

CROSSROADS FUND

Change, not charity

MEMBER OF THE FUNDING EXCHANGE

Chicago's Crisis in Affordable Rental Housing

—By Jeff Edwards

That the benefits of “the longest economic expansion in history” have not “trickled down” to all people is from time-to-time reported by the mainstream media. But that this “economic expansion” has in fact been built upon, and continues to depend upon, low-wage work, and its attendant deprivations, is never reported. It is only hinted at each time Alan Greenspan and the Federal Reserve Board panic and move to increase interest rates whenever they think ordinary folks might be getting too much spending money in their pockets.

Why else is it that at this point in the “longest economic expansion” that nearly one-third of U.S. workers—about 30 million—involuntarily work in temporary, part-time, contracted, or other “non-standard” work arrangements? Or that around 11 million people—most of whom are adults supporting children—earn only the minimum wage? (And none of this counts the growing pool of inmate-workers within prisons, who work for such “cutting edge” firms as Starbucks and Microsoft, for between 65 cents and \$1.50 an hour.) Or that the number of people without health insurance is 43 million and growing? Or that one in four children lives in poverty? Or that nearly two million people experience homelessness in a given year? Or that another 5.4 million low-income folks have to pay more than half their income for housing or live in dilapidated housing, an increase of 12% since 1991?

The situation with affordable housing has reached such a point, though, that even many of the economic and political powers that be have finally had to recognize it as a “crisis” situation, albeit

defined in terms of their own interests: they cannot deploy a workforce that does not have a place (within a viable commuting distance) to eat, sleep, and otherwise prepare itself to return to work day after day. This concern was expressed last fall in the Commercial Club of Chicago’s **Chicago Metropolis 2020: Preparing Metropolitan Chicago for the 21st Century**, which identified the “mismatch” between the num-



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ber of potential new jobs in the region and the availability of accessible affordable housing as one of the principal obstacles to the Chicago metropolitan area becoming one of the “great global cities” of the new century.

Driven by the same concern about the importance of quality, affordable rental housing for a strong economy, the Metropolitan Planning Council commissioned a regional rental market analysis from researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Published as “**For Rent: Housing Options in the Chicago Region**” in November of last year, it provides the clearest picture to date about the overall crisis in affordable rental housing in our region.

STUDY FINDINGS

While the population of the region grew by more than half a million people over the past decade, the number of rental units actually decreased by 52,000. Thus, too many people are chasing after too few units, leading to rent increases that exceed the inflation rate for the rest of the economy; in Chicago proper, rents are currently going up by more than twice the rate of increase in the Consumer Price Index. Nearly 40% of all renters—more than 400,000 people—are paying more than a third of their

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About Crossroads...

The Crossroads Fund is a public foundation that raises money to support organizations working on issues of social and economic justice. The Fund distributes money to grassroots groups throughout the Chicago metropolitan area. Crossroads funds broadly, but has identified some priority interests: low-income communities, civil and human rights (e.g., women, lesbian and gay), workers’ rights, the environment, multi-racial efforts, and international solidarity work. Grants up to \$7,000 are made during biannual grant cycles to organizations with previous fiscal year expenses under \$150,000. Crossroads’ grants provide both early start-up money and sustaining support.

Since awarding its first grants in 1981, Crossroads has been an important link between donors and activists with a shared commitment to a more just society. To insure that our grants have the greatest impact, the Crossroads board consists primarily of community members who are active on a broad range of social issues.

Proposal Deadlines

Crossroads has two general fund grant cycles per year. Proposal deadline dates for each year are March 1 and September 1. Proposals must be delivered or post-marked no later than the deadline date.

Interested organizations should contact the office at (773)227-7676 for complete guidelines and application materials.



