Robert Howard (1942-2013) was an attorney on the front lines of civil rights and political reform battles in Chicago over the last 45 years. He served as general counsel for the Afro-American Patrolmen’s League, successfully suing Chicago over bias in hiring women and minorities on the Chicago Police Force and playing a key role in setting up the Office of Professional Standards, which was an internal mechanism to hold officers accountable for police misconduct. He was a driving force behind the effort to disband the Red Squad, an initiative in the Chicago Police Department which was set up to spy on community organizers who were seen by the Richard J. Daley administration as threatening the political order. He also served the Chicago Public Schools for almost twenty years, designing the school system’s desegregation plan and overseeing its implementation.

In honor of Bob’s work and legacy for social justice, Crossroads Fund is excited to be a partner in the presentation of Bending the Arc: The Robert Howard Annual Symposium. This is a yearly public program celebrating movements for racial, social and economic justice across generations, while inspiring participants to engage in social movements today.

The initial year of Bending the Arc will include a series of gatherings, trainings and public programs focused on youth leadership in movements for racial justice, and against violence and the prison industrial complex.

As Congress once again mulls a reform of US immigration practices, current and former Crossroads Fund grantees are addressing details of the bill, while continuing their ongoing grassroots organizing around immigrant rights. United African Organization has taken the lead in the fight to retain the “Diversity Visa” program, which is being cut from the proposed immigration reform bill. This program allows for 50,000 visas a year for people from countries with low immigration rates to the US, and is a major source of visas for African immigrants. The Chicago Workers Collaborative is speaking out against guest worker programs, which they argue are ripe for abuse and undermine opportunities for immigrant workers to organize. And the Association for Latino Men of Action is organizing to add protections for LGBTQ couples in the bill, whose marriages currently wouldn’t be considered under new immigration rules. Ultimately, whatever their feelings are about the details of the bill, Crossroads Fund grantees are united in their call for a moratorium on immigrant detentions and deportations, which have reached record numbers under the Obama administration.
Welcome New Board Members and Fittko Intern!

Crossroads Fund is excited to welcome the newest members of our board and staff. These four individuals bring a wealth of experience to our work, and reflect our commitment to engage the broader community in the work of Crossroads Fund.

Emmanuel Garcia is a journalist, community organizer and Vice President of the Board of Directors of ElevArte Community Studio. He is also the co-founder of the Association of Latino Men for Action (ALMA) Scholarship. Currently he is leading a social marketing campaign in Cicero, Illinois that addresses the issues of homophobia, transphobia, and HIV/AIDS stigma within the Latino community.

Susan Eleuterio is a folklorist, educator, and consultant to nonprofits. She formerly served as the Director of Ethnic and Folk Arts, Literature and Presenters Programs for the Illinois Arts Council and as the Registrar and Collections Manager at the Museum of Science and Industry. She currently serves at the Interim Executive Director of the Neighborhood Writing Alliance.

Sharmili Majmudar is the Executive Director of Rape Victim Advocates. She has served on the board of Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women’s Network, and on the advisory committee for Transforming Silence Into Action.

Veronica Morris Moore has been the Lisa Fittko intern since January, 2013. Veronica comes to Crossroads Fund from Fearless Leading by the Youth, a grassroots group working on issues of housing, education, violence and healthcare on the South Side. She has also served on the Crossroads Fund Youth Fund grantmaking committee.

And thanks to our outgoing board members!

We’d like to thank outgoing board members Claudette Baker, Linda Harlan, Tony Phillips, Lisa Marie Pickens and Jaquelyn Zevin for all of their hard work while serving on the Crossroads Fund board. We really appreciate the many years of service and will miss you all. ■

2013 YOUTH FUND FOR SOCIAL CHANGE GRANTS

We are proud to announce that in 2013, Crossroads Fund gave $35,500 to twelve youth-led social justice organizations in the Chicago area. This year’s Youth Fund grantees are working on a broad range of issues including the school to prison pipeline, immigrant rights, sexual violence, LGBTQ issues, healthcare and violence.

For a full list of 2013 Youth Fund grantees, see: http://www.crossroadsfund.org/blog/youthfundfy13

A Blocks Together member shows off his moves.
Crossroads Fund Celebrates Social Justice with 500 Friends!

More than 500 people came out to the Chicago Cultural Center on April 12, 2013 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 honoraries Karen Lewis and the Chicago Teachers Union, Blocks Together and the Chicago Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. With music by the Chicago Cuatro Orchestra Ensemble and DJ Chapulin, and food by Big Delicious Planet, it was a great night that grossed nearly $100,000 for racial, social and economic justice in the Chicago area.
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.
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.

THANK YOU CROSSROADS FUND VISIONAIRIES

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.

Anonymous (3)
Bill Barclay & Peg Strobel
Henry T. Chandler, Jr.*
Ferd Eggan*
Sandy & Mark Ehler
Ruth & Dale Fast
Maggie Gibbs
Linda Harlan
Neena Hemmady
Barbara Kemmis
Jeanne Kracher & Laura McAlpine
Susan Nussbaum
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