In the fall of 2014, then Development Director Sheila O’Donnell told me about the Giving Project, a new initiative that Crossroads Fund was launching. Being relatively new to Crossroads Fund I had been thinking a lot about my own social responsibility and I wanted to become more active in a way that felt authentic to me. The Giving Project sounded exactly like what I had been looking for as it offered not only the opportunity to learn more about groups from across Chicago who are working on issues of social justice, but to do so as a member of a diverse group of people.

The cohort that came together for the 2015 Giving Project was composed of participants from a wide range of backgrounds—our 14-person group varied in terms of income, race, sexual orientation, age, and experience in social justice work. We began with training on racial justice and class analysis by participating in a series of day-long workshops in which we explored inequality as part of historically-rooted social systems. Our discussions were powered in large part because we shared our own personal experiences of race and class. I was a little nervous that these discussions would be uncomfortable, but the more we talked, the more I felt that the community cohered and our different identities and experiences created a rich, challenging, and productive environment for learning and growth. As a white woman it is not always easy for me to examine my privilege on multiple levels but the space that was created was safe and supportive for self and group reflection.

The workshops prepared us for the Giving Project’s primary task, becoming grantmakers for Crossroads Fund’s Seed Fund. This fund supports community-based organizations that are working for social change. Each of us was asked to make a “meaningful gift” based on our ability to give and to participate in fundraising within our networks. Whatever we raised would be used to award grants through the Seed Fund.

Whether our requests resulted in a contribution or not, we were able to introduce our friends and family to the work of Crossroads Fund and the grantees.

For me, our responsibility in the grantmaking process didn’t fully sink in until we began to make site visits. After reviewing applications, we went in small groups to meet with the organizations to learn more about their work. For me, these visits were the most compelling part of the Giving Project. At least one Crossroads Fund staff member was involved in the visit, and they helped set a relaxed tone so that our discussions were just that—discussions, not interviews. In visit after visit I was inspired by the passion and commitment with which members of each group described their work. I felt lucky to be welcomed into so many communities and to learn firsthand about issues from the people most dedicated to working on them.

After all of the site visits were complete, the members of the Giving Project, Crossroads Fund staff, and members of Crossroads Fund Board met for a day-long session in which every applicant and site visit was thoroughly discussed. By the end of the day, we assembled a list of grantee recommendations to send to the Crossroads Fund Board. Through this process, my understanding of the breadth and depth of grassroots work being done in the Chicago area deepened even more.

The Giving Project helped me to connect with organizations that I likely wouldn’t have known about otherwise. Through these connections, the issues around which the groups were organizing became personal, and it became clearer to me where, why and how I wanted to become more involved. My experience was so impactful that I joined the 2016 Giving Project for another go-round. Rather than being a repeat of the year before, it was an entirely fresh experience because the participants changed and introduced a new set of perspectives. The Giving Project will continue to evolve as new cohorts form. I definitely grew through the experience, and I feel fortunate for the opportunity to have participated.

Julia Klein is an artist and publisher working in Chicago. For more information about the Giving Project visit: crossroadsfund.org/givingproject
Crossroads Fund is proud to announce that in 2016 we gave out $508,037 in grants to 79 groups working for social change across a spectrum of issues. Although the following list categorizes grantees based on one primary focus, grantees’ work is rarely limited to a single issue area. Most work across issues and prioritize the multiple needs of their diverse constituents. A notation after the grantee description indicates from which grant program(s) they received funding. Programs include the Seed Fund (SF), Technical Assistance Fund (TA), Youth Fund for Social Change (YF), Emergency Fund (EF) and Partner Funds (PF), which include pooled funds and donor advised funds. This year, we also specify if grants came from one of the following named Partner Funds: the GRAM Fund (GRAM) which supports women and girls, rights for Arab Americans, and youth projects; the Eleuterio Fund (Eleuterio) which supports community-based arts, education, peace activism, reproductive rights, the Chicago Youth Storage Initiative (CYSI), a collaboration housed at Crossroads Fund that provides storage spaces for LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness, the Cathy Cohen Black Youth Leadership Award (Cathy Cohen), which supports black-led youth organizing work around social justice issues affecting their communities and families, the Vernita Gray Fund (Vernita Gray), which supports LGBTQ youth and homeless LGBTQ youth, and She100, a group that pools resources to make grants to initiatives which strengthen the power and presence of all Chicago LGBTQ women. In 2016, grant amounts ranged from $500 - $26,374, and the average grant was $6,400. Unless otherwise noted, the grants are for general operating support.

