

# At The CROSSROADS

volume 2 number 2 Spring 2007



*Demonstrations featuring early Crossroad Fund grantees.*

## CROSSROADS FUND CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF SOCIAL CHANGE — AND BEYOND!

During our 25-year history Crossroads Fund has stayed true to our founding principles – bring activists and donors together in partnership. Give control of grantmaking decisions to community members. Take risks to fund new and emerging social justice movements. Support issues that are ahead of the curve of most foundations. Plant seeds. Cultivate leaders. Grow movements.

Since July of 2006, Crossroads Fund has been celebrating our 25th Anniversary. During the course of this very special year, we partnered with other organizations to present public programs highlighting issues that our grantees have worked on over the past 25 years. On November 20, 2006, we joined with the Metropolitan Tenants Organization, an early Crossroads Fund grantee, to celebrate and discuss the 20th Anniversary of the

Tenant's Bill of Rights, also known as the Landlord/Tenant Ordinance. On November 20 and December 5, 2006, we helped put together two panels commemorating the 25th Anniversary of AIDS, in recognition of our role as an early supporter of AIDS activism in Chicago. We were also thrilled to bring together donors, grantees, and friends at our 25th Anniversary Celebration on March 9, 2007! A complete report on the event, including photos, is on page 3 of this newsletter.

It's been a big year at Crossroads Fund, and it's not over yet! In June of 2007, we will conclude the year with a special series at Roosevelt University. Check out the information at the bottom of the page. We hope you can help us continue to celebrate 25 years of social change in our city – and beyond!

### JOIN US IN JUNE!

**JUNE 8 THROUGH JUNE 29: EXHIBIT OF HISTORICAL MATERIALS FROM GROUPS WE HAVE SUPPORTED OVER THE PAST 25 YEARS.**

**June 14, 2007, 6:00–7:30 p.m. Panel discussion: "The City That Works—For Whom?"** Corruption in local and state politics has been a fact that grassroots organizers have always had to confront and negotiate—especially in Chicago. In this dialogue, Dick Simpson, Professor of Political Science at UIC and former Chicago Alderman, and Alejandra Ibañez, Executive Director of Pilsen Alliance, will lead a discussion about the importance of grassroots activism in response to corrupt systems and in building equitable communities. The panel will be moderated by special guest Jean Hardisty, co-founder of Crossroads Fund and founder of Political Research Associates, a progressive think tank devoted to supporting movements for a more just and inclusive democratic society. **This event is free and open to the public.**

#### GRANTEE ROUNDTABLES

**June 18, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. "Advocacy, Organizing and Social Service."** What is the relationship between these activities, and how do they advance social justice?

**June 26, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. "Youth Organizing and Social Change."** What does youth organizing look like? And how can we strategically integrate youth activism into all organizing for social change?

*If your group would like to participate in a grantee roundtable, contact Rachel Wallis at [rachel@crossroadsfund.org](mailto:rachel@crossroadsfund.org) or 773.227.7676.*

**ALL EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE AT ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY, 430 S. MICHIGAN.  
THE EXHIBIT IS LOCATED IN THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE LOBBY, OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK.**

# 25 YEARS OF SEEDING CHANGE: EQUAL ACCESS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

## 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](http://www.fex.org).



Early members of Chicago Women in Trades, in the 1980's.



Board members and founders of Chicago Women in Trades at their 20th Anniversary, in 2001.

Chicago Women in Trades (CWIT) came into being in 1981, as tradeswomen in Chicago came together to share their struggles and organize. CWIT received their first grant from Crossroads Fund in 1984, and that year they worked with Alderman Gerry McLaughlin to design the McLaughlin Ordinance, which encouraged contractors to hire women and minorities at city construction projects. Looking back on the first years of their organization, CWIT President Lauren Sugarman recalls that before receiving their first grant, "we had been a group that had complained a lot, got together over potluck dinners to moan and groan, and talk about ways we could do things better," but that receiving a grant from Crossroads Fund gave them the confidence to consider themselves advocates and organizers.

Today, CWIT is the only organization in Illinois working consistently on issues concerning equitable employment conditions and policies for women in the trades and other nontraditional occupations, and is a leader of this work nationally. In 2004 they received a grant from the Department of Labor to begin providing support and training for women in skilled trades in eleven counties in

Illinois. Over the 25 years of their existence, they have worked to break down barriers and provide access to self-sufficiency for women and girls.

## CROSSROADS FUND PARTNERS TO OFFER TRAINING BY THE GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE FOR FUNDRAISING TRAINING (GIFT)

On June 21 and 22, 2007, Crossroads Fund will partner with the Coalition of African, Asian, Arab, European and Latino Immigrants of Illinois (CAAAELII) and Public Allies to present a two-day training by GIFT. GIFT works to develop and strengthen the grassroots fundraising skills of people working for social justice. This dynamic two-day session will combine practical, hands on training and skill building with a progressive political sensibility and a dedication to movement building that makes it unique among fundraising training programs.

***If representatives from your organization are interested in participating in the GIFT training, please contact Rachel Wallis at the Crossroads Fund office – e-mail [rachel@crossroadsfund.org](mailto:rachel@crossroadsfund.org) or call 773.227.7676.***

# 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

On Friday, March 9, 2007, over 500 supporters, activists, grantees and friends of Crossroads Fund gathered at the Chicago Cultural Center to commemorate our 25th anniversary as a fund. The evening's festivities included a silent auction, buffet dinner by *Big Delicious Planet*, live music from *The Lucy Smith Quartet*, and the premiere our 25th Anniversary video, produced by *Beyondmedia Education*. Best of all, the event raised \$100,000 to support social change organizing in the Chicago area, making it our most successful benefit to date!

We were proud to present the *Ron Sable Award for Activism* to two groups whose work is particularly significant at this milestone in our history—Chicago Women's Health Center, our first grantee, and *Lisa Fittko and the Lisa Fittko Memorial Internship Committee*, whose philanthropic spirit is helping support a younger generation of activists.

Thank you to everyone who supported our 25th Anniversary Celebration!

For more event photos, please visit [www.crossroadsfund.org/2007BenefitPhotos.html](http://www.crossroadsfund.org/2007BenefitPhotos.html)



*Collective and former collective members from Chicago Women's Health Center, recipients of the first grant given by Crossroads Fund in 1981, and recipients of the Ron Sable Award for Activism at the 25th Anniversary Celebration!*



*Members of the Lisa Fittko Memorial Internship Committee, recipients of the Ron Sable Award for Activism at the 25th Anniversary Celebration! Pictured (left to right): Jackie Kirley, Vreni Naess, Sue Purrington, Gloria Carrig, Jackie Zevin.*



*Left to right: Barbara Ransby, Peter Sporn, Tyrone Foreman, Amanda Lewis, and Naima McRoberts at the 25th Anniversary Celebration!*



*Left to right: Todd Simmer, Tony Phillips, Barbara Kemmis and Pablo Chagoya at the 25th Anniversary Celebration!*



*Crossroads Fund supporters enjoying the program at the 25th Anniversary Celebration!*

## 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)

**For more information, please contact Sheila O'Donnell, Development Director, at 773.227.7676 or [sheila@crossroadsfund.org](mailto:sheila@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.



## 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](mailto:jeanne@crossroadsfund.org)



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