

COMMUNITY HEROES



2008



INSPIRING

A TRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEROES 2008

To the scribes and photographers of the LISC/Chicago New Communities Program, because great stories need great storytellers.

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A TRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEROES WHO GET IT DONE

Community heroes are leaders, teams and families who not only use their individual skills and knowledge to do good work, but also engage the resources and strength of the entire community to make real, positive change.

Community heroes get their neighbors feeling proud of their neighborhoods; get kids excited about the future; get businesses open and services delivered. Community heroes get it done.

“It” can mean a lot of things in Chicago. It can be an old-fashioned tent revival that lasts late into the night, with teenagers dancing and singing with their elderly neighbors. It can be a garden of nutritious vegetables grown by formerly incarcerated people learning new skills. It can be a way out of gang life, a nearby place to get reliable healthcare, or the opening of a new locally-owned business.

Community heroes see economic and social challenges and don't wait for others to meet them. They tap into the spirit of their neighborhoods and channel it into real results that enrich peoples' lives. Job opportunities, affordable housing and safer streets are possible because they are meeting community challenges with community solutions.

These exemplary individuals, teams and couples all represent the best of their neighborhoods and the best of Chicago. Whatever it is their neighborhoods need, these heroes get it done.

Honored here and at the 2008 Getting It Done Conference, these heroes were selected by the New Communities Program (NCP) lead agencies and partners. NCP is a long-term initiative of Local Initiatives Support Corporation/Chicago to support comprehensive community development in 16 neighborhoods throughout Chicago.

GRANVILLE & JUANITA LOVE



The words “Community Heroes” are synonymous with Granville and Juanita Love. These high school sweethearts from Blytheville, Ark., married for more than 47 years, have started successful businesses and served their community for decades.

Granville Love has been the proprietor of Team Construction for nearly 10 years and performs home repairs for residents in Auburn Gresham and surrounding communities, which are often underserved. Through city programs, his company provides “priced to fit” projects to those who can’t afford the full cost of repairs. Mr. Love volunteers with the organization Grandfamilies Raising Grandchildren, providing everything from construction work to space for meetings. He has served as a deacon at the New Jerusalem Pentecostal Church since 1969, training numerous young men in carpentry, truck driving and other functions related to his business.

Juanita Love has been the proprietor of Clip-n-Curl and a beautician for more than 20 years. Mrs. Love has served as the 79th Morgan Block Club president for more than 20 years and also sits on the boards of both Grandfamilies Raising Grandchildren and the local Neighborhood Housing Services office, which gave her its Service Award in 2004. Mrs. Love received a certificate of excellence from Ald. Latasha Thomas and 17th Ward block club leaders in 2001 for her leadership and service.

Blessed with five children, 10 grand children, and one great grandchild—admired and respected by all who know them—this couple demonstrates the importance of living, laughing and learning.

DEBORAH MOORE



Deborah Moore, director of Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago – Auburn Gresham/Englewood branch, has counseled hundreds during a decade in her role with the organization. She strives to treat each client with dignity and respect while counseling those in home mortgage default and facing foreclosure.

“Saving families from losing their homes and investments, in addition to saving our neighborhood from another vacant, boarded up house, is currently the most important work I can do,” she said. “I have to keep a box of Kleenex at my desk. When I’m counseling people and I’m honest, sometimes the truth hurts.”

Known for her integrity, commitment and giving spirit, Deborah also serves her community as board treasurer for the Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC), career mentor for students at Perspectives Calumet Charter School, and a council member for Ald. Latasha Thomas’ 17th Ward Redevelopment Advisory Council.

WAYNE M. LERNER



When Dr. Wayne M. Lerner became president and chief executive officer of Holy Cross Hospital, the 331-bed faith-based facility was close to shutting its doors. The area's second-largest employer, Holy Cross serves 450,000 residents and is the only hospital for several miles in any direction. Former head of the prestigious Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, Wayne has led efforts to stabilize Holy Cross' finances by raising more than \$9 million to overhaul and modernize the city's second-busiest emergency room, worked to attract and retain bilingual staff, and jump-started a state-of-the-art mobile healthcare van, which provides pre-natal care to local high school students and free health screening and testing to residents.

When Wayne chaired a statewide task force to develop a plan for universal healthcare coverage, he led 29 disparate members from healthcare, insurance, government, advocacy groups and others to a unanimous conclusion, recalls Dennis Ryan, vice president of external affairs for Holy Cross. "He's very adept at figuring out how to bring people together," Ryan says, "to bring about a consensus and then take action."

CEASEFIRE TEAM



Shootings have fallen 67 percent in six years since Rafi Peterson, Miguel Arcos, Kenneth Baldwin, Mirna Guzman, Rick Hernandez and Hugo Siguenza—members of the CeaseFire outreach team in Chicago Southwest—began their work. These leaders literally put their lives on the line every day to build relationships with some of the most isolated and disenfranchised youths in Chicago Southwest, who live in a world where distrust and misunderstanding can turn a simple conversation into explosive violence without warning.