**ARTS & CULTURE**

**70 Acres in Chicago: Cabrini Green** is a documentary centered on the destruction of public housing in Chicago, particularly Cabrini Green. Funding supports an educational study guide, website updates and community engagement. (TA)

**Center for Immigrant Resources and Community Arts (CIRCA)** Pintig is a Filipino arts organization dedicated to organizing immigrant communities through plays that reflect the current immigrant narratives, drawing on historical struggles and the power of resilience. (SF)

**Chicago Palestine Film Festival** exhibits and promotes films about Palestine or by Palestinian directors that address current issues in the region and portray the daily lives of Palestinians. They are a critical educational resource. (GRAM, SF)

**Honey Pot Performance** is a feminist creative collaborative that has cultivated an approach to performance that examines identity, belonging and differences in lives and cultural membership through a social justice lens. (SF)

**Illinois Humanities Council** programs broaden public involvement in civic dialogue, deepen the quality of community conversation and reflection, increase public access to the humanities by lowering barriers to participation. (Eleuterio)

**Jarochicanos** is a youth-driven arts collective that engages in traditional music from Veracruz-Mexico. Participants explore identity and self-expression and use performance to support local social change movements. (SF)

**The Chicago Light Brigade** provides radical arts, education, and creative direct action resources to grassroots organizations. This is done through skill sharing in using LED lighted letters to create lit banners, and the use of projection and other lit props for direct action purposes, while advocating for non-violence tactics. (TA)

**ECONOMIC JUSTICE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**Alliance for Community Services** is an alliance between people that depend on Medicaid, disability services and other human services organizing with front-line human services employees to resist an austerity agenda that leads to privatization of public needs. (SF)

Alliance of the Southeast is a multi-issue, power-based community organizing group composed of member institutions on Chicago’s Southeast side. Their campaigns focus on anti-violence, community safety, housing, community benefit agreements, youth leadership and education. (SF, TA)

**Blocks Together** is a multi-issue social justice organization on the West Side of Chicago addressing affordable housing, public education, economic development, participatory budgeting and other community issues. Grants include support for their youth-led restorative justice campaign. (YF, SF)

**Chicago Honey Co-op** is a member-owned beekeeping cooperative that provides economic development opportunities for the underemployed while promoting sustainable urban agricultural practices. (PF)

**Chicago is Not Broke** a publication of Civic Lab, is a collection of short articles by local experts and activists on ways the city of Chicago can save money and generate major revenue, with a goal of refuting the scarcity-centered narrative around the Chicago budget. This grant funds community outreach and education. (TA)

**Garfield Park Community Council** organizes residents of Garfield Park to bring about changes in housing policies while addressing issues related to lack of city services and resources. They also organize around issues of food access and economic development. (SF)

**Chicago Student Action (formerly known as IIRON Student Network)** is a grassroots student power organization that recruits and trains college-based students around campaigns related to campus living wages, fair financial aid practices, ending racial profiling by university police, and divestment from fossil fuels. (SF, TA, GRAM)

**Metro Chicago Merger Study** is a research project that investigates the use of merger strategies in the metropolitan nonprofit sector, as a tool to build organizational effectiveness and impact. (TA)
Network 49 is a group of neighbors in the 49th Ward of Chicago who are working for progressive social change around local civic projects and equitable community development. This grant supported a strategic planning retreat for core leaders. (TA)

Northside Action for Justice is a multi-issue membership based organization working in Uptown and Rogers Park on living wage, job creation, affordable housing, preservation of quality public education, public safety and economic justice issues. (SF)

Responsible Budget Coalition is a coalition of over 200 organizational members statewide who are concerned about state budget and tax issues. This grant supported a State of OUR State advocacy event in Springfield designed to push the state government to pass a fully funded state budget. (EF)

