the Executive Director of Changing Worlds. He has worked in the non-profit sector for over 15 years in the areas of youth development, community organizing, health care and education. His work in philanthropy has included grant review for the Department of Cultural Affairs and Woods Fund of Chicago, among others.



Daryl Woods is a Managing Partner of American Health Resources, Inc., a health care management company. Her background includes philanthropy, public policy, planning, and research. She has worked for the City of Chicago, the Chicago Community Trust, Woods Fund of Chicago, and the Chicago Urban League.

...AND NEW STAFF MEMBERS!

Kristina Roque is our new Administrative Coordinator. Kristina has spent the last eight years as a volunteer in the Chicago Public School (CPS) system. She has made a profound impact in CPS by serving on the Local School Council for six years and is a founding Board member of a non-profit Parents & Teachers Organization. An advocate for both the fine arts and dual language programs, her efforts have increased parent involvement in schools, raised funds to provide teacher grants and improved communication among parents, teachers and administration.

Rachel Wallis, Communications and Events Manager, first came to Crossroads Fund as a Lisa Fittko intern in 2006. In the intervening years she has used media and grassroots fundraising to support a wide range of social justice organizations in the US and Mexico. In addition to her work at Crossroads Fund, she currently serves on the boards of AREA Chicago and the Chiapas Media Project/Americas Media Initiative.

WE'RE NOT FOOLING AROUND AT CROSSROADS FUND

April Fool's Day, 2011, was a day for us to seriously celebrate at our Annual Benefit, Seeds of Change. We were happy to present Quentin Young and the Whittier Parent Committee with the Ron Sable Award for Activism. We were also proud to acknowledge the motivated young people of the Immigrant Youth Justice League with the Donald F. Erickson Synapses Award.

Over 450 guests enjoyed a spirited performance by JaroChicanos and helped raise \$86,000 for social change in Chicago.

We hope that a good time was had by all Crossroads Fund grantees, award recipients, volunteers, and friends. We'd like to thank everyone that helped make this year's event such a success and hope to see you all again in 2012 at our 30th Anniversary Extravaganza!



Photo by Sarah Jane Rhee.

Whittier Parent Committee was presented the Ron Sable Award for Activism.



Photo by Sarah Jane Rhee.

Immigrant Youth Justice League was presented the Donald F. Erickson Synapses Award.



Photo by Sarah Jane Rhee.

Laura McAlpine with Quentin Young, Ron Sable Award for Activism Recipient.



Photo by Sarah Jane Rhee.

Mary Morten and Gaylon Alcaraz.



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 Eggan *
- 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

* 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

- 👏 **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.

HELP US CELEBRATE THE BIG 3-0!

Crossroads Fund is entering our 30th Anniversary, and we hope that you will join us in toasting 30 years of making change in Chicago! We are launching a new website which will feature grantee stories. We will highlight some key social justice movements we have supported in our 30 years. And in Spring of 2011 we will have a big party to mark the occasion. We may be moving towards our "middle years" but our grantmaking is as cutting edge as ever – and our fresh Youth Fund for Social Change is even more central to our work.

So raise a glass, let us treat you to a slice of cake, and help us make sure that this is a great year for justice in Chicago!

Contact Sheila O'Donnell, Development Director, at 773-227-7676 or sheila@crossroadsfund.org if you would like to learn more about how you can host a birthday party and help us celebrate the big 3-0!