

At The CROSSROADS

volume 2 number 1 Fall 2006



1983: Robyn Gabel (then collective member, now Executive Director of the *Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition*) works with a client at the *Chicago Women's Health Center (CWHC)*. CWHC received the first grant given by Crossroads Fund, in 1981. Photo by Kay Berkson.



Members of the *Coalition of African, Asian, Arab, European and Latino Immigrants of Illinois (CAAAELII)*, a current Crossroads Fund grantee, at an anti-Minutemen demonstration in 2005.

Youth from *Woodlawn East Community And Neighbors (W.E.C.A.N.)*, an early Crossroads Fund grantee. Photo by Kay Berkson.

CROSSROADS FUND CELEBRATES OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY!

In 1979, a group of young people got together with an idea. They envisioned a foundation where **community members** would have control of the money and of grantmaking decisions, where the people who were most affected by and experienced at confronting racial, economic, and social injustice would make decisions about where to put resources to have the most **significant impact for social change**. They dreamed of a partnership of activists and donors — of accountability to community — so **that people from all walks of life would be invested in progressive community change**. They were dedicated to building a solid institutional and financial base to support progressive social change. This idea became the Crossroads Fund.

In 1981, Crossroads Fund gave out our first grant to a group that continues to serve as a crucial resource today for 7,500 clients a year, including low-income women, lesbians, and young women — the Chicago Women's Health Center. That grant was for \$4,130, and it helped to seed the growth of that organization, and the practice of Crossroads Fund as a critical resource for groups working for social change in the Chicago area.

Fast forward to 2006 and look at all of our accomplishments. Since our founding, we have distributed more than \$4 million to hundreds of groups. This year, we granted \$361,526 to 45 groups. We have expanded the ways that we give out money, through partnerships like the *Fire This Time Fund*, and the *Give a Day to World AIDS Campaign*. We continue to serve as a resource for groups working on the most critical issues of the day, including the rights of immigrants and workers, fighting for safe space for LGBT youth and ensuring

access for people with disabilities. We have been a catalyst to help people carry the work forward.

And now, we look to the future. In the next thirty years, this country will see an enormous transfer of wealth from one generation to another — some estimate between \$30 – 40 trillion will be passed on to a younger generation. In our **25th Anniversary**, Crossroads Fund will work to ensure that some of the wealth transfer benefits progressive groups who are working to create social change.

The issues that impact communities are always changing, while certain deep-seated social ills remain entrenched. The sad constants of injustice and inequality based on race, class, gender, sexuality, legal status, and disability continue to plague our society. And yet, communities move forward, address new challenges, work tirelessly, confront pernicious injustices — and communities **MAKE CHANGE**. Some changes happen quickly, others take more time, but at Crossroads Fund **we are proud to have supported vibrant community-led movements for social change for the past 25 years — and we look forward to supporting those movements, and new movements, in the years ahead.**

We take the long view of movements for social change. This fiscal year (fall 2006 — summer 2007) we will share some stories about all that we, and our grantees, have accomplished during our 25 years. We start with an article, which appears on page three of this newsletter, about how Crossroads Fund has supported the disability rights movement in Chicago since the early '80s.

So here's to 25 years of planting seeds, cultivating leaders, and growing change!

CROSSROADS FUND LAUNCHES A CAMPAIGN TO REMEMBER 25 YEARS OF AIDS

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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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.



A clinic patient and her baby at the WE-ACTx clinic in Rwanda.

In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the AIDS epidemic, Crossroads Fund, in collaboration with **Chicago Friends of WE-ACTx Rwanda** and the **Chicago Women's AIDS Project**, is bringing the **Give a Day to World AIDS Campaign** to Chicago. Over the next three months, Chicagoans will join together to pledge one day's salary to support the fight against HIV/AIDS, around the world and in our own back yard. Funds raised will support two organizations that provide comprehensive care and advocacy for women living with HIV and AIDS:

WE-ACTx Rwanda, which runs three clinics serving survivors of the genocide in Rwanda, and the **Chicago Women's AIDS Project**.

Crossroads Fund was an early supporter of AIDS activism. Over the 25 years we have been in existence as a fund, we have supported many groups working in HIV/AIDS, including **ACT-UP Chicago**, **Chicago for AIDS Rights (C-FAR)**, **Chicago Women's AIDS Project**, **Hispanic AIDS Network**, **Pathfinders Prevention and Education Fund**, **Coalition for Positive Sexuality**, **Transgenesis**, and the **Kupona Network**.