Southside Together Organizing for Power (STOP) organizes primarily African American tenants, youth, and consumers of mental health services in the Hyde Park-Woodlawn neighborhood to address housing, gentrification, healthcare and criminalization of youth. Grants included funding for the youth-led Trauma Center campaign, which won a commitment from the University of Chicago to build the first Level One Trauma Center on the South Side in over 25 years. (GRAM, SF, YF)

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Ixchel Families for Equitable Education and Environmental Justice is a community-based organization in Cicero that is working on environmental justice and education issues in their community through leadership development, research and organizing. (SF)

People for Community Recovery, a community-based environmental justice organization, addresses environmental pollution, the adverse impact of Chicago Housing Authority public housing policies, and social justice issues in the Riverdale community. (SF)

HEALTH & EDUCATION

Bloomingdale Family Program organizes parents to advocate for early childhood education policies that value a curriculum based on creativity, culture, history and critical thinking as opposed to one based in high-stakes testing. (PF)

Chicago Grassroots Curriculum Taskforce includes classroom teachers, parents, educators, students and community activists from across Chicago. They produce resources and alternative curriculum based in social justice movements that addresses the inadequacy of current curriculum used in most urban schools. (TA)

Coalition to Revitalize Walter H. Dyett High School is a group of parents, teachers, educators, and community residents that campaigned to keep Dyett High School open, the only public, open-enrollment high school in Bronzeville. They organized a 34-day hunger strike that successfully pressured CPS to reopen the doors of Dyett, and continue to fight for equitable education in their neighborhood. (Don Erickson Synapses Award)

Parents 4 Teachers is an all-volunteer organization that brings together teachers and parents to fight for quality schools for all children by organizing against underlying causes of inequality i.e. institutional racism, social and economic inequity and corporate privatization of public resources. (SF)

Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky is a sexual and reproductive health care provider and advocate. They work to improve women’s health and safety, prevent unintended pregnancies, and advance the right and ability of individuals and families to make informed and responsible choices. (Eleuterio)

Raise Your Hand is a coalition of parents and concerned citizens advocating for quality public education for all children in Chicago. They provide information on education policies, promote civic engagement, conduct research and create public spaces where parents, teachers and the community work together. (SF)

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Black and Pink Chicago is a collaboration of former LGBTQ prisoners and their allies working together to stem the violence experienced by prisoners and especially by LGBTQ prisoners, and to end the use of solitary confinement. This is done through advocacy, education, direct services and organizing. (SF)

Chicago Community Bond Fund operates a revolving fund that pays bond for people charged with crimes in Cook County and provides education on the role of bond in the criminal legal system while advocating for the abolition of money bond and other forms of pretrial punishment. (SF, PF)

Citizen Advocacy Center utilizes community lawyers to engage residents in DuPage County and beyond in building democracy through community organizing, coalition building, legal advocacy, civic education, and litigation to make government more accountable, accessible and transparent. (SF)

Community Center for Survivors and Families of Police Torture is result of the Chicago City Council’s passage of the Ordinance for Reparations for Burge Torture Victims. Survivors of police violence, family members, and others will use the space for organizing, generational healing processes and cultural exchange. (SF, GRAM)

First Defense Legal Aid provides free legal counsel to individuals in neighborhoods with high police interaction while they are in police custody. In addition, they provide a Hotline Program, “Know Your Rights” trainings, education, and advocacy for a fair criminal justice system. (SF, TA, YF)

National Lawyers Guild Chicago Chapter is an association of Chicago lawyers, law students, and legal workers who use the law to advance social justice and support progressive social movements. This grant supported a training on organizational leadership development and capacity building. (TA)

United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent conducted a two-day mission in Chicago to investigate allegations of racial discrimination, racism and related intolerances faced by people of African descent. This grant, managed by Blocks Together, funded preparation and logistical support for the mission and also supported local organizations in bringing testimony to the working group. (EF)

Women’s All Points Bulletin is composed of women survivors of police violence who advocate for more civilian oversight of law enforcement, provide testimony to local, national and international bodies and engage in public awareness of police violence. (SF, EF)

HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL POLICY

Christian Peacemaker Teams trains and places violence-reduction teams in crisis situations and militarized areas around the world and reports to the larger world community on these atrocities. These teams also support local peacemaking efforts through nonviolent direct action and public witness. (SF)