Board & Staff News

From the Executive Director

On April 19th the New York Times ran an op-ed piece titled "Protesting, but Why?" by David Frum, a fellow at the Manhattan Institute (a right wing think tank that helped orchestrate Rudolph Giuliani's political "vision"). In his article, Frum derides the protesters who gathered in Washington to disrupt the World Bank/IMF meetings. "Once upon a time, the left possessed a clear and coherent vision of a better world...this idea was called socialism...today, of course, socialism is as dead as King Tut. Deader, maybe, since people are after all still pretty interested in King Tut...But without it (socialism), people like the Washington protesters are left with nothing to say about poverty and development."

Why protest? Like the Washington protesters and all other political activists, I have heard this question over and over again. Why spend any time on something that you can't change? I heard it as a college student in Carbondale, IL in the 70's. Women on campus were being raped and we were demanding a transit system for those of us who had to move around at night. The university couldn't understand why we needed special treatment and why we had to be so



ROI ANN PHILLIPS

Jeanne Kracher

disrespectful and protest. I heard it during the anti-intervention movement in the 80's when some of us thought that the US backed war in Nicaragua and El Salvador and the invasion of Grenada needed to be confronted at federal buildings, and in letter writing campaigns, and in the halls of the Capitol building. During the AIDS movement we heard countless times that we were not experts—that we knew nothing about constructing public health policy. (And did we have to act so queer during all those protests?) And if you would just ignore the Klan when they came to town, they would go away. And that there are no political prisoners in the US. And that High Security Unit prisons need to exist for the "worst of the worst". And that more Blacks and Latinos are in prison because they

commit a disproportionate amount of the crimes.

During my years as an activist there have been a few victories and a lot of defeats. But the need for critical political thought and action is constant. We live in a society with too many inequities and so many people invested in claiming that those inequities don't exist. Or that there's nothing that can be done about them.

Why protest? Well thanks to the demonstrators in Washington, D.C. and Seattle, the global economy and who runs it became a major issue of public debate. As a result, the World Bank released a statement saying they will devote "unlimited money" to fight AIDS in poor countries and promised to accelerate reduction of the debt for the "developing world".

I'm excited to be on staff at the Crossroads Fund where our work is to support, with funding and resources, grassroots organizing in all of its forms. Where I have a unique opportunity to respond, "Protesting? Great idea!"

We are so excited and happy to welcome the newest member of the Crossroads Fund staff, **JEANNE KRACHER**, as our new executive director. Jeanne comes to Crossroads with a wealth of experience in community organizing and not-for-profit management. She was a founding member of ACT-UP/Chicago, executive director of Women in the Director's Chair, a Crossroads Fund grantee organization, and a member of Women's Health Education Project. Jeanne has produced films and videos addressing a variety of subjects from healthcare in prisons to the history of the women's global justice movement. Jeanne also served on the Crossroads Fund board from 1996 to 1998.

We say *hasta luego* to **NANCY MYERS**, longtime board member and most recent board chair. Her commitment to social justice, leadership and sense of humor will be missed. But Nancy hasn't gone too far—she contributed to this newsletter as a writer and continues to be a key supporter of Crossroads' work.

Board chair **GERARDO MONTEMAYOR** has been



ROI ANN PHILLIPS

Gerardo Montemayor and Nancy Meyers

working hard during Sexual Assault Awareness month. Gerardo works for Rape Victim Advocates (RVA), which reached over 10,000 people in the Chicagoland area to raise public consciousness about sexual assault—this was the highest number reached in RVA's 25-year history.

DALIDA MARIA BENFIELD and **INHE**

CHOI are working together on a collaborative project through the Global Youth Program which is a project of Video Machete, a Crossroads Fund grantee organization. The project teaches immigrant youth about how to use media to connect community issues to their personal experience. They are planning a summer program to work with Korean American youth in the suburbs.

In April, **TOM WILSON** received the "Activist Award" from ADAPT, an organization with a long history of using civil disobedience and similar non-violent direct action tactics to promote the rights of people with disabilities. Congratulations to Tom for this well-deserved award.

