Crossroads Fund is proud to have supported grantee partners in their successful effort to pass a Reparations Ordinance in Chicago. On May 6, 2015 activists and supporters packed the gallery of City Hall to witness the Chicago City Council pass a historic reparations ordinance benefiting the survivors of torture under Police Commander Jon Burge.

The reparations ordinance is a significant win, one that culminates years of activism, advocacy, and organizing in and outside of the judicial system. Throughout the past 40 years, there have been some gains to bring justice to the over 100 African American men and women who suffered extreme harm during the 1970's-1980's under former Chicago Police Commander Jon Burge's command, but the reparations package is a landmark for the comprehensive way it addresses the issue. A partnership of grassroots groups, law firms, non-profits and individuals worked in coalition to imagine and agitate for this historic legislation.

Over the past six months, spurred in part by the Black Lives Matter movement, the campaign gained momentum and achieved results. Groups who took the lead over the last year include: Chicago Torture Justice Memorials (grantee), Project NIA (grantee), We Charge Genocide (grantee) and other human rights groups like Amnesty International.

In this moment when the national conversation is centered on racial injustice, the reparations win can serve as a precedent for other communities making the case against police brutality. We hope this reparations ordinance will show other cities and our country a path towards making amends, and mark a new chapter in the system of policing.

The pieces of the reparations package are as follows:

1. A formal apology from the Mayor and City Council for the torture and abuse committed by Chicago Police Commander Jon Burge and police officers under his command.
2. Inclusion of a lesson in the Chicago Public Schools 8th and 10th grade U.S. History curriculum on the Burge torture cases.
3. A permanent public memorial acknowledging the torture committed by Burge and his men.
4. Provision for trauma and other counseling services to the Burge torture survivors and family members.
5. Free tuition or job training at Chicago's City Colleges for Burge torture survivors and their family members, including grandchildren.
7. Priority access to City of Chicago's re-entry support services, including: job training and placement, counseling, food, housing & transportation assistance, senior care, health care, and small business support services.
8. Financial compensation to the Burge torture survivors who are still with us today.

Groups who worked for justice for torture survivors and police accountability:
Coalition to End Police Torture and Brutality (grantee); Ad Hoc Committee on Chicago Police Torture (grantee); American Friends Service Committee – Chicago; Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Chicago; Black and Pink Chicago; Black Youth Project 100 (grantee); Chicago Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression; Chicago Coalition to Shut Down Guantanamo; Chicago Committee to Defend the Bill of Rights (grantee) Chicago Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights; Chicago Light Brigade (grantee); Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America (grantee); Children and Family Justice Center at Bluhm Legal Clinic at Northwestern University; Center for Victims of Torture; Citizens Alert (grantee); Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Chicago Chapter; Community Justice For Youth Institute; Connect Force; 8th Day Center for Justice; Edwin F. Mandel Legal Aid Clinic of the University of Chicago; Elephant Rebellion; First Defense Legal Aid (grantee); Gay Liberation Network; Grassroots Collaborative (grantee); Grassroots Curriculum Task Force (grantee); Heartland Alliance Marjorie Kovler Center; Illinois Coalition Against Torture; Illinois Institute of Community Law and Affairs; International Human Rights Institute, DePaul University College of Law; Kuumba Lynx (grantee); L.E.A.D.E.R's Network; #LetUsBreathe Collective; Lucky Pierre; MacArthur Justice Center; Midwest Coalition for Human Rights; National Alliance for the Empowerment of the Formerly Incarcerated; National Lawyers Guild, Chicago Chapter (grantee); National Police Accountability Project; John Howard Association (grantee); People's Law Office; Prison and Neighborhood Arts Project; Revolutionary Poets Brigade, Chicago; Southside Together Organizing for Power (grantee); Tamms Year Ten (grantee); Transformative Justice Law Project (grantee); UE Western Regional; United Auto Workers #551, Union Solidarity Committee; Uptown People's Law Center; Witness Against Torture.
Michael Collins is a community organizer and journalist in Chicago. He has worked with the People’s Lobby and is a fellow with the Center for Progressive Strategy, where his interests include popular education and building foundations for a new economy. He is also the President of the In These Times magazine board. Michael previously worked as a non-profit professional at North Lawndale Employment Network and at Civic Consulting Alliance. Michael is a graduate of Princeton University. Michael has been a participant in Crossroads Fund grantmaking committee and on the Upstart Board.

Nora Kyger is Executive Vice President & Partner at Ter Molen Watkins & Brandt (TW&B), a fundraising consulting firm serving non-profit clients across the country. Nora works with clients from a wide range of institutions seeking to improve their financial footing, their operations and expand their impact. Nora partnered with Crossroads Fund to help design and lead the Big Change Endowment Campaign. Prior to joining TW&B, Nora was the Associate Director for IIT’s Institute of Design and a consultant with AT Kearney in their Asian division. Nora leads the Annual Fellows Program of the Development Leadership Consortium, which introduces new development professionals to the philanthropic community in Chicago.

Alexia Rice-Henry was a Lisa Fittko Intern at Crossroads Fund in 2010, where she built her development skills and strengthened our fundraising efforts. After completing the Fittko Internship, she worked as Development and Communications Associate at Affinity Community Services. Alexia served on the Crossroads Fund Upstart Board from 2013 - 2014. She currently works at the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance. Alexia holds an MA in non-profit administration from North Park University.

Elyse Schauer is a graduate student pursuing a Master’s degree in art therapy. She is passionate about supporting healing and creative self-expression within an intersectional feminist framework. Her work experience includes a variety of direct social services, as well as art and music education and collaboration. Elyse also organizes with Resource Generation Chicago chapter, part of a national movement supporting young people with wealth and class privilege working towards the equitable distribution of wealth, land, and power. Elyse participated in our pilot Giving Project.

THANKS TO OUR OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS!

We’d like to thank outgoing board members Robert Horton, Jennifer L. Rakstad, Julie Walther, and Daryl Woods for your years of hard work and service on the Crossroads Fund board. Your contributions have made the Crossroads Fund stronger!
On March 13, 2015 over 550 new and old friends attended Crossroads Fund's annual benefit, Seeds of Change, at the Chicago Cultural Center. Guests enjoyed a silent auction, buffet dinner by Big Delicious Planet and an open bar sponsored in part by Lagunitas Brewing Company. This year's honorees were Chicago journalist Ben Joravsky, We Charge Genocide, and Southside Together Organizing for Power (STOP)/Fearless Leading by the Youth (FLY).

Ben Joravsky accepts the Ron Sable Award for Activism

Crossroads Fund Executive Director Jeanne Kracher, greets Cook County Commissioner Jesus “Chuy” Garcia

Board member Jani Hoft, Rene Luna, and Linda Wagner

Heather Parish and Martha Pierce

FLY members Veronica Morris-Moore, Jasmine Harris, Jonathan Guillory and Sah-montae Buckley received the Lynda J. Tipton Memorial Award for Social Justice.

Linda and John Hillman

We Charge Genocide raises their hands as they receive the Donald F. Erickson Synapses Award, presented by Crossroads Fund Board Co-Chair Christine Kim-Tai Plautz (right)
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, 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.

For more information, please contact Sheila O’Donnell, Development Director, at 773.227.7676 or sheila@crossroadsfund.org.