Committee for Just Peace in Israel and Palestine works for a just and peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through public education, civic participation, direct action and advocacy. (SF)
National Boricua Human Rights Network raises awareness of human rights issues facing the Puerto Rican community, including political prisoners and the preservation of civil liberties, while also focusing more broadly on issues of immigration reform and international economic sanctions. (SF)

**IMMIGRANT JUSTICE**

Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment (AFIRE) organizes the Filipino community through grassroots education, actions, and direct services. Their work focuses on comprehensive immigration reform, youth development, health outreach and an Illinois Domestic Workers Bill of Rights. (SF)

Chicago Religious Leadership Network organizes congregations and people of faith to respond to injustices experienced by undocumented immigrants through the use of public witness, education, and political advocacy. (SF, TA)

Community Activism Law Alliance brings together lawyers and community activists to increase the capacity of and the use of the law toward achieving systematic changes. These partnerships include organizations working on immigration reform, street economies and with day laborers. (SF)

Immigrant Solidarity DuPage is a volunteer-driven organization in DuPage County working on issues related to immigration, bilingual education, police accountability, workers struggles and community health issues. (SF)

Lanzate was a Chicago convening organized by Mijente, a new national organization that works to create a shared political home for immigrant and US born Latinx and Chicanx people. This grant supported the planning and coordination of Lanzate, which brought together organizers from across the country to launch a pro-black, queer, feminist Latinx and Chicanx agenda and plan of action for 2016. (TA)

No More Deaths is a humanitarian organization based in southern Arizona dedicated to stepping up efforts to stop the deaths of migrants in the desert and to achieving the enactment of a set of Faith-Based Principles for Immigration Reform. (PF)

Northern Illinois Justice for our Neighbors provides free, high quality immigration legal service, education and advocacy in Aurora, Chicago and Rockford. (SF)

Organized Communities Against Deportation (OCAD) works with individuals and families to fight harmful immigration enforcement practices through organizing, advocacy and direct action. This is done through education, resources for immigrants facing deportation, reporting on immigration raids and working with elected officials to call for an end to raids on immigrant communities. (SF, TA, PF)

Proyecto de Acción de Los Suburbios del Oeste (PASO) serves the Latino community of West Cook County. They focus on immigration reform, immigrant integration at the municipal level, know your rights trainings, community civic participation and other local campaigns. (SF, EF)

**LESBIAN/GAY/BISEXUAL/TRANSGENDER**

750 Club provides stable housing, apartment by apartment, for individual queer youth to support them while they go to school and work. It also helps connect them to adult mentors. (She100)

Affinity Community Services serves African-American lesbian, bisexual and transgender women in Chicago. They combine direct services and community-building with advocacy/activism, focusing on coalition building, civic engagement, immigration reform, health and wellness and leadership development. (SF)

Center on Halsted's Silver Fork Program provides free, in-depth training in the hospitality industry for people who are un- or underemployed. The curriculum combines employment readiness and culinary skills training from well-known chefs in Chicago with intensive case management services to place students in jobs after graduation. (She100)

National LGBTQ Taskforce hosts the annual Creating Change Conference, the largest annual gathering of LGBTQ activists in the US. This grant supported organizing work at the conference and provided scholarships so members of Chicago-based LGBTQ and progressive organizations could attend. (TA)

Queer Youth Exploring Spirituality (Q-YES) provides a safe space for LGBTQQA youth to explore spirituality while engaging in leadership development, service learning and job training, while enhancing spiritual development and self-love. (She100)

The Legacy Project is an organization focused on sharing the LGBTQ community’s critical role in human history. This grant supported the Legacy Wall, a traveling exhibit comprised of over 100 biographies of LGBTQ individuals that will be shown all around the state of Illinois. (She100)

Transformative Justice Law Project is a volunteer-run collective of lawyers, activists and organizers committed to gender self-determination, transformative justice and prison abolition. They provide direct legal services for transgender/genderqueer individuals in and outside of prison and resources and training curriculum for lawyers and social workers, while organizing for policy change. (SF)

Transgender Oral History Project is a community-driven project that promotes a diversity of stories from within the transgender and gender variant communities by supporting members who wish to share their stories. They document people’s experiences, teach media production skills and empower members. (SF, TA)

