

AT THE CROSSROADS



How would you describe the past ten months? Tense? Scary? Unsettling? Indeed, many of us have experienced these emotions since the November presidential election. This administration's sexist and racist rhetoric, mixed with attempts to reverse hard fought movement victories and construct harmful policies, has our emotions working in overdrive. Yet, each week, progressive individuals and organizations fight back to reverse the flow of oppression.

While responding to these moments is crucial, we also need something larger to combat what is happening. Although it may appear that these are momentary attacks on undocumented immigrants, women, the LGBTQ community, or people of color, they are actually well-coordinated movements to systemically strip away civil liberties and disenfranchise people based on race, class, ableism, gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity. We cannot fight this administration's reprehensible platform on merely a moment-by-moment basis.

Over the past 35 years, Crossroads Fund has proven to be adept in supporting both moments and movements—an important combination. From the grants that we give—including the Critical Response Fund, which provides rapid response funding to organizations working on issues relevant to the current political moment—to our long-term relationships with dedicated grantees, Crossroads Fund is a fundamental part of Chicago's grassroots movement for change.

We need (and thankfully have) a movement of our own. Young people are imagining a different world, and using new methods to tackle old problems, as demonstrated by

the Youth Fund for Social Change grantees listed inside this edition. This year the Youth Fund for Social Change grantmaking committee, a group of young activists, gave out more in grants than any previous year. Overall, Crossroads Fund gave out \$95,825 through the Youth Fund for Social Change. This is also the fund's tenth anniversary, which shows our ongoing commitment to organizing lead by youth in Chicago.

We also know that this moment requires us to step up as individuals, and people are rising to the challenge. Our Giving Project demonstrates this. In January, days after the Presidential Inauguration, we invited a group of 18 people across race, across class, and with a multiplicity of identities to fundraise, participate in political education, and give out grants. Over the course of six months, our third Giving Project cohort engaged more than 260 new donors and raised over \$60,000 to support our Seed Fund cycle.

Both the new mobilizations and, especially, the long years of organizing and movement work surrounding racial, social, and economic justice continue to pay off. Progress has come out of years of struggle, but those currently in power would like nothing better than to turn back the clock and reverse the gains that have been made. Never forget that it takes both moments of resistance and long-term social movements to change the story. At Crossroads Fund, we will continue to support groups fighting on the front lines to create a better world for all of us through both moments and movements.

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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SHINING OUR GRANTEES' LIGHT

Earlier this year, following the realization that the elections had shifted our political terrain in a fundamental way, we sent out a message quoting Kendrick Lamar “we gon’ be alright” as our solidarity anthem. Since then we’ve seen an emboldened white supremacist movement re-emerge, devastating loss of life in Charlottesville and Las Vegas, and the effects of climate change with hurricanes, floods, fires, and earthquakes disproportionately impacting poor people and people of color.

And yet, we know that the only way to “be alright” is to continue to fight, to love and care for each other, and to find liberation in the process. And we see our grantees doing just that.

As the Crossroads Fund community, we are acutely aware that the system is not “broken” but intentionally built this way. Over the years we have challenged the system, dismantled parts of it, asserted our humanity and built a community that understands that all oppressions are indeed linked. We re-launched our Critical Response Fund to address the urgency of the moment in a timely and nimble way. We moved \$73,500 to grantees from January to June 2017, a very significant amount for Crossroads Fund. Below is a sample of organizations that have received funding:

Arab American Action Network (AAAN)—When the first Executive Order barring individuals from seven majority Muslim countries from entering the United States was issued, AAAN was instrumental in mobilizing thousands of people to O’Hare International Airport to protest.

Blocks Together is part of the national New Poor People’s Campaign—a campaign fashioned after Martin Luther King’s Poor People’s Campaign, being led by Rev. William Barber of North Carolina. The focus is to unite poor people, poor-people-based organizations, and faith-based organizations to defeat the penalizing local budget crisis and current economic injustice practices that continue to increase and maintain poverty in Chicago and across the country.

