

CROSSROADS

Crossroads Fund Turns 30!

Thirty years ago Crossroads Fund gave our first grant to the Chicago Women's Health Center. Since that time, we've given out \$6 million to support grassroots groups working for racial, social and economic justice in the Chicago area. Crossroads Fund has always taken the long view in our funding. Change doesn't happen overnight, and it often takes the combined efforts of coalitions and broad based social movements to win victories.

Crossroads Fund is proud to have supported many social justice victories over our history. Our support of the disability rights movement helped win accessible public transportation in Chicago. We funded anti-death penalty groups over decades, as they worked for, and eventually won the abolition of the death penalty in Illinois. We've also supported the immigrant rights movement through setbacks and successes, both local and national, like the recent executive decision to review 300,000 cases awaiting deportation.

Over the last six months, we've witnessed unprecedented mobilizations for social justice around the world. The

issues that our grantees work on have taken center stage in the public debate: workers rights, government accountability, LGBTQ rights, immigration, economic justice, and more.

As we celebrate Crossroads Fund's history of seeding change, growing leaders and building movements, we'd like to take this year and look deeper into these and other movements that Crossroads Fund has supported. Over the next year, we're inviting the broader Crossroads Fund community to join us in a reading and events series called *Reading Change*. Join authors, academics, Crossroads Fund grantees, and community allies for a lively discussion about the diverse social movements supported by Crossroads Fund.

The five *Reading Change* books are available at Women & Children First in Andersonville and 57th Street Books in Hyde Park, and if you buy all five you get a free *Reading Change* tote bag! **Visit the Crossroads Fund website for information about upcoming events:** www.crossroadsfund.org/readingchange ■

READING CHANGE 2011-2012

- *Democracy Remixed* – Cathy Cohen: Cathy Cohen's groundbreaking work analyzes the state of black youth and their engagement in the American political system.
- *My Desire for History: Essays in Gay, Community, and Labor History* – John D'Emilio: This accessible collection of essays by Allan Bérubé spans the history of GBLT communities in the US, probing the evolution of gay identity and its intersection with issues of race, class and gender.
- *The Value of Nothing: How to Reshape Market Society and Redefine Democracy* – Raj Patel: Amidst a deepening economic crisis and growing inequality, Raj Patel argues that the root causes of the crisis are linked to the way that the market assigns value to goods, labor and the environment.
- *We Are Wisconsin* – Erica Sagrans: This new collection explores the grassroots defense of workers' rights in Wisconsin through the writings of organizers, journalists, bloggers and tweeters.
- *Red Missed Aches* – Jennifer Tamayo: Through poetry and artwork Jennifer Tamayo unpacks her identity as an immigrant and a woman, playing with language and questions of status in new and surprising ways.



Introducing the 2011 Grantees

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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**In memory*

CROSSROADS FUND is a member of the Funding Exchange (FEX), a national network of locally-based community foundations committed to supporting grassroots groups that address critical issues in their regions. www.fex.org

This year has seen unprecedented protest and direct action in nearly every corner of the world. From Egypt to Tunisia, from Greece to Spain, from Wisconsin to Wall Street to the Federal Reserve in Chicago and beyond, people are taking to the streets to demand change. Although the contexts are different, all of the protest movements share a sense of outrage about the growing gap between the rich and poor, and a desire for everyone to be able to participate fully in political systems.

These issues are not new for Crossroads Fund or our grantees. The groups Crossroads Fund supports have been addressing the economic crisis head-on. This year we funded seven workers' rights organizations, who are organizing in some of the most difficult settings: with temporary workers, undocumented immigrants and day laborers. Rather than giving up in the face of high unemployment and anti-worker political campaigns, they have redoubled their efforts to secure just and dignified employment for all.

Other grantee groups are responding to different aspects of the crisis: organizing to protect mental health services and community clinics; pushing for more and fairer funding of neighborhood schools; and fighting foreclosures and to increase low income housing.

Crossroads Fund grantees understand the interconnections between communities and issues. The "Occupy Wall Street" protests have featured a wide range of signs, slogans and demands. As one protest sign proclaimed, "We're not disorganized; America just has too many issues." Our grantees draw connections between issues to create stronger movements for change. Over the past year we've seen movement building between immigrant rights groups and the LGBTQ community. We've supported the efforts of a predominantly white senior's organization to do anti-racism trainings for their leadership. And a workers' rights grantee that traditionally worked with Latino workers has started organizing in the African American community.

Whatever the outcome of the wave of protests we're witnessing this year, we know that our grantees will continue to play a vital role as leaders for change in their own communities and across the country. We're grateful to all of our grantees, donors and community allies who are working to make that change happen. ■



Members of Jane Addams Senior Caucus take to the streets to demand health care and affordable housing for seniors.



Members of the Immigrant Youth Justice League "Come Out" as undocumented. Photo: Sarah Jane Rhee

Remembering Henry T. Chandler, Jr. (Harry)



Harry with Crossroads Fund Executive Director Jeanne Kracher.