**WORKERS RIGHTS**

Asociacion de Vendedores Ambulantes organizes street vendors to ensure that they are able to sell their food without fear of police harassment. They successfully advocated for an ordinance that legalizes street vending, and are now working to construct a cooperative kitchen where vendors can share resources. (SF)

Centro de Trabajadores Unidos is an immigrant-run organization on the Southeast side of Chicago that educates workers on their rights and develops leadership within the immigrant community, while participating in broader efforts for systemic reform around wage theft and immigration. (SF)

Chicago Community and Worker’s Rights is an organization led by workers, for workers, dedicated to educating, building leadership and gathering resources for collective strategies of resistance against labor rights abuses, just living conditions, and emergency support for workers in crisis. (SF)

United Taxi Drivers Community Council, with a mostly immigrant membership base, organizes taxi drivers to fight against lease overcharges, excessive police ticketing and unequal industry regulation by strengthening their collective rights. (SF)

**YOUTH**

A Long Walk Home uses art therapy, visual and performing arts to engage young girls in campaigns to end dating and sexual violence/harassment against women and girls, both in their schools and communities. (YF)
Assata's Daughters is a grassroots, intergenerational collective of radical Black women who provide mentoring and weekly programming for young Black women around the themes of Black history and ancestry, self-care and mindfulness, the environment, grassroots organizing, resistance, and activism. They also help connect members to the current Black Lives Matter movement. (YF, Vernita Gray, Cathy Cohen)

Black Youth Project 100 is an activist, member-based organization of Black 18-35 year olds dedicated to creating justice and freedom for all Black people. They do this by building a national collective focused on transformative leadership development, direct action organizing, advocacy and education, and organize around a national agenda toFund Black Futures. (Lynda Tipton Memorial Award)

Chicago Desi Youth Rising (CDYR) is a summer leadership program for youth who trace their heritage to South Asia and the Diaspora that focuses on history, arts, and movement building for community resilience and youth empowerment. (SF)

Chicago Freedom School works to create a new generation of young people engaged in social justice through leadership development, study of past social movements and hands on engagement. (YF, SF, Vernita Gray)

Chicago Student Nonviolence Coordinating Committee (SNCC) History Project hosted a two-day conference, Come, Let Us Build a New World Together, designed to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Mississippi Summer Project and the fight for voting rights. With over 300 people attending, the conference forged connections between past organizing and current youth activism (YF, SF)

Circles and Ciphers is a youth-led group that fuses restorative justice practices and principles with hip-hop arts and culture. They are engaged in school-based peacekeeping work and city wide campaigns on issues of systemic violence affecting youth of color. (SF, TA, YF, GRAM)

Imagine Englewood IF seeks to empower the greater Englewood Community through teaching youth and families healthy living, environmental awareness and positive communications skills. This grant supported their youth-led “Captains of Change” program which brings young people together to learn about negative conditions in the community and strategically organize around remedies. (YF)

ONE Northside is a mixed-income, multi-ethnic, intergenerational organization that builds collective power to eliminate injustice through bold and innovative community organizing. This grant supported their Youth Leadership Development and Organizing Project.

(she crew) is a multidisciplinary journaling-to-performance empowerment program for young girls in Chicago, ages 12-14. This grant supports their Summer Intensive curriculum which enhances the confidence of young women through writing, performance and cooking. (Vernita Gray, GRAM)

Solidarity Studios aims to empower disconnected communities facing similar economic and political injustices by amplifying the voices of local artists and giving them the tools to organize and mobilize their communities locally and globally via music, especially hip-hop. (YF)

The Warehouse Project and Gallery inspires students in the suburb of Summit to share and gather stories from their peers on issues important to youth. Through art (dance, music, theatre, spoken word and visual) youth seek systemic changes that put them at the center of the solutions. (SF, YF)

Youth Creating Awareness on Relationship Equity (Y-CARE) is a program that encourages youth to be leaders in their community, to educate and raise awareness about dating violence, and to build healthy relationships. This grant supported a youth-created Art Show and healing space with pieces developed by middle and high school students that relate to healthy relationships. (YF)