CROSSROADS FUND NEWSLETTER

Spring 2000

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Book Review

ROBIN HOOD WAS RIGHT

By Chuck Collins and Pam Rogers
with Joan Garner

In this era of growing income disparity between the rich and poor, the new edition of *Robin Hood Was Right* is "right on the money." A very challenging and interesting book, it shows how those of us with greater resources can help narrow the gap by becoming a part of social change philanthropy. The book was created by the Haymarket People's Fund, our sister fund in Boston and under the auspices of the Funding Exchange. The authors are Chuck Collins, co-director of the Boston-based United for a Fair Economy where he works with the Responsible Wealth Project; Pam Rogers, a special Projects Coordinator of the Haymarket People's Fund; Joan P. Garner who directs the Atlanta-based Southern Partner's Fund, and has just served as Chair of the Funding Exchange Board of Directors.

By virtue of the fact that you receive this newsletter, you have some idea about social change and have seen our slogan "Change, not Charity." To quote from an article in the April 3, 2000 Christian Science Monitor, "In numerous ways we have all benefitted from social change. Did you have an enjoyable weekend? Thank the labor movement, the folks who brought us the eight-hour day and the weekend. Have you voted recently? Thank the women's suffrage and African-American civil rights movements for opening up our democracy for all citizens."

As Chuck Collins says, "Today we have to ask why, in a booming economy, so many have to work two or three jobs to make ends meet. Why are the HMO's going belly up and thousands without health insurance? The 'whys' lead to strategies, plans, and actions that eventually turn into powerful movements. These movements are driven by dedicated people who spend countless hours doing the invisible work of careful organizing, massive public education, sustained agitation, and at times inspired collaboration across the divides of race, gender, and class."

This work requires money, yet these are the movements that are largely left out of charitable giving. To give to social change requires expanding

our ideas of how we fit into society. It is not a do-gooder, rich giving to the poor kind of involvement. It is people sharing in and making a commitment. It's personally rewarding because it introduces us to people and cultures different from our own often narrow world of ideas.

Today there is growing interest in global human rights and how we are all connected. Examples are the concern about sweatshops and questions about the role of the WTO and International Monetary

Fund. As Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "All life is interrelated. All...are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny." This is the basis of social change.

"Charity" is something most of us learned from our families. Esther Nieves, a Crossroads' Donor, is quoted in the book as saying,

"When I was in high school, I made forty dollars a week. My parents expected me to make contributions to the church—ten percent, four dollars a week." But Esther and the rest of us who give to Crossroads have realized that while traditional charity may go for immediate relief of problems, such as a meal for a homeless person, or to keep institutions running, it fails to achieve lasting solutions.

Last year Americans gave away \$175 billion, but only 13% went directly to public benefit and human services programs, and only 2% went to support social-change efforts. The great majority of the funds went to churches, art institutions, elite private colleges and universities and hospitals. Clearly, this pattern of giving has done little to alleviate the serious income gap in this country and the problems that are resulting.

In giving to social change, we become involved in a process. *Robin Hood Was Right* gives guidance and inspiration for those of us who want to be involved in social change.

—Nancy Fleck Myers

The Crossroads Fund is distributing copies of *Robin Hood Was Right* in limited quantities. We would be happy to come and speak to you, a group of friends, or your organization regarding investing in social change.