Illinois Women March on Springfield brought together 2,000 individuals, representing over 100 organizations, to Springfield to fight for a state budget and for progressive legislation that was being proposed in the spring session of the Illinois Legislature.

Neighbors for Affordable Housing in Jefferson Park’s (NFAH in JP) current campaign is for a new affordable housing development in Jefferson Park. This development has faced racist backlash and there has been recorded alt-right base building in the community. NFAH in JP are counteracting this by building an anti-racist opposition and pushing forward their affordable housing project.

As we collectively continue to disrupt the system we are encouraged by the words of Autumn Brown, a trainer with AORTA (The Anti-Oppression Resource and Training Alliance) who was running a training for our grantees the day after the elections:

“I still think back on how lucky I was to be with your grantees in the days immediately after the election, how unafraid and self-assured so many of them were in the face of what was happening. I count that day as one that has continued to help me to breathe over the year since.”

We are proud of all of our grantees, our donors, and the Chicago community of resisters. In 2017 we collectively moved \$683,105 to 92 powerful grantee organizations. We hope this list provides you the same inspiration we feel when we look at it—we are so grateful to be part of a community that works to build a better world for us all.

CROSSROADS FUND 2017 GRANTEES

ARTS & CULTURE

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. **(SF, GRAM)**

First Nations Film and Video Festival, Inc. is the only film and video festival in Chicago dedicated to providing a venue for overlooked and under-represented Native American movie-makers of all skill levels. All films screened are written and/or produced and directed by Native American artists from the United States, Canada, Central and South America, and Mexico. **(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, and bring humanities activities to unexpected places. This year, Crossroads Fund partnered with the Illinois Humanities Council on two events around education justice as part of the Bending the Arc Annual Symposium. **(Eleuterio, Bending the Arc)**

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)**

ECONOMIC JUSTICE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Alliance of the Southeast (ASE) 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. The Technical Assistance Fund supported restorative justice training for their youth organizers. **(SF, TA, YF)**

Autonomous Tenants Union (ATU) is a tenant-led, all-volunteer organization that is deeply committed to organizing alongside tenants to halt evictions, leverage the power of tenant unions to keep rent affordable, and preserve its community. **(SF)**

Blocks Together is a multi-issue social justice organization on the West Side of Chicago that addresses affordable housing, public education, economic development, participatory budgeting, and other community issues. The Critical Response Fund supported them in launching the local Poor People’s Campaign, which aims to build a broad national moral movement rooted in the leadership of poor people to unite the country “from the bottom up.” **(SF, YF, CRF)**

Chicago ADAPT is a grassroots disability justice organization fighting to end institutional bias against people with disabilities. The Technical Assistance Fund supported them in upgrading their financial management structures. **(TA)**

The Chicago Disability Activism Coalition (CDAC) aims to build a power base in Chicago, across disability groups, to form disability justice campaigns and fight structures that impact people with disabilities. The Technical Assistance Fund supported them in hosting their first annual summit to advance cross-disability justice. **(SF, 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)**

Crossroads Fund is proud to announce that in Fiscal Year 2017 (July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017) we gave out \$683,105 in grants to 92 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)**, and the **Emergency Fund (EF)**. This year, we also revived the **Critical Response Fund (CRF)**, which provides rapid response grants to organizations working on issues that have arisen due to the current political moment.