Youth Empowerment Performance Project seeks a safe environment for LGBTQ youth of color experiencing homelessness to explore their history, investigate new ways to address their struggles and celebrate their strengths through theatrical performance pieces. (YF, Vernita Gray, CYSI)

Youth Leadership Team (YLT) is a program of the Arab American Action Network. Their current campaign is for accountability from local and federal law enforcement agencies on ending profiling of Arab and Muslim communities and organizations in Chicago. (YF, GRAM)

Youth Outlook engages LGBTQ youth in western suburbs of Naperville, Aurora, DeKalb and surrounding areas by providing community education workshops to counteract heterosexism, homophobia and transphobia. (YF, Vernita Gray, SF)

CHICAGO YOUTH STORAGE INITIATIVE
The Chicago Youth Storage Initiative was founded by the Pierce Family Foundation, Knight Family Foundation, Polk Bros Foundation, and the Windy City Times, and is being housed at Crossroads Fund. It is the first coordinated, citywide effort in the U.S. designed to provide physical and virtual storage options to improve the lives of young people experiencing homelessness. The Chicago Youth Storage Initiative will install 250 super-size lockers by the end of 2017. Crossroads Fund is serving as the fiscal manager and providing technical and administrative support to the project. Organizations receiving funding through the Chicago Youth Storage Initiative are listed below.

El Rescate’s Transitional Living Program at the Puerto Rican Cultural Center is a community-based, grassroots, educational, health and cultural services organization that provides culturally appropriate, identity-affirming housing for homeless LGBTQ youth ages 18-24. This grant funded 30 storage lockers through the Chicago Youth Storage Initiative.

La Casa Norte meets youth and families experiencing homelessness where they’re at and helps them move along to increased stability. This grant funded the installation of storage lockers in La Casa Corazon, a youth drop-in program site through the Chicago Youth Storage Initiative.

Mercy Home for Boys and Girls serves youth experiencing homelessness in two locations in Chicago. They provide support to current and former residents, community-based mentoring, and life skill development. This grant funded the installation of a storage bin program at their Hay Campus location through the Chicago Youth Storage Initiative.

Teens Living Programs focuses exclusively on 14-24 year olds who are experiencing homelessness, and offers comprehensive, year-round support services to clients. This grant funded the installation of 24 lockers through the Chicago Youth Storage Initiative.

Youth Empowerment Performance Project seeks a safe environment for LGBTQ youth of color experiencing homelessness to explore their history, investigate new ways to address their struggles and celebrate their strengths through theatrical performance pieces. Grant funding through the Chicago Youth Storage Initiative supports outreach and youth engagement for the program.
In our Fall 2015 newsletter, we quoted Charles Dickens by describing that particular moment as the “best of times and the worst of times.” One year later, we find ourselves in a similar but different particular moment. Similar in that black bodies are still being targeted, local and national government gridlocks continue at the expense of the most vulnerable, and racist policies are still in place. But this moment is also different because we are witnessing a national presidential election reaching a new level of divisive politics in a blatant unchecked manner.

In our quiet moments, or when in community with people with whom we share similar aspirations, we face two contradictory yet complimentary truths. Civil rights leader Fannie Lou Hamer said it best at the 1964 Democratic National Convention, “I’m sick and tired of being sick and tired.” Yes, most of us are sick and tired at the slow pace of change. Yet, Ella’s Song by Sweet Honey in the Rock is a reminder that “we who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes”, reminding us to celebrate the leadership, courage and fierceness of the people – young and old - who have literally put their lives on the line. It is also a time to remember that “hope” is a verb.

Crossroads Fund and our grantees hold both truths – working to change conditions permanently is hard work and we do get “sick and tired of being sick and tired” yet we recognize that this work must be done as our own survival depends on it. In our recent Seed Fund grantmaking cycle, we asked grantees what this movement moment meant to their work and their communities. **Below is a summary of some of the responses we received:**

- This question was especially poignant to organizations that do not work in Black communities. This moment has enabled them to discuss issues relating to race in a way that was previously not possible. The discussions evolve from how negative police practices affect their own communities to how work must happen across different races/neighborhoods while addressing anti-blackness as a part of their own work.

