

At The CROSSROADS

volume 1 number 2 Spring 2006



Korean American Resource and Cultural Center



Latino Union

Affinity Community Services

MORE THAN JUST GRANTS ...

Crossroads Fund supports social change in Chicago by giving out grants – and more! We work with our grantees to provide them with the tools to grow their capacity to do their work, secure additional funding resources, and have a bigger impact on social justice issues overall.

This spring, we were proud to partner with **Girl's Best Friend Foundation** to provide grantees with fundraising training facilitated by Stephanie Roth and Russell Roybal of the **Grassroots Institute for Fundraising Training (GIFT)**. The goal of GIFT is to build the capacity of progressive organizations to raise money and to increase the number of people of color in fundraising. More specifically, GIFT seeks to decrease the dependency of organizations on foundation funding by helping them develop a broad base of individual donors to support their work.

Forty-nine individuals representing 30 organizations attended the two-day training, held on February 3 and 4, 2006. Topics covered included creating a development plan, the principles of fundraising, special events, individual donor campaigns, and direct mail.

The GIFT training provided a comprehensive overview of grassroots fundraising for all participants, with a special session focused on providing youth with the skills and tools to engage in fundraising efforts.

"It was good to be reminded that grassroots fundraising is a way to empower our community members while educating them about our mission and getting them involved," said Kat Choi, Program Director for **Korean American Resource and Cultural Center**.

Shannon Sullivan of the **Coalition for Education on Sexual Orientation** also attended. "The GIFT training really helped me to focus on sustainable growth for our organization, especially in individual donor campaigns, while staying true to our vision and values. GIFT honors grassroots organizations' needs to be conscientious fundraisers, and helps us to be successful in designing and implementing mission-driven fundraising plans."

Crossroads Fund will continue to work with grantees to provide them with the variety of resources to help them to continue their work to build a movement for social change.

CROSSROADS FUND CELEBRATES SEEDS OF CHANGE

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. For more information, see www.fex.org.



Benefit Co-Chair Susan Nussbaum.



Benefit Co-Chair Lesley Kennedy from the Chicago Girl's Coalition.

On March 24, 2006, more than 500 friends and supporters of Crossroads Fund gathered at the Chicago Cultural Center to celebrate another year of progress towards social and economic justice. Crossroads Fund was proud to present the *Ron Sable Award for Activism* to two groups who have dedicated significant time and resources to helping build a youth-led movement for social justice:

Korean American Resource and Cultural Center (KRCC) and **Girl's Best Friend Foundation (GBF)**.

KRCC was founded ten years ago, by a group of young Korean activists wishing to create a progressive presence in the Korean community and beyond. With programs like Youth Empowerment Program, Building Sisterhood, and the Youth Summer Camp, KRCC has been effective in developing youth leadership. Since their founding, KRCC has worked as a member of coalitions like the **Coalition of African, Arab, Asian, Latino, European Immigrants of Illinois** and the **Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights**, to help agitate for passage of legislation including the Illinois version of the DREAM Act, which allows undocumented immigrants to receive in-state tuition benefits, and the Dollar-Per-Person campaign, which took out a full-page ad in the *New York Times* calling for support of comprehensive immigration reform.

Girl's Best Friend Foundation was founded twelve years ago. Since their founding, they have given out \$4.6 million in grants to more than 120 groups. GBF provides financial resources and other support to community groups who are engaged in the critical task of empowering young women and girls.

We are proud to celebrate the hard work of these groups and all of our grantees and allies at *Seeds of Change*.



Representatives from the Korean American Resource and Cultural Center accept the Ron Sable Award for Activism.



Crossroads Fund Executive Director Jeanne Kracher (center, to right of award) with staff and board members from Girl's Best Friend Foundation with the Ron Sable Award for Activism.

CROSSROADS FUND REMEMBERS LISA FITTKO

The Lisa Fittko Internship Program at Crossroads Fund was established in 2005, by the friends of Lisa Fittko, to honor her legacy as a social justice activist. All her life, on two continents, Lisa advocated and worked for social justice and political rights. From her teenage years until she fled Europe in 1941, Lisa worked to oppose facism. She and her husband helped to lead people out of Nazi-occupied France into Spain.



Rachel Wallis, the 2006 – 2007 Lisa Fittko Intern.

When she settled in Chicago, Lisa continued her activism. She 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 facism and injustice. Crossroads Fund is honored to be selected as the recipient of funds to support an internship in memory of Lisa Fittko.

Rachel Wallis will serve as the first Lisa Fittko intern. Rachel graduated from **Wesleyan University** in 2003. She has spent the last few years working in Latin America, most recently as a



Lisa Fittko as a young woman.

freelance journalist and prior to that as the Field Coordinator for the **Chiapas Peace House Project**. Currently, she is a community gardening and communications intern at **Centro San Bonifacio**, a community health organization on the northwest side of Chicago.

Rachel says about her upcoming internship, "I am excited to be part of a group of people working for grassroots social justice."

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

In fall of 2005, Crossroads Fund worked closely with donors and board members to put together house parties featuring discussion on critical community issues, and also raise money for Crossroads Fund.

Bill Ayers and Bernardine Dohrn, along with Yvonne Welbon and Dorian Warren hosted a group of donors and friends as they engaged in



Panel members Jeff Edwards of Roosevelt University, Angela Garcia from Non-Military Alternatives Project, and Alderman Joe Moore.

a lively discussion about political participation in Chicago. Crossroads Fund is working to understand how to support participation in the electoral process on an on-going basis, making government more accessible and accountable to voters and tax-payers.

Demetris Giannoulis joined with fellow board member Chirag Mehta as well as Jim and Amy Zajakowski-Uhll to co-host a discussion on community development in the north side neighborhoods of Rogers Park, Edgewater and Uptown. Members of these three neighborhoods gathered to talk about critical local issues, including the impact of gentrification on affordable housing; organizing efforts to keep **Senn High School** a free learning space and to



Bill Ayers, Bernardine Dohrn, and Yvonne Welbon.

de-militarize the **Chicago Public School** system; and efforts to keep a thriving independent business sector.

Crossroads Fund has a key role to play as a convener of diverse individuals, community groups, and representatives from different sectors. House parties serve as an important component of our efforts to bring together people from across the city, creating space where dialogue can lead to action!

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:

- 2♥ **ATTEND OUR ANNUAL BENEFIT** – and bring friends!
- 2♥ **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.
- 2♥ **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.
- 2♥ **CONTRIBUTE ONLINE** via our secure service. It's quick, convenient and safe – just log on to www.crossroadsfund.org

- 2♥ **HONOR OR REMEMBER SOMEONE SPECIAL** with a gift in their name.
- 2♥ **CO-HOST A HOUSE PARTY** and help us spread the word about the good work of Crossroads Fund to your colleagues, friends and family.
- 2♥ **REMEMBER CROSSROADS FUND IN YOUR WILL, INSURANCE OR RETIREMENT PLAN** all three are easy ways to have a lasting impact for social justice.
- 2♥ **OPEN A DONOR ADVISED FUND** and have an impact on an issue important to you.
- 2♥ **ESTABLISH A CHARITABLE TRUST** to benefit Crossroads Fund, and reduce your tax burden.



Crossroads Fund original Board of Directors, 1981.

CROSSROADS FUND LOOKS FORWARD TO ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Crossroads Fund will celebrate our 25th Anniversary starting in summer 2006. Watch for special programs, events, opportunities to join us as we commemorate a quarter century of working for social justice – and look forward to another 25 years of progressive change!

CROSSROADS FUND

change, not charity

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