We also indicate if a grantee received funding from one of our **Partner Funds (PF)**, which include pooled funds and donor advised funds. We 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, and reproductive rights; the **Chicago Youth Storage Initiative (CYSI)**, a funders collaborative housed at Crossroads Fund that provides storage spaces for youth experiencing homelessness; the **Cathy Cohen Black Leadership Award (Cathy Cohen)**, which supports black-led youth organizing work around social justice; the **Vernita Gray LGBT Youth Fund (Vernita Gray)**, which supports LGBTQ youth; **Bending the Arc: The Robert Howard Annual Symposium (Bending the Arc)**, an annual event or project in honor of Robert Howard, a civil rights attorney and activist; the **Gail Smith Advocacy Fund (Gail Smith)**, which supports policy and advocacy concerning justice for incarcerated women and girls in Illinois; and **She100**, a giving circle that pools resources to make grants to initiatives which strengthen the power and presence of all Chicago LBTQ women. We also list each of the awards we grant at our annual gala, *Seeds of Change*, by name. They are the **Donald F. Erickson Synapses Award**, the **Lynda J. Tipton Memorial Award for Social Justice**, and the **Ron Sable Award for Activism**.

Grant amounts ranged from \$1,000–\$24,000, and the average grant was \$7,300. Unless otherwise noted, grants are for general operating support.

CROSSROADS FUND 2017 GRANTEES

Illinois Women March on Springfield brought together 2,000 individuals, representing over 100 organizations, to Springfield to educate and agitate for progressive legislation during the spring 2017 session of the Illinois Legislature. This was during the peak of the state budget impasse. **(CRF)**

The March to Springfield was led by Fair Economy Illinois. People marched from Chicago to Springfield to advocate for a People and Planet First Budget. Organizations involved included Jane Addams Senior Caucus, Chicago Student Action, ONE Northside, National Nurses United, the People’s Lobby, and Illinois People’s Action. **(CRF)**

Neighbors for Affordable Housing in Jefferson Park is a new organization that emerged from the Chicago Housing Initiative’s (CHI) work to support a new affordable housing development in Jefferson Park. This development has faced racist backlash with alt-right base-building in the community. The Critical Response Fund supported CHI in building anti-racist opposition and pushing forward this affordable housing project. **(CRF)**

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)**

Resident Association of Greater Englewood (RAGE) is a resident-led organization working to mobilize people and resources to force change in the community by breaking down barriers in communication and promoting positivity through solutions-based approaches. Their work is focused on community development and neighborhood safety. **(SF)**

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. **(SF, YF)**

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Ixchel Families for Equitable Education and Environmental Justice is a community-based organization in Cicero working on environmental justice, education, and immigration justice issues through leadership development, research, and organizing. The Critical Response Fund supported them in organizing for a Welcoming City Ordinance in Cicero. **(SF, CRF)**

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

HEALTH & EDUCATION

Alliance for Community Services is a partnership between people that depend on public human services (Medicaid, disability services) and the front-line employees that provide them. Their goal is to resist an austerity agenda that leads to privatization of public needs. The Technical Assistance Fund supported them in upgrading their technology around online activism and communications. **(SF, TA)**

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 address the inadequacy of the current curriculum used in most urban schools. **(SF)**

Lifted Voices is an action-oriented organizing collective whose femme and non-binary membership provides tactical education in the City of Chicago. The Critical Response Fund supported direct-action trainings throughout winter and spring. **(CRF)**

Parents 4 Teachers is an all-volunteer organization that brings together parents and teachers to fight for quality schools 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)**

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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

Black on Both Sides highlights the voices and experiences of Black/African-American foster youth, while launching direct action organizing campaigns to address root causes of the foster-care-to-prison pipeline. They believe in centering the lives and stories of those most directly impacted and use story-sharing, laughter, and direct-action organizing to bring long-term sustainable change to both the foster care system and the prison system. **(SF)**

Cabrini Green Legal Aid provides free legal services to low-income residents of Chicago. This grant supports their ongoing advocacy work. **(Gail Smith)**

The Chicago Alliance Against Racial and Political Repression (CAARPR) campaigns against police crimes, committed primarily against the poor and people of color, and continues to fight for an elected Civilian Police Accountability Council in the city of Chicago. **(SF)**

Chicago Books to Women in Prison is an all-volunteer organization that provides paperback books to incarcerated women in the U.S. The Technical Assistance Fund supported them in holding a series of focus groups at Logan Correctional. **(TA, GRAM)**