The Crossroads Fund community is grief-stricken at the loss of Henry T. Chandler, Jr. (Harry), who passed away on Tuesday, September 13, 2011. Chicago has lost a great friend, community activist, and leader.

Harry served Crossroads Fund in nearly every capacity possible. He was a donor, volunteer, Board Member and Treasurer, and he served on our grantmaking committee several years running. He participated on site visits all over the city, and brought his humor and his hard questions to enrich the discussion that we had with groups seeking funding from Crossroads Fund. By his own experience and example, Harry taught us and our grantees about the importance of accessibility. He was patient with our shortcomings as we learned to internalize thinking about access at every stage of our work. Harry enjoyed a challenging conversation in the board room, and was

always willing to ask tough, direct questions. He could be blunt, but he was very good at getting to the heart of the issues, and he always posed the question in a way that was respectful and thoughtful.

Harry's life had an enormous impact across Chicago. He served as a board member and board chair at Access Living during their successful capital campaign to build a permanent space that is a model of Universal and Green Design. He also served on the boards of Openlands, the ACLU of Illinois, and the Chicago Transit Authority, along with participating on the Advisory Board for the Persons with Disabilities Fund of the Chicago Community Trust. Our friends at Access Living said it best when they noted that Harry's body of work leaves a legacy of accessibility, empowerment, and independence that will be treasured by thousands, both inside and outside the disability community.

Harry's humor, generosity, and political conviction gave so much to the Crossroads Fund community and beyond. Our thoughts are with his family and the many others who are touched by his life. We will miss him very much. ■

GRANTEE PROFILE: BRAIDING JUSTICE

One grantee recently achieved a legislative victory on an unlikely social justice issue: the rights of hair braiders! Last month Crossroads Fund grantee **United African Organization** (UAO) celebrated the implementation of the new Hair Braider Licensing law (HB5783), which changed a ten year old regulation that forced hair braiders in Illinois to obtain a cosmetology license if they wanted to open a hair braiding salon.

The braiders argued that the regulations were a racial and economic justice issue: hair braiders were forced to take expensive cosmetology classes, even when cosmetology schools didn't have the capacity to teach natural hair braiding techniques. This forced many women to work "underground" at home and limited their opportunities to support themselves. The law specifically impacted African, Caribbean and African American hair braiders who have learned the art of hair braiding from past generations.

After listening to stories by hair braiders affected by the law, UAO began organizing to change it. According to Alie Kabba, president of UAO, taking the lead in this campaign meant empowering the hair braiders "to give voice to their own issues so they could be leaders in the effort to correct the problem, and also use that as an opportunity to educate the community at large about issues that impact us as a growing immigrant and refugee community in IL." Crossroads Fund is proud to have helped make this victory possible! ■



Members of the Illinois Association of Hair Braiders.
Photo: Emmanuel Garcia

BECOME A PARTNER IN CREATING SOCIAL CHANGE

When you give to Crossroads Fund,
your gift is pooled with others and its effect is amplified,
growing justice in Chicago and beyond!

Here are nine easy ways you can support Crossroads Fund:

ATTEND OUR ANNUAL BENEFIT

and bring friends!

MAKE A DONATION

using the enclosed envelope. If your employer offers matching gifts you may be able to increase your donation!

CONTRIBUTE ONLINE

make a quick, secure donation using any major credit card. Just click the donate now button at www.crossroadsfund.org

BECOME A SUSTAINER

and have an automatic monthly or quarterly donation charged to your credit card. You can become a sustainer using the enclosed envelope or online.

OPEN A DONOR ADVISED FUND

and partner with us to have an impact on social justice issues.

HONOR OR REMEMBER

SOMEONE SPECIAL

with a gift in their name.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

and invite your friends. You can find us at www.facebook.com/crossroadsfund and can even collect donations for Crossroads Fund in honor of your birthday!

CO-HOST A HOUSE PARTY

and help your friends, family and colleagues learn more about how Crossroads Fund is supporting social change in Chicago.

REMEMBER CROSSROADS FUND IN YOUR WILL, INSURANCE OR OTHER ESTATE PLAN

all three are easy ways to have a lasting impact for social justice.

**For more information, please contact Sheila O'Donnell, Development Director,
at 773.227.7676 or sheila@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 (4)
Bill Barclay & Peg Strobel
Henry T. Chandler, Jr.*
Ferd Eggan*
Neena Hemmady
Barbara Kemmis
Jeanne Kracher & Laura McAlpine
Patricia O'Brien
Sheila O'Donnell & Nora Gallagher
Rachel Wallis & Alex Rocklin
Bob Weissbourd
Iris Young*

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

**in memory*

**Crossroads Fund's 30th
Anniversary Benefit will be
Friday, March 2, 2012.**
Start planning your outfit and
come celebrate 30 years
of seeding change, growing
leaders & building movements!

SAVE THE DATE!

www.crossroadsfund.org

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