We are proud to use our 25th Anniversary as an opportunity to continue to support the fight against AIDS. For more information about the **Give a Day to World AIDS Campaign** and how to get involved, please visit the Crossroads Fund website, at www.crossroadsfund.org.

FAREWELL TO KARIN CANDELARIA



Karin Candelaria

After ten years of dedicated service, Karin Candelaria has left Crossroads Fund in order to pursue a career as an elementary school teacher. Throughout her tenure at Crossroads Fund, Karin coordinated our funding and technical assistance programs and managed numerous administrative, financial and communications duties vital to our livelihood. Her committed work lent stability to the organization.

Karin recently began studying at the **Academy for Urban School Leadership**, an institution whose mission is to improve student achievement in **Chicago Public Schools (CPS)** by attracting, training, and retaining Chicago's next generation of exceptional teachers and school leaders. Through this program, Karin will spend one year working full-time in the classroom of a **CPS** mentor teacher, while also earning a Master of Arts in Teaching from **National-Louis University**.

We will miss her wonderful sense of humor, her extensive knowledge of our grantees and the inner-workings of the office, and her vast technological know-how. We wish her luck as she embarks on this new and exciting chapter of her life.

DONATE FREQUENT FLYER MILES!

Do you have extra miles to spare? Donate your round trip ticket to the silent auction at Crossroads Fund's annual benefit! Your miles will support our efforts to seed change in and around the city. Contact Tricia Hendricks, Development Officer at 773.227.7676.

SUPPORTING MOVEMENTS FOR THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Crossroads Fund has a commitment to supporting groups working for the rights of people with disabilities. In our second grantmaking cycle, in 1982, we supported the **Chicago Disabled Coalition**. This group worked to make the CTA accessible, and also engaged in a voter registration drive to ensure that people with disabilities had a voice at the polls.

Crossroads Fund has been a consistent supporter of Chicago ADAPT, an



Members of ADAPT.



Early publicity from the *Chicago Transit Authority*, about the initial efforts to make the CTA accessible

organization that was formed during the CTA accessibility campaigns. For 20 years, ADAPT has advocated for policy change that enables people with disabilities to fully participate in community life. Currently, Chicago ADAPT is focused on advocacy for the implementation of the Olmstead decision (a 1999 Supreme Court decision ruling

that the unnecessary institutionalization of people with disabilities is discrimination) through a well-funded community service program in Illinois. Using organizing, direct action, coalition work, and public outreach, Chicago ADAPT has won two meetings with Governor Balgojevich to push the state towards tangible steps at implementation.

CROSSROADS FUND REPRISSES SERIES — BEYOND DEATH & TAXES: PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE AND THE FUTURE OF OUR CITY

These popular and interactive workshops are a great way to learn about how to manage your finances, take care of your obligations, and make an impact for social justice! Workshops are FREE, and for educational purposes only — no solicitation is made or allowed.

Estate Planning to Provide for What You Care About

October 21, 2006

Attorney Mary York of **Mulryan & York** will give an overview of why everyone should have a will and estate plan, and how to approach making a plan. Mary has extensive experience working with many communities, including lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgendered individuals.

For more information, or if you would like to attend a workshop, please contact Sheila O'Donnell, Development Director, 773.227.7676 or e-mail sheila@crossroadsfund.org.

Financial Planning 101

November 14, 2006

Chris Long of **Long & Associates, LLC** will give you an overview of how to thoughtfully manage your money in order to ensure that you are taking care of your obligations and planning for the long-term. Chris has experience in a variety of communities, and works with individuals at many income levels.

The New Tax Act and Ten Ways to Give More (and More Easily!)

December 2006

Philanthropic advisor Drake Zimmerman combines deep and broad hands-on personal experience with thousands of donors and top-flight technical training. His workshop will focus on the Pension Act of 2006 and how to take advantage of tax laws to give more to philanthropic causes.



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 (2)
Bill Barclay & Peg Strobel
Harry Chandler
Neena Hemmady
Barbara Kemmis

For more information, please contact Jeanne Kracher, Executive Director, at 773.227.7676 or jeanne@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:

- 👉 **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.

SAVE THE DATE: CROSSROADS FUND 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

**Friday, March 9, 2007
6:30–9:30 p.m.
at the Chicago Cultural Center
77 E. Randolph St.**

Join grantees, donors, and friends as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary as a foundation. **The Lucy Smith Quartet** will play for a celebration that honors all of our communities!

WANT TO LEARN MORE?
Check out our website:
www.crossroadsfund.org
and sign up for our
bi-monthly e-newsletter.

CROSSROADS FUND
change, not charity

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