- Organizations working in the Black community expressed that, although this moment is important, it is not new – the issues the movement is raising have been their reality for a very long time. Their challenge is to move the discussion from a theoretical framework to on-the-ground actions that keep community members engaged and safe.

- Grantees observed that on any specific issue they tackle, Black constituents were at a greater risk i.e. Black transwomen face higher odds of police brutality, Black students are at poorly resourced schools/neighborhoods, housing for Black people still bears the remnants of red lining etc.

Crossroads Fund grantees acknowledge the opportunities and challenges of working in solidarity with each other, of seeing issues as interconnected across race and geographic boundaries. Time and time again, our grantees rise to take on these challenges and opportunities with tenacity and boldness. We proudly and humbly introduce you to Crossroads Fund 2016 grantees and thank all our partners who enabled us to grant out $508,037 to 79 groups.

**“WE WHO BELIEVE IN FREEDOM CANNOT REST UNTIL IT COMES” - SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK, ELLA’S SONG**

**IN ADDITION TO GIVING GRANTS, Crossroads Fund supported our grantees’ organizational growth and sustainability through Technical Assistance workshops and one-on-one time with consultants on a wide range of topics, from program evaluation and strategic planning to fundraising and communications. We thank Polk Bros Foundation, Cricket Island Foundation, Chicago Community Trust, Pierce Family Foundation, Chicago Foundation for Women, and Woods Fund Chicago for their partnership in these programs.**

**COVER PHOTO**
2016 Giving Project cohort: Back Row: Henry Cervantes, Jane Kimondo (Program Director), Emily Duma (Program Associate), Mary Ellen Prischman, Jordan Anderson, Sara Jo Malinske, Roxana Gonzalez, Sheila O'Donnell, Maya Roberts, Jon Quinn, Jalisa Hinkle, Kheira Issaoui-Mansouri, Padraic Stanley, Julia Klein
1. Crossroads Fund staff traveled to Denver, CO on August 10 and 11 to connect with our sister funds (Social Justice Fund Northwest, Chinook Fund, Headwaters Foundation for Justice, North Star Fund, Bread & Roses Community Fund) who are also utilizing the Giving Project model. We shared programmatic learning and strategized new ways to move resources for racial, social, and economic justice.

2. The Morton Group team at Mini Golf, Big Change on August 17. The annual outdoor fundraiser moved indoors due to a storm, but guests were all smiles.

3. Elyse Schauer, Mark Rodriguez (Board Co-Chair), and Alejandra Ibañez completed their board terms this year. On September 26 they attended their last meeting as board members of Crossroads Fund. Thank you, Elyse, Mark, and Alejandra for your service and steadfast leadership!

4. Crossroads Fund partnered with School of Unity & Liberation (SOUL) to convene organizers and activists from different Chicago movement generations to share stories, reflect and exchange ideas about what it takes to build strong multi-generational movements.

Visit our website for information about future events and workshop opportunities: www.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, INSURANCE 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)  
Jeanne Kracher & Laura McAlpine
Bill Barclay & Peg Strobel  
Nancy Fleck Myers
Henry T. Chandler, Jr.*  
Susan Nussbaum
Ferd Eggan*  
Patricia O’Brien
Sandy & Mark Ehler  
Sheila O’Donnell & Nora Gallagher
Susan K. Eleuterio & Tom Sourlis  
Rachel Wallis & Alex Rocklin
Ruth & Dale Fast  
Bob Weissbourd
Maggie Gibbs*  
Tom Wilson
Linda Harlan  
Iris Young*  
Neena Hemmady
Barbara Kemmis  
Jaquelyn Zevin

For more information, please contact Jeanne Kracher, Executive Director, at 773.227.7676 or jeanne@crossroadsfund.org

*in memory

CONNECT WITH US!
visit crossroadsfund.org/seedsorange
Annual Benefit: April 11, 2017 at the Chicago Marriott Prairie Stone
Join grantees, board members, and friends of Crossroads Fund as we celebrate the intersections of our work.

SAVE THE DATE: March 34, 2017

www.crossroadsfund.org

NONPROFIT ORG
PUBLISHED IN U.S. POSTAL SERVICE E70
3411 West Diversey Avenue, #200 Chicago, IL 60614-7145
www.crossroadsfund.org