Owning Our Lives: Dream It. Speak It. Do It!!
Conference Addresses LGBTQ Youth Homelessness

On May 2-5, 2014 the Windy City Times and Affinity Community Services, in collaboration with many other partner organizations, hosted a summit on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth Homelessness. Planned as an action follow-up to the Generation Halsted article series, the summit brought together youth with lived experience of homelessness to lead a conversation on their situation, and establish strategies for addressing the needs of their community. Crossroads Fund was pleased to partner in presenting the summit, establishing online registration for the conference, and setting up a pooled fund at Crossroads Fund for donations to the summit. Crossroads Fund grantees involved in planning or in attendance included Affinity Community Services, Broadway Youth Center, Chicago Freedom School and the Transformative Justice Law Project.

When the conference was announced in March, stated goals included: examining intersecting causes of youth homelessness; collating existing resources; identifying gaps in existing work; and creating action steps for enacting both short and long-term strategies. The first day was reserved for youth to discuss the various issues impacting their community, including housing, healthcare, public policy, legal issues, jobs, education, and the criminal justice and foster care systems. On the second day, the conference opened to leaders from community organizations, representatives from relevant governmental agencies (including CPD, DCFS, and HUD) and adult allies.

LGBTQ youth were responsible for much of the planning, including the public report back on the final day of the program. The main outcomes from the conference included a call for increased support for youth from within the LGBTQ community as a whole; clarity, transparency, and accountability from providers; and empowerment of youth to address the intersecting issues affecting them. The planning committee will reconvene in the upcoming weeks to produce a comprehensive report on the event, but the summit has already made great strides in expanding a dialogue about LGBTQ youth homelessness and guiding the work of existing coalitions and organizations.

DONORS GATHER TO TALK FOOD JUSTICE

More than thirty friends and supporters of Crossroads Fund and the Chicago Honey Co-op came together on May 4th for a spirited discussion of urban agriculture, sustainability and food justice. Hosted by Crossroads Fund Board Member Sue Eleuterio, Stephanie Arnett and the Chicago Honey Co-op, the event also featured remarks from Michael Thompson and Sydney Barton. The wide-ranging conversation covered the history of the Honey Co-op, Crossroads Fund’s role in hosting a pooled fund to support their work and the relationship between scale and grassroots involvement in the future of urban agriculture.
Welcome New Board Members!

Crossroads Fund is excited to welcome the newest members of our Board of Directors. These three individuals continue the tradition of building an inclusive board that is as diverse as the city of Chicago!

**Gary Arnold** works as the public relations coordinator for Access Living. He is currently serving a three year term as President of the Board for Little People of America, a national membership organization that offers support and resources for people of short stature. He sits on the board for the Community Media Workshop, and is a 2013 graduate of Leadership Greater Chicago.

**Janine Hoft** has been a lawyer with the People’s Law Office since 1984, where she has advocated for progressive activists, representing members of the Pledge of Resistance, anti-apartheid organizations, the Shadow Project, the Sanctuary Movement, ACT-UP, and Queer Nation. She has also worked as a law professor directing the Public Interest Law Firm, a clinical program of the Syracuse University College of Law.

**Barbara Y. Phillips** is a social justice feminist, with a history as a community organizer, civil rights lawyer, and law professor before serving as the Program Officer responsible for the women’s rights portfolio globally and in the U.S., in the Peace and Social Justice Program of the Ford Foundation. Barbara is a board member of both the Women’s Learning Partnership for Rights, Development and Peace International, and the Programme on Women’s Economic, Social and Cultural Rights International. She previously chaired the board of the African Women’s Development Fund USA, a sister-foundation to the African Women’s Development Fund in Accra.

And thanks to our outgoing board member!

We’d like to thank outgoing board member Chris Long, for all of his hard work while on the Crossroads Fund board. We really appreciate your many years of service and are glad you will be continuing on as a member of the finance committee!

INTRODUCING THE CROSSROADS FUND UPSTART BOARD

One year ago, thirteen young activists and community members came together to create the inaugural class of the Crossroads Fund Upstart Board. The Upstart Board is a volunteer committee which supports the Crossroads Fund in fundraising and outreach, while creating an environment for members to learn together about philanthropy, fundraising and social movements in the Chicago area. Over the past year members organized fundraising events, met with Crossroads Fund grantees, participated in grantmaking and served on the Seeds of Change Host Committee.

To learn more about the Crossroads Fund Upstart Board, see www.crossroadsfund.org/upstart


Thank you so much to all of our generous individual, institutional and foundation donors for your continued commitment to grassroots organizing for racial, social and economic justice in the Chicago area.

* Also gave to Lisa Fittko Internship Fund
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Nearly 500 people came out to the Chicago Cultural Center on April 4, 2014 for *Seeds of Change*, Crossroads Fund’s annual benefit. Crossroads Fund donors, allies, grantees and friends celebrated the work of this year’s Ron Sable Award for Activism and Donald F. Erickson Synapses Award honorees, who have expanded equality in Illinois while building cross-issue movements for racial, social and economic justice: The Illinois Safe Schools Alliance; Illinois Unites for Marriage and the March on Springfield for Marriage Equality; and the Alphawood Foundation.
BECOME A PARTNER IN CREATING SOCIAL CHANGE

When you give to Crossroads Fund, your gift is pooled with others and becomes a significant resource to foster social change in Chicago and beyond.

Here are some ways you can give to Crossroads Fund:

ATTEND OUR ANNUAL BENEFIT
and bring friends!

WRITE A CHECK
and return it in the enclosed remittance envelope. Find out if your employer matches contributions — that is an easy way to make your gift go much further.

BECOME A SUSTAINER
and have your contribution deducted from your credit card monthly or quarterly. As a sustainer, you can take pride in knowing that you are one of our most reliable sources of support.

CONTRIBUTE ONLINE
via our secure service. It’s quick, convenient and safe — just log on to www.crossroadsfund.org.

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.

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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.

THANK YOU
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These dedicated individuals have included Crossroads Fund in their will or estate plan, ensuring the long-term strength & stability of the fund & leaving a legacy of their values & vision.

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

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September 20, 2014

The Robert Howard Annual Symposium: Mark Your Calendars for Bending the Arc:

Save the Date!