

# At The

# CROSSROADS

volume 3 number 2 Spring 2008

## YOUTH FUND FOR SOCIAL CHANGE GIVES FIRST GRANTS

The inaugural cycle of the Youth Fund for Social Change at Crossroads Fund confirmed that throughout Chicago youth leaders are working within their communities to change systems and bring about social justice. From healthcare to the prison industrial complex, police harassment to gentrification and affordable housing, youth activists are tackling the most pressing issues of our time.

The grantmaking committee for the youth fund was made up of youth activists and adults who work directly with youth, including representatives from the Sisters Empowering Sisters project at Chicago Girls' Coalition, Females United for Action (FUFA), the Metropolitan Area Group for Igniting Civilization (MAGIC) and the Southeast



*Front row, left to right: Stacy Erenberg, Rashida Black, Timothy Jones-Yelvington. Back row, left to right: Elacsha Madison, Bryan Echols, Jane Kimondo and Sheldon Smith.*

Chicago Community for Immigrant Rights (SECCIR). The youth the committee encountered were as politically sophisticated and courageous as they were energetic. The projects that were funded reflect these qualities.

## 2008 YOUTH FUND FOR SOCIAL CHANGE GRANTEES

The **Fearless Leading by the Youth (FLY)** project of Southside Together Organizing for Power (STOP) and Southwest Youth Collaborative are working together to improve conditions at the Audy Home Juvenile Detention Facility while organizing through a human rights framework for community-based restorative justice alternatives.

The **Fighting Youth Shouting out for Humanity (FYSH)** project of the Korean American Resource and Cultural Center (KRCC) will organize within Chicago's Korean community to address human trafficking while supporting national legislation to end human trafficking.

The **Sisters Empowering Sisters** program at Chicago Girls' Coalition is creating an anti-oppression curriculum to maximize the social change impact of its girl-driven grantmaking.

**Kelly High School Students for Social Justice** are applying lessons learned during a trip to New Orleans as they organize to combat similar injustice in their school and home community.

**Nuestra Voz Youth Council** works with youth and their parents in Melrose Park to increase civic engagement and address the lack of resources for undocumented and/or Latina/o students seeking higher education.

**Project CQY Chicago** provides resources and accessible, safe and multiracial meeting spaces for LGBT youth under the age of 21.

**Secular Jewish Community and School of Oak Park** is working with youth from Austin, Little Village and Pilsen to organize a march and speak-out for a more just healthcare system.

The **SITY Ollin** youth organizers at Telpochcalli Community Education Project (TCEP) are addressing community violence in Little Village and its relationship to racism, sexism and economic oppression.

The **Young Women's Empowerment Project** is researching and publishing their own data on violence against young women impacted by the sex trade and street economies.

**Youth Pride Services** is establishing gay-straight alliances in predominately African-American south side schools and combating police harassment of LGBT youth of color.

The **WE-ACTx Peace Journey** will help twelve young women from Chicago and Kigali, Rwanda design projects to address the relationship between HIV/AIDS and systemic inequalities within their home communities.

# CROSSROADS FUND WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

## 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.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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).

Crossroads Fund brought on a new class of board members in March of 2008. These four individuals bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Board of Directors.

**Claudette G. Baker** is Vice President of Library and Nonprofit Services at the Donors Forum of Chicago. Her career has spanned the for-profit, government and nonprofit sectors for more than 25 years. She has an in-depth understanding of the complexities of managing and governing nonprofit organizations. Prior to returning to the Donors Forum, Claudette served as the Senior Director of Center Development for the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago.



Chris Long.

**Chris Long** is Principal of Long & Associates, LLC, and a certified Financial Planner and Advisor. Prior to founding Long & Associates LLC, Chris had a 15-year career in Marketing and General Management with Frito-Lay, Information Resources and Microsoft. Chris is a member of the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors (NAPFA), the organization for fee-only financial planners, and is Chair of the Midwest Region Board.

**Rene David Luna** is Team Leader of the Community Economic Development Team at Access Living, a non-residential Center for Independent Living for people with all types of disabilities. He has participated in various boards and committees, including: the Committee for the Integration of Latinos with Disabilities; the National Lawyers Guild; the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights; and Chicago ADAPT, a grassroots group of disabled activists who engage in direct action. He also served as a Commissioner on the Cook County Commission on Human Rights in Illinois. In addition, Rene served on the board of the Crossroads Fund in the 1990's — welcome back, Rene!