Funding Exchange Member and Affiliate Funds

FUNDING EXCHANGE

666 Broadway, Suite 500
New York, NY 10012
(212) 529-5300

APPALACHIAN COMMUNITY FUND

(West Virginia & the Appalachian counties of Virginia, Kentucky, & Tennessee)
(423) 523-5783

BREAD & ROSES COMMUNITY FUND

(5-county region of greater Philadelphia & Camden, New Jersey)
(215) 731-1107

CHINOOK FUND

(Colorado)
(303) 455-6905

CROSSROADS FUND

(Metropolitan Chicago)
(773) 227-7676

FUND FOR SANTA BARBARA

(Santa Barbara County, California)
(805) 962-9164

FUND FOR SOUTHERN COMMUNITIES

(Georgia, North & South Carolina)
(404) 292-7600

HAYMARKET PEOPLE'S FUND

(New England)
(617) 522-7676

HEADWATERS FUND

(Minneapolis/St. Paul)
(612) 879-0602

LIBERTY HILL FOUNDATION

(Los Angeles County)
(310) 453-3611

MCKENZIE RIVER GATHERING FOUNDATION

(Oregon)
(541) 485-2790

NORTH STAR FUND

(New York City)
(212) 620-9110

THE PEOPLE'S FUND

(Hawaii)
(808) 526-2441

THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY FUND

(Southwestern Pennsylvania 10-county region)
(412) 243-9250

VANGUARD PUBLIC FOUNDATION

(San Francisco Bay area & Northern California)
(415) 487-2111

WISCONSIN COMMUNITY FUND

(Wisconsin)
(414) 225-9965

Visit the Funding Exchange and sister funds at

www.fex.org

Fall 1999 General Fund Grants

In January 2000, the Crossroads Fund Board of Directors awarded \$75,000 to 16 Chicago area organizations working toward social, economic, and political justice.

Founded in August 1998, **ART AND REVOLUTION CHICAGO** connects artists, activists, and community



groups to build an artistic culture of resistance and change. Their goal is to strategically reshape the way political messages are delivered to broader audiences. They provide training on street theater, large-scale puppet construction, visual arts/sign making, and using the media for community groups to use in their actions and demonstrations. Art and Revolution Chicago also holds workshops about other new ways of approaching old issues creatively. **\$4,000**

(773) 645-9211 artrev@hotmail.com

HOMELESS ON THE MOVE FOR EQUALITY (HOME) is an advocacy organization of people who are/were homeless taking action to end homelessness. HOME seeks to have homelessness eliminated as an actuality of poor people's lives, and eliminated as an impetus for maintaining an ongoing welfare industry. HOME educates its membership to embellish and use the power they have; works to shatter myths about people who are homeless and educate the public that they can make a difference; and works to change or support public policy. HOME is currently mobilizing around its "It Takes a Home to Raise a Child" campaign, an initiative in which the legislature would allocate \$5 million annually to create and coordinate state and municipal monies for supportive housing for homeless people. HOME is also a grantee of Crossroads' Capacity Building Grants Program. **\$6,000**

(312) 435-0225 home@enteract.com

ILLINOIS DEATH PENALTY MORATORIUM PROJECT began in 1997 by a coalition of over 30 activist, legal, religious, and social groups to demand and insure justice and fairness in the administration of the death penalty in Illinois. Goals of the Campaign are two-fold. The first is to educate and organize the

public about issue of the death penalty and its use in the state of Illinois. The second is to move political and criminal justice leaders in the state of Illinois to halt the use of capital punishment for a period of one year, to study the reasons for its flaws, and to recommend reform or abolishment of the death penalty. This group recently celebrated an important victory when the governor of Illinois signed a moratorium on death penalty cases in Illinois. **\$4,000**

(312) 849-2279

INSIGHT ARTS is a community based expansion arts organization in Rogers Park. Founded in 1991, their



purpose is to encourage the creation of art work by those traditionally shut out of the Chicago art world. The organization's program includes after school art education, contemporary art presentation, and resident ensembles. Insight Arts encourages its artists to create art that is anti-racist, anti-sexist, anti-homophobic and that expresses the experiences of their lives in the communities in which they live, go to school, and work. Insight Arts is a grantee of Crossroads Capacity Building Grants Program. **\$7,000**