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

The Chicago Torture Justice Center (CTJC) was established to address the traumas of institutionalized racism through the implementation of the historic reparations package for the torture survivors of former Chicago Police Department Commander Jon Burge. **(SF, TA, GRAM)**

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. The Technical Assistance Fund supported their software upgrade. **(SF, TA)**

First Defense Legal Aid works in neighborhoods with high police interaction to provide free legal counsel to individuals in police custody. In addition, they provide a hotline, “Know Your Rights” trainings, education, and advocacy for a fair criminal justice system. The Critical Response Fund supported them in organizing a series of teach-ins on “What’s at Stake” for children, youth, immigrants, people with mental illness, the LGBTQ community, and survivors of police violence. **(SF, CRF, YF)**

The Prison Liberation Collective is a group of people who have experience with solitary confinement and are working to end this practice in Illinois prisons. The Technical Assistance Fund supported them with organizational start-up expenses and fundraising. **(TA)**

Project NIA is a prison abolition organization that offers an alternative way of thinking about crime and violence. They use the principles of participatory community justice to reduce the reliance on arrest, detention, and incarceration of youth by promoting the use of restorative and transformative practices. **(Ron Sable Award for Activism)**

Restore Justice Foundation advocates for fairness, humanity and compassion throughout the Illinois criminal justice system, with a primary focus on youth serving extreme sentences. They create and support policies that allow those who are rehabilitated to go home, and ensure that those incarcerated, their families, and victims’ families have opportunities for healing and justice. **(SF)**

Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation (SOUL) is led by people of color on Chicago’s South Side working to build power and then subsequently leverage that power to fight for their own interest and liberation. They focus on criminal justice reform work and racial equity campaigns, including specific policy work. **(SF)**

Stop Solitary Coalition is a coalition of organizations and individuals working to end the practice of solitary confinement throughout Illinois. The Critical Response Fund supported their work to move legislation to end solitary confinement through the Illinois Legislature, host teach-ins on the issue to raise awareness, and build public pressure for change. **(CRF)**

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 building public awareness of police violence. **(SF)**

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 areas of conflict and human rights violations. Teams support local peacemaking efforts through non-violent direct action and public witness. **(SF)**

Committee for a 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. This year, they hosted a youth convening to bring together youth organizers and activists from around the city to learn from and share best practices with each other. **(SF, YF)**

The Illinois Coalition Against Torture is an association of individuals and community-based organizations whose goal is to end U.S. torture by state actors at all levels of government at home and abroad. The grants they received supported an event with Albert Woodfox, a member of the Angola Three, who was held in solitary confinement for 43 years and recently released. **(TA, PF)**

National Boricua Human Rights Network raises awareness of human rights issues—including political prisoners and the preservation of civil liberties—faced by the Puerto Rican community, while also focusing more broadly on the effects of colonization and international economic sanctions in Puerto Rico, and the ways gentrification is affecting the Chicago Puerto Rican community. This year, they were successful in winning the release of long-standing Puerto Rican political prisoner, Oscar López Rivera, after 35 years of incarceration. **(SF)**

CROSSROADS FUND 2017 GRANTEES

IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment (AFIRE) is a grassroots community organization that builds the capacity of Filipino/a/xs to organize on issues of social, racial, and economic justice that affect undocumented immigrants, domestic workers, seniors, and youth. Their organizing was key to the passage of the Illinois Domestic Worker Bill of Rights. **(SF)**

The Arab American Action Network (AAAN) strives to strengthen the Arab community in the Chicago area by building its capacity to be an active agent for positive social change. The Critical Response Fund supported rapid response organizing after the first Muslim Ban was implemented. **(CRF, YF, Donald F. Erickson Synapses Award)**

The Chicago Law and Education Foundation (CLEF) provides direct access to legal services, resources, and education using a community-based model. The Critical Response Fund supported them in providing know-your-rights and legal support work to families facing deportation and experiencing fear around the increase in ICE raids. **(SF, CRF)**