The CeaseFire workers focused on building relationships with those that they felt were most likely to be shooters, worked to establish safe havens for gang members, and provided individualized job assistance and parenting classes for the community's most at-risk youth. They also helped organize and participate in marches and vigils in response to shootings, and they worked with grieving family members to help calm neighborhood tensions.

Unfortunately, funding for the CeaseFire program was eliminated in an ongoing statewide budget battle. Rafi, Miguel and Kenneth showed their commitment to the community and our youth by continuing to work unpaid for several months to maintain the critical relationships they had forged until emergency bridge funding from the Pritzker-Pucker Family Foundation was received. The funding is financing a reduced team that continues the difficult but crucial work of reaching out to Chicago's most at-risk youth.

CLIFTON COOPER



Clifton Cooper is determined to improve the housing stock in East Garfield Park—and keep it affordable for working families. Cooper displayed that determination as a key leader in the four-year struggle that resulted in the city earmarking 93 infill sites for an equal number of both market rate and affordable homes, into which the first families moved during the past year. More broadly, his persistence, diplomacy and knowledge of city programs has resulted in strong ties with various city departments, elected officials and developers.

He spends his time driving around Chicago looking for design elements to incorporate into potential developments, touring the neighborhood with interested developers at the request of local aldermen, and working with architects on the design of various buildings. Last March, *Business Week* identified East Garfield Park as one of the 10 next up-and-coming neighborhoods in America, thanks to the hard work of heroes like Clifton.

BRENETTA HOWELL BARRETT



Brenetta Howell Barrett has positively impacted her community in arenas from housing to healthcare to economic development. During the quality-of-life planning process in East Garfield Park, she was a member of the Housing and Health committees and, in recent years, has focused on public awareness, prevention education and broader community planning around HIV/AIDS. To that end, in 1998, she founded Pathfinders Prevention Education Fund to provide education, counseling and referrals in an intergenerational setting.

A West Side resident since the early 1950s, Brenetta began her career in 1965 at the Chicago Economic Development Corporation, where she worked as business counselor, branch manager and associate director of an office that accounted for 68 percent of the loans to West Side businesses. In 1967, Brenetta organized the Westside Builders Association, the city's first contractors association for African Americans. In the political and policy arena, Brenetta has successfully managed independent political campaigns for African Americans running for congressman, alderman, ward committeeman and circuit court judge, and she served as a commissioner of consumer services in the administration of the late Mayor Harold Washington.

ORRIN WILLIAMS



As chair of the NCP Agriculture Planning Committee in Englewood, Orrin Williams has led the successful implementation of the Wood Street Urban Farm, a project run by Growing Home. The certified organic agricultural business provides transitional employment for homeless and low-income adults, most of whom have criminal backgrounds, while also proving that local, fresh food can come from right here in Chicago.

At the farm, Orrin hires staff and manages the day-to-day operations. “He’s a very green-oriented person,” says the Rev. Rodney Walker of Teamwork Englewood. “He was an early maverick, before it got to be politically popular. He cares very much about what he eats, and he practices what he preaches.” The Urban Farm is a part of the quality-of-life plan for Englewood, which calls for developing an urban agriculture district in Englewood that will lead to healthy and sustainable living among Englewood residents. Orrin also teaches a class at Lindbloom High School, where he is enlisting students to help launch a Farmers Market this summer, which will sell fresh organic produce grown on Wood Street.

REV. JAMES DUKES



Rev. James Dukes and his church, Liberation Christian Center, serve Englewood and the people who live there through a faith-based initiative to help the formerly incarcerated re-enter society, a major component of the community’s quality-of-life plan. The Rev. Dukes personally provides mentoring and pastoral counseling services at the church, and he and his staff play a key role in providing transportation so program participants can get driver’s licenses, go for job interviews and take other necessary excursions in making their journey back to being productive community members.

Rev. Dukes serves on the steering committee for Weed and Seed, an initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, with support from the Northern Illinois U.S. Attorney’s Office, to provide tutoring and mentoring for at-risk youth, re-entry services for formerly incarcerated men and women, and other services over a five-year period to improve community safety and vitality. “He’s very committed to the residents of Englewood, to improving their quality of life, and to giving a second chance to those who need it,” says the Rev. Rodney Walker of Teamwork Englewood.

MIGUEL A. PALACIO



For his tireless work and countless hours of dedicated service in Humboldt Park, Miguel A. Palacio truly embodies the words “community hero.” As associate director of Association House of Chicago, he is uniting groups and individuals to work for a healthier Humboldt Park. Miguel is a leading voice in the Greater Humboldt Park Community of Wellness, where he serves as co-chair and steering committee member. He has played a key role in shaping this coalition, which brings health organizations together to form a unified campaign framing good healthcare as a critical aspect of community development. The coalition is organized into task forces to address key concerns in the community such as diabetes, HIV/AIDS and asthma. The task forces are already making progress because of effective collaboration between health organizations, schools, development organizations, foundations and universities.