Rene David Luna.

**Christina Smith, LCSW** is the co-founder and past Board President of Affinity Community Services, a group that serves African-American lesbian and bisexual women. She is currently employed at the University of Illinois in the Department of Psychiatry. Chris has more than 20 years of professional experience in the private and public human service field. Former board experience has included the following: Lesbian Community Cancer Project; Women in the Directors Chair; and the Advisory Council for the Office of Gay and Lesbian Health for the Chicago Department of Public Health.

## ...AND NEW STAFF MEMBERS!

### PROGRAM ASSISTANT RASHIDA N. BLACK

Rashida Black joined the Program Department at Crossroads Fund in October, 2007. Rashida has an MA in the Humanities from the University of Chicago. Rashida is also a professional harpist and founder of the Myrtle Hart Society, an online community for classical musicians of color. Rashida's work with Crossroads Fund includes helping organize and manage the grantmaking process, and assisting the Program Officer on all aspects of work with grantee organizations. Welcome, Rashida!



### LISA FITTKO INTERN, TIMOTHY JONES-YELVINGTON

Timothy Jones-Yelvington will participate in a six-month internship in honor of the international activist Lisa Fittko. Tim graduated from DePaul University with a BA in Women's and Gender Studies. Tim is involved in a number of projects in the Program Department, including participating in grantmaking, helping to develop an evaluation tool that will assist grantees in assessing the impact of their social justice work, and a project interviewing grantees to determine their needs around technical assistance and training opportunities. Welcome, Tim!



# CROSSROAD FUND CELEBRATES AT SEEDS OF CHANGE!

On February 29, 2008, over 500 Crossroads Fund friends and supporters used the extra day in this Leap Year to gather and celebrate at our annual benefit, *Seeds of Change*, at the Chicago Cultural Center. We are pleased to report that the event was a big success, raising nearly \$95,000 to help Crossroads Fund seed change all over the Chicago area.

At this year's event, we were honored to present the Ron Sable Award for Activism to Dr. Cathy J. Cohen and Metropolitan Area Group for Igniting Civilization, Inc. (MAGIC). Dr. Cohen, who serves as Professor of Political Science and Principal Investigator of the Black Youth Project at the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture at the University of Chicago, was recognized for her critical work on the Black Youth Project, her groundbreaking writing on HIV/AIDS and African American communities, and her commitment to building and maintaining bridges between multiple communities as an activist and a scholar. Like Cathy, MAGIC is dedicated to working with youth, as well as more broadly on neighborhood issues, including gentrification and the impact of poverty on communities. MAGIC is a leader in the local chapter of the national 2025 Campaign for Black Men & Boys.

The award presentation also included a special announcement. Friends, family and colleagues of Dr. Cohen used the

opportunity to announce the establishment of The Cathy J. Cohen Black Youth Leadership Award, an award to be given annually to a young person who organizes around social justice issues.

Crossroads Fund was also proud to present the inaugural Donald F. Erickson Synapses Award. This award honors the legacy of Don Erickson, a dedicated peace and justice activist who founded the Synapses Foundation. In 2007 the Synapses Foundation gave all of its assets to the Crossroads Fund as an endowment gift. The first recipient of the award was the Coalition Against War & Injustice, a broad-based coalition that brought together thousands in protest of the war in Iraq, and works to combat injustice in Chicago and beyond.



Members of MAGIC, winner of the Ron Sable Award for Activism. Left to right: Sheldon Smith, Saka Ridley, Allen Linton, Bryan Echols.



Dr. Cathy J. Cohen, winner of the Ron Sable Award for Activism.



Consuella Brown, Julie Simpson, and Ernie Sanders.\*



Carl Davidson of CAWI, winner of the inaugural Donald F. Erickson Synapses Award.



Kimberly Jones, Charlene D'Souza, Valerie Garcia, Donielle Walters, Trina Graham.

All photos except \* by Misty Winter.  
\* Photo by Mystic Photography.

## 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  
Henry T. Chandler, Jr.  
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)

**CROSSROADS FUND** | change, not charity

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