Chicago Religious Leadership Network (CRLN) organizes congregations and people of faith—through the use of public witness, education, and political advocacy—to respond to injustices experienced by undocumented immigrants. They have been leading the work in Chicago around the concept of “sanctuary” in congregations, neighborhoods, and other institutions. **(SF, TA)**

Community Activism Law Alliance (CALA) brings together lawyers and community activists to increase the capacity 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)**

The Hana Center works to empower Korean-Americans, immigrants, and multi-racial communities—through social services, community organizing, culture, and education—to advance human rights. Funding was for Beyond our Boundaries: the National Asian-American Youth Organizing Summit, which brought together young people from around the country to strategize and collaborate around various issues affecting them. **(CRF)**

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

No More Deaths is a humanitarian organization based in southern Arizona that works to reduce the number of deaths of migrants crossing the border. They also fight for immigration reform. **(PF)**

Northern Illinois Justice for our Neighbors (NIJFON) provides free, high-quality immigration legal services, education, and advocacy in Aurora, Chicago, and Rockford. The Technical Assistance Fund supported them in improving their financial procedures at the staff and board level. **(SF, TA)**

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, providing resources for immigrants facing deportation, reporting on immigration raids, and working with elected officials to call for an end to raids on immigrant communities. The Critical Response Fund helped them host a series of know-your-rights trainings to prepare the community for the increase in ICE raids and deportations, as well as other emergency work. **(SF, CRF, GRAM, Lynda J. Tipton Award)**

CROSSROADS FUND 2017 GRANTEES

Proyecto de Acción de los Suburbios del Oeste (PASO) serves 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 against practices that adversely impact the community. The Critical Response Fund supported them in advocating for passage of Welcoming City ordinances in the western suburbs, including Oak Park and Summit. **(CRF)**

The Southwest Suburban Immigrant Project's (SSIP) mission is to organize immigrants and their families in the southwest suburbs, which has a dearth of immigrant services. They do this through a variety of initiatives, including education, civic engagement, and advocacy. **(SF)**

LESBIAN/GAY/BISEXUAL/TRANSGENDER

About Face Youth Theatre is an identity-affirming theatre activism program that supports LGBT youth (age 14-23) and their allies in exploring and expanding the boxes to define the intricate intersections of race, nationality, gender, and sexuality. **(She100)**

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

The Broadway Youth Center is a youth leadership project and a basic needs program for LGBT youth experiencing homelessness and housing instability. They provide medical, social, and mental health care services, as well as community, for youth age 12-24. **(She100)**

Nothing Without a Company produces innovative, thought provoking, quality art that encourages audiences to think outside the box. They provide LGBT artists with a safe and creative space in which to explore their voices and talents. **(She100)**

Quare Square Collective is a network of queer artists of color who work for greater inclusion of marginalized artists in mainstream publications, performances and media. They produce community arts programs featuring queer artists of color. **(She100)**

Pride Action Tank is a results-driven group that addresses challenges facing the LGBT community through a collaborative process of inquiry, advocacy, and action. Their work focuses on six overlapping issue areas: housing, health, safety, financial security, youth, and aging. **(SF)**

Transformative Justice Law Project is a volunteer-run collective of lawyers, activists, and organizers committed to gender self-determination, transformative justice, and prison abolition. The Critical Response Fund assisted them in organizing the 2016 Transgender Day of Remembrance, which occurred a few days after the 2016 presidential election. **(SF, CRF)**

Upswing Advocates uses an individualized, strengths-based approach to build skills and resilience in ways that strengthen and support the LGBT community in and around Chicago. They provide goal-focused coaching services and offer training to professionals who are interested in building competence in working with people who are LGBT. **(She100)**

WORKERS RIGHTS

Centro de Trabajadores Unidos (CTU) is an immigrant-run organization on the southeast side of Chicago that educates workers on their rights, develops leadership within the immigrant community, and participates in broader efforts for systemic reform around wage theft and immigration. The Technical Assistance Fund helped them to revise their mission statement, vision, and values to be more inclusive of the growing non-immigrant community. **(SF, TA)**