(773) 973-1521

Founded in 1976, the **JANE ADDAMS SENIOR CAUCUS** is a multi-issue, grassroots, community-based organization that works with seniors to identify areas of concern and develop strategies for improvement on issues such as affordable health care, medication and affordable housing. Their greatest accomplishment is the conception, planning, financing, and construction of the Ruth Schriman House, an 83-unit building for low income seniors, located in the Uptown area. **\$4,000**

(773) 404-6429

Proclaim
Jubilee



JUBILEE 2000 CHICAGO CAMPAIGN is a part of the global campaign to cancel third world debt. The Campaign aims to educate people in Chicago about the problems of globalization of the economy and to organize to redefine economic relationships

between different economic classes. Their specific activities include: evening classes; networking and collaborating with others tackling similar issues such as sweatshop and fair trade; holding forums; and producing educational materials. **\$4,000**

(312) 427-2533

JUSTICE IS BLIND/MOTHERS AGAINST INJUSTICE (JIB/MAI)

is a grassroots group that provides advocacy and support for families and friends of those falsely arrested, charged and/ or convicted of crimes due to police misconduct, or who have been murdered by the police. JIB/MAI empowers families and friends to gather information about official misconduct into 'proof books' which can be used as the foundation for informal charges against the police. JIB/MAI also supports families by attending court hearings, visiting incarcerated victims, and researching individual cases as well as broader trends. **\$4,000**



(773) 363-1012

LATINO ORGANIZATION OF THE SOUTHWEST (LOS) is a grassroots organization that was formed to voice concerns of the Latino community in the politically, socially, and economically changing Southwest side



of Chicago. LOS provides leadership skills training and community governance workshops to

members and organizes the community around issues such as immigration, welfare, and public education policies. The group also focuses on building working relationships with other community organizations. **\$4,000**

(773) 476-3534

In 1993, five schools in Little Village were built on contaminated land; another was scheduled to be built across from two active industrial sites. Lead was found inside a school. The air quality was bad. **THE LITTLE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATION (LVEJO)** was formed to organize the community to fight for cleaner air, more open park space, and to fight the high levels of lead and the high prevalence

of asthma in the community's children. The LVEJO builds a block by block, democratically based community organization around these issues, and educates the community about nutrition. **\$5,000**
(773) 762-6991.

The Labor Rights Task Force (LRTF), a sub-committee of the **NICARAGUA SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE**, was formed in 1995 to address the new and different problems that workers in Mexico and Central America are facing because of globalization of the world economy. The LRTF is the lead group in Chicago organizing support for the Han Young auto workers in Tijuana, Mexico who have started the first independent union in the northern free trade zone. The LRTF is building local support for the union's efforts to force the company to pay a livable wage, improve working conditions, end anti-union harassment and firing, and end physical and sexual abuse of workers. **\$5,000**
(773) 276-5626 nscchicago@igc.org

PATHFINDERS PREVENTION EDUCATION FUND (PPEF) provides prevention and leadership training on Chicago's west side and near western suburbs to Black bisexual/gay/lesbian/transgender and questioning youth and young adults, ages 13 to 35. The goal of PPEF is to equip their constituents to resist and fight back against racism and homophobia, while learning about human sexuality and safe sex. PPEF's work will also involve organizing a guild committed to advocacy, self-determination, and education of religious/community leaders, educators, family, and heterosexual counterparts. **\$6,000**
(773) 533-5754



PUBLIC INTEREST FUND OF ILLINOIS (PIFI) organizes workplace giving campaigns via payroll deduction to progressive groups in Illinois. It is one of a new crop of funds offering an alternative in workplace giving. PIFI also manages giving campaigns at large institutions such as the Chicago Transit Authority and the Chicago Public Schools. PIFI is a grantee of

Crossroads' Capacity Building Grants Program. **\$5,000**
(773) 975-8428 mdoyle@atadvancenet.net

