

AT THE CROSSROADS

CRITICAL RESPONSE FUND REVIVED!



PHOTO by Sarah-Ji

Protesters lock hands at an emergency action organized by Arab American Action Network (AAAN) at O'Hare International Airport after President Trump signed an executive order banning people from seven predominantly Muslim countries.

Crossroads Fund created the Critical Response Fund after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks when local Arab, Muslim, and immigrant communities faced backlash, overt racism, the expansion of surveillance programs; and policies that stripped individual rights. People were afraid to leave their homes and uncertain about their safety. Sound familiar? Among the grantees that received funding then were Arab American Action Network (AAAN), American Friends Services Committee (AFSC), First Defense Legal Aid, INCITE! Chicago Chapter, Inner City Muslim Action Network (IMAN), and others.

In 2017 we have revived the Critical Response Fund to support communities facing racism, homophobia, transphobia, sexism; and xenophobia during these harrowing times. Since the start of the new presidential administration in January, we have given out over \$40,000 in Critical Response Fund grants to groups fighting on the front lines of the resistance: Arab American Action Network (AAAN) to mobilize against unconstitutional executive orders, Organized Communities Against Deportations (OCAD) to deliver Know Your Rights workshops, PASO - West Suburban Action Project to work with local counties to pass sanctuary ordinances without loopholes, Chicago Law and Education Foundation to provide family action planning trainings, Lifted Voices to host direct action trainings, and the Women's March on Springfield; which mobilized over 2,000 women and allies.

In a moment of resistance, it is vital that our movements and grantees have the resources they need to organize and defend our communities. In the first 100 days of the new administration, millions of people have taken to the streets to fight back against a tide of policies that target different

groups; the poor, the workingclass, black and brown people, the LGBT community, and women. From the Women's March on Chicago to May Day and every day in between, activist groups have seen new people energized for justice.

With more people engaged in racial, social, and economic justice; more resources are needed for training, staffing, and materials. Crossroads Fund board and staff recognize the value of our formal community grantmaking process, but know that in this moment of resistance our charge is to be flexible and responsive. The Critical Response Fund allows us to request shorter proposals, offer a quick decision turnaround, and ultimately give more to groups in motion.

Crossroads Fund supports organizations, networks, and collaborations so that communities have the infrastructure to respond and organize. Groups on the ground are using multiple strategies to empower communities to take action. They vary in size yet have demonstrated big power.

Crossroads Fund is committed to being a strong and reliable resource in the critical time ahead. Join us in supporting all of our communities fighting for our future.

If you are interested in contributing to the Critical Response Fund visit our website: crossroadsfund.org/donate

About Crossroads Fund

Crossroads Fund supports community organizations working on issues of racial, 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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WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!



HENRY CERVANTES

is an artist, educator, and organizer who focuses on nonviolence and restorative justice and has trained activists from Asia, the Middle East, and Central and South America. Currently, Cervantes serves as a trainer for the Institute for Nonviolence Chicago and the manager for The Peace Exchange, an organization that engages young Chicagoans in training and trips abroad to study global nonviolence movements. Cervantes is passionate about building African-American and Latino coalitions and reducing youth violence.



DENISE FERGUSON

is a public servant with over 36 years of diverse professional experience. Her career is marked with honorable achievement around advocacy for women's rights, education, healthcare, housing, and juvenile justice. Her leadership to sustainable solutions catalyzed the development and implementation of impact-yielding programs across agencies such as the City of Chicago's Commission on Human Relations, Chicago Public Schools, and the Office of the Cook County Public Guardian. Denise is a lifelong resident of Chicago's west side.



ROXANA GONZALEZ

is a Chicago Public School educator in the Belmont Cragin community. She moved to Chicago after graduating from UCLA and has been teaching since. She leads a middle school social studies classroom and is committed to creating a social justice curriculum for her students. She was introduced to Crossroads Fund in 2015 and participated in the 2016 Giving Project.



JULIA KLEIN

is an artist, arts educator, and publisher. She currently works with developmentally disabled artists at The Arts of Life. She also runs a small non-profit publishing company, Soberscove Press, that is focused on making available art-related materials that fill a gap in the literature or are difficult to access, as well as artists' books. Julia participated in the 2015 and 2016 Giving Project cohorts.



KHEIRA ISSAOUI-MANSOURI

is a senior analyst at Arabella Advisors, a philanthropy consulting firm serving a wide range of donors working across issue areas and geographies. She helps foundations, corporations, and families design, implement, and evaluate grant-making programs. Prior to joining Arabella, Kheira worked as a public affairs officer at the Quebec Government Office in Chicago, where she helped design an arts and culture grant program. She is passionate about equity, applied rationality, and storytelling.



ALAN PABERZS

is senior associate director of development for the Bluhm Legal Clinic, a public interest law office that represents underserved clients and trains students to challenge the fairness of our legal institutions and to propose solutions for reform. He served on the Crossroads Fund Upstart Board and the Fundraising and Communications Committee. Alan earned a bachelor's degree in social work and master's degree in public affairs from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

CELEBRATING THE RESISTANCE AT SEEDS OF CHANGE 2017

Seeds of Change was a night of rejuvenation, community, and resistance. The Crossroads Fund annual benefit, held on Friday, March 31, convened a record number of supporters at the landmark Chicago Cultural Center. We presented the Ron Sable Award for Activism to Mariame Kaba of Project NIA for her leadership as a social justice educator who has been instrumental in building movements through research and creating innovative models for youth organizing. The Donald F. Erickson Synapses Award was presented to Arab American Action Network (AAAN), a group that has fostered allyship with a multiplicity of communities and developed strategies and tools to build leaders and empower the Arab American community. The Lynda J. Tipton Memorial Award for Social Justice was presented to Organized Communities Against Deportations (OCAD) for leading bold campaigns to fight for families facing separation through immigration raids, detention, and deportation.



Rasmea Odeh of AAAN delivers an impassioned speech.



Muhammad Sankari raised the Donald F. Erickson Synapses Award in celebration along with members of AAAN.



Mariame Kaba of Project NIA accepts the Ron Sable Award for Activism.



Zack Schneirov and Afrika Lockett pose for a photo.



Jessie Fuentes makes a final ask for donations.



Attendees share a festive moment with friends and colleagues working for social change.



Organized Communities Against Deportations (OCAD) member Berenice Alonzo accepted the Lynda J. Tipton Memorial Award for Social Justice on behalf of the group and thanked OCAD for their support of undocumented people.

View more photos and video from our annual benefit at 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:

JOIN THE GIVING PROJECT

and organize with other community members across race and class to fundraise and do grantmaking.

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, INSURANCES AND RETIREMENT PLAN

and 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 Emmanuel Garcia, communications and development associate, at **773.227.7676** or emmanuel@crossroadsfund.org



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 (3)
Bill Barclay & Peg Strobel
Henry T. Chandler, Jr.*
Ferd Eggan*
Sandy & Mark Ehlert
Susan K. Eleuterio & Tom Sourlis
Ruth & Dale Fast
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For more information, please contact Jeanne Kracher, executive director, at **773.227.7676** or jeanne@crossroadsfund.org

**in memory*



@crossroadsfund

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Thanks to our donors, grantees, partners, and friends for your support. Visit crossroadsfund.org/annualreport2016 for the complete report.

FIND OUR FISCAL YEAR 2016 ANNUAL REPORT ONLINE!

www.crossroadsfund.org

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