Chicago Community and Worker's Rights (CCWR) is an organization led by workers for workers. They are dedicated to educating, building leadership, and gathering resources in order to develop organizing tools and collective strategies of resistance against labor rights abuses. Their focus areas are education and empowerment; emergency support for workers' in crisis; and self-determination of workers. The Critical Response Fund supported them in providing additional work-based know-your-rights trainings to immigrant workers. **(SF, CRF)**

Healing to Action advances a worker-led movement to fight gender violence in Chicago. They are piloting a capacity-building model to give low-wage workers a collective healing space and organizing support to ignite solutions to fight gender violence in the workplace and beyond. **(SF, GRAM)**

The Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP) - Chicago is an all-volunteer organization that supports the rights of sex workers and their communities; works to end violence through education, advocacy, and peer support; and strives to eliminate the stigma surrounding sex work. **(SF)**

The Street Vendors Association organizes street vendors to ensure that they are able to sell their food without fear of police harassment. They successfully advocated and won an ordinance that legalizes street vending and are now working to construct a cooperative kitchen where vendors can share resources. **(SF)**

United Taxi Drivers Community Council (UTCC), 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. The Technical Assistance Fund supported them in strengthening their financial management systems. **(TA)**

YOUTH

A Long Walk Home uses art therapy, visual, and performing arts to engage young girls in campaigns to end sexual violence/harassment against women and girls, both in their schools and communities. **(YF, Cathy Cohen)**

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 Movement for Black Lives. **(YF)**

Chicago Desi Youth Rising (CDYR) is a summer leadership program for youth who trace their heritage to South Asia and the diaspora. They focus on history, arts, and movement building for community resilience and youth empowerment. **(TA)**

Chicago Freedom School works to create a new generation of young people engaged in social justice through leadership development, the study of past social movements, and hands on engagement. The Youth Fund supported Project HealUs, which activates and prepares young people of color to explore, engage, and expand the work of the reproductive justice movement within their communities. **(YF)**

The Chicago SNCC History Project works to document the history of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in Chicago and connect civil rights leaders to the current generation of youth/adult activists. The Youth Fund grant supported this year's annual conference, *From Civil Rights to Black Power*. **(YF)**

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

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. The Critical Response Fund helped them connect community members to legal services, employment services, and spaces to heal, process, and build solidarity. **(SF, CRF, YF, GRAM)**

Fighting Youth Shouting Out for Humanity (FYSH), the Hana Center's youth council, engages in education, self-expression, and collective action towards change for youth and their communities. They have been working on a "Decolonize CPS" campaign to create and implement curriculum in CPS high schools that better represents the lived experiences of youth of color. They presented their work at this year's Bending the Arc gathering. **(YF, Bending the Arc)**

Imagine Englewood If seeks to empower the greater Englewood community through youth engagement and environmental awareness. The Youth Fund supported their Growing Citizen Leaders (GCL) program, which gives participants a deeper understanding of the connection between systemic discrimination and the current situation in their own neighborhood, providing the impetus to work for change. **(YF)**

Mikva Challenge develops youth to be informed, empowered, and active citizens and community leaders. They do this by engaging youth in action civics, an authentic and transformative learning process built on youth voice and youth expertise. The grant supported their Youth Councils, which are focused on increasing youth input in After School Matters programming, restorative justice, and creating a mental health toolkit for young people in CPS schools. **(YF)**

OLLIN is the youth component of the **Telpochcalli Community Education Project**, and encompasses their after school programming, their youth leadership group, and peer mentorship. The Youth Fund grant supported their Girl Talk, Boys Circles, and the Little Village Non-Violence Summer Institute. **(YF)**

ONE Northside is a mixed-income, multi-ethnic, intergenerational organization that builds collective power to eliminate injustice through bold and innovative community organizing. The grant supported their Youth Leadership Development and Organizing Project, whose work focuses on over-policing and police accountability. **(YF)**