Formed in 1997, **SUBURBAN ACCESS SQUAD** addresses structural barriers faced by people with disabilities in Suburbs of Chicago. Frustrated with the legal remedies for accessibility violations that took decades to work or did not work at all, the founders organized this group to directly create access for people with disabilities. Their recent accomplishments include creating access at a convenient store, removing wheelchair barriers at several grocery stores, and creating committees at local governments and other institutions to deal specifically with accessibility. **\$2,000**
(847) 803-3258



TRANSGENESIS was founded in 1995 to respond to the needs of Chicago's transgendered community, especially African Americans, a highly under-served and marginalized sector of that community. Their activities include education, peer support and referral, and advocacy. The group also address the issue of violence against the transgendered community. Transgenesis also addresses the harassment and discrimination faced by sex trader workers in their community. **\$1,000**
(800) 805-4052

VIDEO MACHETE is a collective of youth, community activists, and community-based artists that uses video as a tool for involving youth in an examination of their own lives and the world around them. The group provides video activism workshops and classes to youth in schools and youth-focused organizations as a means for consciousness-raising, popular education, and action for social change. They also create, distribute and exhibit radial art and media such as websites, publications, public art projects, exhibitions, and video screenings. **\$5000**
(773) 506-9970 www.videomachete.org

YOUTH STRUGGLING FOR SURVIVAL (YSS) is a youth driven and youth directed organization founded in 1994 whose focus is to develop youth by teaching leadership skills, spiritual strength, and political awareness so that they can in turn rejoin and contribute to the betterment of their respective communities. YSS promotes economic development, court advocacy, support systems for housing, and job and drug/violence counseling for youth from Pilsen, Logan Square, Little Village, Humboldt Park, Uptown, Southside, Rogers Park, and Aurora. **\$7,000**
(773) 252-5321

Additional Grants (November 1999 to April 2000)

Donor Advised Grants

Arab American Action Network	500
Arizona Border Rights Project	16,000
Chicago Committee to Defend the Bill of Rights	500
Chicago Committee to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal	1000
Citizens Alert	500
In These Times	1,000
New World Resource Center	11,000
Nicaragua Solidarity Committee	3,000
October 22nd Coalition to Stop Police Brutality	850
Total	34,350

Capacity Building Grants Program

Total	50,000
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Technical Assistance Grants Program

Total	3,000
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Emergency Grants

Total	1,500
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Housing Crisis

Continued from page 1

RESOURCE LIST OF CROSSROADS GRANTEES AND OTHERS WORKING ON HOUSING ISSUES:

RPCAN	773-973-7888
HOME	312-435-0225
LATHROP RESIDENT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION	312-674-3382
ADAPT	312-348-2841
WENTWORTH GARDENS RESIDENT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION	312-922-7780
JANE ADDAMS SENIOR CAUCUS	773-404-6429
WEST TOWN TENANTS UNION	773-772-6216
THE PRO.ME.SA COALITION	773-542-8869
VOICES OF CABRINI WEBSITE	www.voicesofcabrini.com

income on rent. As many as 148,000 may be paying more than 50% of their income on rent. And the report does identify a “mismatch” between where new jobs are concentrated (the suburbs) and where the overwhelming majority of rental units are located (the city of Chicago).

The researchers found that only one in ten renters receives any kind of subsidy, and that only one in five recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) benefits from any kind of subsidy. Being a study only of rental housing, it does not note that home “owners” who are making mortgage payments, whose incomes are on average substantially higher than those of renters, are all subsidized through a Federal income tax deduction that amounts to around \$100 billion a year nationwide.

The most severely harmed by the region’s housing policies and markets are low-income people. The report estimates that there are at least 153,000 families with incomes below \$20,000 that lack affordable housing. 60,000 families region-wide are on a waiting list for Section 8 housing subsidies. Far more are eligible to apply, but only about 3,500 new

vouchers become available each year. Thus, 41,000 people ended up staying in shelters in the past year, and another 40,000 to 60,000 were on the streets for at least one night. (The Chicago Coalition for the Homeless estimates that 720,000 in the state have been homeless at some point in their lives.) The report also estimates that as many as 65,000 households were forced to “double up” over the course of the last year.