{she crew} is a multidisciplinary journaling-to-performance empowerment program for young girls (age 12-14) in Chicago. Their year-round, free leadership development programs focus on social justice, writing, collaborative skills, and empowerment. **(YF)**

Solidarity Studios aims to empower disconnected communities and those facing 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 Empowerment Performance Project (YEPP) seeks a safe environment in which LGBTQ youth of color experiencing homelessness can explore their history, investigate new ways to address their struggles, and celebrate their strengths through theatrical performance pieces. **(SF, YF, Vernita Gray)**

Youth Outlook engages LGBTQ youth in the western suburbs (Naperville, Aurora, DeKalb, and surrounding areas) by providing community education workshops to counteract heterosexism, homophobia, and transphobia. The Technical Assistance Fund supported them in sending staff to the Fundraising Professionals International Conference. **(SF, YF, TA)**

CROSSROADS FUND 2017 GRANTEES

CHICAGO YOUTH STORAGE INITIATIVE (CYSI)

The Chicago Youth Storage Initiative (CYSI) was founded by the Pierce Family Foundation, Knight Family Foundation, Polk Bros. Foundation, and Windy City Times. The project is housed at the Crossroads Fund. Several additional foundations contribute to **CYSI's efforts, including Prince Charitable Trusts, Alvin H. Baum Family Foundation, Alphawood Foundation, Owens Foundation, Paul Angell Foundation, as well as many individual donors.**

The **CYSI seeks to improve the lives of young people experiencing homelessness through the provision of physical and virtual storage access options that serve a wide range of experiences and needs.** Solutions include secure storage units at overnight youth shelters, drop-in centers, and schools; daily/overnight storage access with phone charging capabilities; virtual or cloud-based storage; and more.

The Broadway Youth Center is a youth leadership project and a basic needs program for LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness and housing instability. They provide medical, social, and mental health care services, as well as community, for youth age 12-24. **(CYSI)**

Covenant House is the largest privately funded agency in the Americas that provides shelter, food, immediate crisis care, and an array of other services to homeless and runaway youth. They serve over 46,000 young people every year. **(CYSI)**

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 age 18-24. **(CYSI)**

La Casa Norte meets youth and families experiencing homelessness where they're at and helps them move along to increased stability. They provide access to stable housing and deliver comprehensive services that act as a catalyst to transform lives and communities. **(CYSI)**

The LYTE Collective is the future home of the Chicago Youth Storage Initiative and is a community center for youth experiencing poverty and homelessness. The Technical Assistance Fund supported them in building their fundraising capacity. **(TA)**

The Night Ministry is a Chicago-based organization that works to provide housing, health care, and human connection to community members struggling with poverty or homelessness. **(CYSI)**

Northwest Compass supports neighbors in crisis in the northwest suburbs. They provide emergency services, education, and empowerment to people who are vulnerable or in crisis. **(CYSI)**

Teen Living Programs focuses exclusively on 14-24 year-olds who are experiencing homelessness on Chicago's south side, and offers comprehensive, year-round support services to clients that address emergency needs, housing, education, job readiness, and embracing a healthy lifestyle. **(CYSI)**

Unity Parenting & Counseling, Inc. has been providing housing and social services to Chicago's most vulnerable children, youth, and adults for over 30 years. They offer a range of services in the areas of foster and kinship care, violence prevention and parenting training, housing for homeless youth and families, and emergency shelter. **(CYSI)**

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, INSURANCES 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, Development and Communications Manager, 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)	Nora Kyger
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For more information, please contact Jeanne Kracher, Executive Director, at **773.227.7676** or jeanne@crossroadsfund.org

**in memory*



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CONNECT WITH US!

SAVE THE DATE: April 6, 2018
Seeds of Change
Join grantees, board members, and friends of the Crossroads Fund as we celebrate at our annual benefit.
Visit crossroadsfund.org/seedsforchange for more information.

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