Also facing a particular hardship are people with disabilities. Nearly 40% of the region’s 174,000 households with someone with a mobility limitation have annual incomes below \$20,000. Region-wide, only 140,000 units—14% of all rental units—are in buildings accessible by wheelchair, and not all individual units within those buildings are wheelchair accessible. Furthermore, 11% of those buildings are in substandard condition.

And the report suggests that the overall situation will only worsen in the future, in part because of government policies, starting with the Chicago Housing Authority’s “Plan for Transformation.” The CHA itself says that it will force approximately

1,250 households a year in the next five years to leave public housing and enter the private market with Section 8 vouchers. But having a voucher does not guarantee a person of finding a landlord that will accept it. (With increased competition for rental housing, housing advocates are already reporting increasing discrimination against people trying to use Section 8 vouchers.) Owners of so-called project-based Section 8 buildings—buildings with “permanent” Section 8 units—are increasingly opting out of the program in order to take advantage of higher market-rate rents, which over the last two years has meant rent increases in those buildings of 30% to 50%. Over the next five years, about 10,000 project-based units will be eligible for conversion to private market rates. Furthermore, the report predicts that discrimination based on race and family size will further complicate things for former CHA residents seeking housing in the private market, isolating them in a small number of the poorest parts of the region that are the farthest from employment opportunities.

At the same time, no local government in the region has a policy for preserving what rental housing exists. Beginning in the 1980s developers seized upon low-rent neighborhoods, especially along the lakefront and around the Loop, for the potentially high rate of return on investing in gentrification. Between 1993 and 1998 alone, over 13,000 units of rental housing were lost to condominium conversions, with the North Side of Chicago alone losing over 7,500 units through this process.

COMMUNITY RESPONSES

Grassroots initiatives to address aspects of the housing crisis can be found in almost every community. Many activists are increasingly optimistic about the prospects for reforms in government policies because of movement on a number of different fronts: more and more people are getting involved in the struggle at a grassroots level; even otherwise conservative business people are talking about the need for reform; and the local Catholic archbishop has thrown his weight behind reform efforts, calling the housing crisis a threat to family stability.

One group taking on the crisis is **ROGERS PARK COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK**, a Crossroads’ grantee. **RPCAN** works on two different levels. First, it provides assistance to folks who are being displaced by the gentrification process—helping tenants faced with displacement to stop or slow the process, or to win them better housing conditions when they are forced

to move. They are also helping people to learn how to establish and sustain cooperative housing.

Second, it is carrying out a five-year political strategy they call Housing Opportunities, Preservation, and Equality, or HOPE for Rogers Park. HOPE includes, in part: a demand for \$50 million in city funds for affordable housing in the neighborhood over the next five years; demands for policies aimed at slowing the gentrification process (e.g., establishing a Fair Rent Commission to regulate escalating rents; requiring developers to include affordable housing in their developments, or to contribute to an affordable housing trust fund; a demand for increased community control over Tax Increment Finance Districts (TIFs).

Another Crossroads grantee, **HOMELESS ON THE MOVE FOR EQUALITY**, or **HOME**, is an organization of people who are homeless or who have been homeless. Like RPCAN, HOME also provides immediate resources to people and is engaged in trying to bring about policy changes. They provide information on housing, jobs, and other resources to people who find themselves homeless. More than 2,000 people who have come to them since 1993 have found housing and employment. They are also involved in a coalition with other groups in the **It Takes a Home to Raise a Child Campaign**, a state-wide effort aimed at increasing state funding to \$5 million a year for assistance for people experiencing a short-term crisis; and subsidies for developers of affordable housing units.

ADAPT, AMERICANS DISABLED FOR ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC TRANSIT, is also organizing to address the crisis, both at the national and local levels. Several years ago ADAPT activists from across the country formed the Disability Rights Action Coalition for Housing (DRACH) in order to pressure the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to reform its public housing policies that segregated people with disabilities and restricted choices regarding services. One result of this national-level activism is that the CHA has been forced by HUD to include local ADAPT activists in the planning process for its “Plan for Transformation”: the CHA cannot get its federal funding for implementing the plan without documenting that ADAPT activists have been involved in all aspects of the process. Thus, they are at planning meetings with the CHA every week. This puts ADAPT in a position to be sure that the CHA is meeting all federal guidelines established to serve people with disabilities, including a new requirement, won

through DRACH protests against HUD in Washington, that all new public housing units on the ground level meet “visitability” requirements—meaning that they are minimally accessible by wheelchair, even if not fully wheelchair accessible. Federal regulations currently only mandate that 5% of public housing units be fully accessible, and the CHA itself estimates that as many as 36% of public housing residents in Chicago are disabled (though not necessarily mobility impaired).

Next on ADAPT’s agenda is a campaign to educate CHA residents with disabilities of all their rights, and to provide CHA residents with the training necessary for them to become activists.

Jeff Edwards teaches political science at Roosevelt and is a member of Queer to the Left.

CROSSROADS FUND

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More Ways to Give

Perform a Death-Defying Act

Most of us don't like to think about our will, so we put it off. But it only takes a little effort to make sure that your money goes where you want it to go. A carefully planned will or trust can save your family delay, avoid unnecessary expense, and provide for causes in which you believe.



You'll probably need a lawyer to assist you in writing your will. In most cases the fee for drawing up a will is not large.

You'll need to list your assets and make a list of people or institutions you wish to be beneficiaries. You'll also need to appoint an executor to administer your will. Pick someone close to you, someone you can trust, and talk with him or her about it.

One simple paragraph in your will can make a tremendous difference to Crossroads and other

organizations you support.

"I give and bequeath _____ (sum, percentage, property) to the Crossroads Fund, a nonprofit organization organized under the laws of Illinois with offices at 3411 W. Diversey, Chicago, Illinois 60647, to be used for such purposes as the Fund may designate."

Crossroads' federal tax ID number is: 36-3092907
Article excerpted from the Haymarket Fund People's Fund.

iGive.com

If you are already shopping on the internet, you can get great deals and support social change organizing at the same time. While you're shopping through iGive.com for brand names in gifts, clothing, technology or even drugstore items, up to 20% of your purchase price may be donated to Crossroads Fund. In fact, Crossroads will get ten dollars just for you signing up and making one purchase.

This is an easy way to boost social change, economic justice work in the Chicago area without more money coming out of your pocket. To sign up, go to the URL listed below. You must type it in exactly as it is shown in order to make contributions to Crossroads:

<http://www.igive.com/html/ssi-1.cfm?cid=7741>

If you have trouble accessing this URL, contact our office at croadfund@igc.org—we'll e-mail you back the link.

Be sure to tell your friends, family and associates. Some iGive.com vendors offer free shipping and handling and up to 30 percent off retail prices.

While iGive.com is a great way to support Crossroads, we want to encourage you to buy your books and records from your neighborhood stores. Local independent booksellers, in particular, have done so much to support Crossroads and activist communities over the years. Their very existence feeds political activism and progressive thinking every day. Plus, there's nothing like browsing in person!

CROSSROADS FUND

3411 West Diversey, # 20
Chicago, Illinois 60647-1245
Address Correction Requested

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A yellow and black graphic with text. The text includes: 'SEPTEMBER 1, 2000 Proposal deadline for fall grantmaking cycle', 'OCTOBER 27, 2000 Our Annual Benefit: Dancin' With the Grass at the Hothouse', and 'Call Crossroads for more information on these events, (773)227-7676.' A vertical text 'Save the Date!' is on the left side.

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