Miguel also builds relationships in the community as a steering committee member of the Humboldt Park Empowerment Partnership and its Employment Skills Action Team. His efforts have resulted in an annual job fair and the Carreras en Salud program, which helps Spanish-speaking students start a career in nursing. Miguel also participated in an integrated school-based arts initiative to generate new school curricula in the community’s schools that reflect the Puerto Rican/Latino and African-American cultures at the heart of Humboldt Park’s vitality.

BILL HOWARD



As the executive director of West Humboldt Park Family & Community Development Council for the past eight years, Bill Howard has helped revitalize the West Humboldt Park community. Bill’s innovative outlook on economic and human capital development has helped the organization provide residents with tools for self-empowerment. Among the more prominent projects Bill has developed and implemented is the First Community Land Trust of Chicago, designed to encourage and create homeowners out of those who would not otherwise have had the opportunity to own property—getting them started through training and support programs for homeowners, and providing opportunities to participate in community planning.

Bill also has helped to provide residents with increased income potential through employment initiatives, encouraging retail development on the Chicago Avenue corridor and others and working with developers coming into the community to ensure local hiring. Through the Community Health Initiative, Bill has worked to ensure longer and healthier lives by launching a women’s health club and by planning a men’s club to encourage residents to take a holistic view of health and wellness—just as Bill has done for West Humboldt Park.

JORGE ROQUE



Jorge Roque has dedicated his life to helping troubled young people in Little Village turn their lives around. For the past eight years, Jorge has worked as a street intervention worker and supervisor for the YMCA Street Intervention Project, where he handles a caseload of 40 to 50 youth out of his mobile office: his van. Jorge takes youth to open gyms, helps them get a GED or a job, or serves as an advocate for them in the court system.

Before working for the YMCA, Jorge worked for Metro Chicago Youth for Christ and with Dr. Irvin Spergel of the University of Chicago in the Little Village Gang Reduction Project. Jorge lives in Little Village with his wife, Alma, and their two children. “He’s sort of like a rock—close enough to his last name,” says Little Village NCP Director Jaime DeLeon. “When I think about Jorge, the word integrity comes to mind. He’s somebody who genuinely cares about the kids and the neighborhood.”

MARIA VELAZQUEZ



Maria Velazquez has been a parent organizer and resource coordinator with Telpochcalli Community Education Project for four years. She is currently the lead organizer of the group’s main campaign to build a community center and school on an empty lot in front of Telpochcalli School, but, over the years, Maria has worked on several fronts to help empower parents and immigrants to take charge of their own lives and community.

“She really tries to get the folks she’s organizing—mostly mothers in her case—to be leaders,” says NCP Director Jamie DeLeon. “She treats them as equals. They run their own meetings, and she acts more as a facilitator to help them build their own capacity.” She is also a wife and mother of five with deep roots in Little Village. “The culture of her neighborhood is very important to her,” DeLeon says. “She always makes sure that everything she does is culturally relevant.”

MAYRA CASASOLA



Mayra Casasola was elected president of the Lorrington Tenants Association in 2004, when her affordable apartment building and another one nearby were about to be lost to condo conversion. Logan Square Neighborhood Association organized a tenant meeting, and Mayra quickly emerged as a leader in convincing tenants to form an association and select a not-for-profit developer to buy the buildings. She led the tenants for three years, even taking off work so she could represent them at the city and state level.

Through hard work, persistence and dedication, the Lorrington Tenants Association in partnership with The Community Builders, Inc. were successful in preserving the Lorrington Apartments. Since their victory, Mayra has shared the story of their struggle to tenants in danger of losing their homes and offered the experience as a testament of hope to others facing the same set of circumstances. Now, she is becoming more involved in the national preservation efforts to increase HUD funding for affordable housing. Mayra is a community hero because she is dedicated, persistent, stubborn and focused; all qualities that were key to saving the Lorrington Apartments.

DAVID PINO



David Pino became principal of McAuliffe Elementary School in 2003 and promised the Local School Council that he would open the building to parents and the community. During his first year, David began the LSNA Parent Mentor, Parent Tutor and Literacy Ambassador programs. By his second year, the Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA) and McAuliffe had secured the resources to keep the school open in the evening as a community learning center, which serves 65 students and 100 parents each week.

To advance his interests in health and fitness, David has partnered with both the Healthy Eating by Design and Active Living by Design programs to promote nutrition education and physical activity, respectively, for students, parents, teachers and staff. When the CPS food service director invited McAuliffe to be the pilot school for universal breakfast in the classroom last fall, David did not hesitate; and today, 700 of his 800 students participate. Knowing that his children had no place to play at school, he successfully turned part of an asphalt parking lot into a beautifully landscaped play lot. David is a community hero because he has gone above and beyond to incorporate non-traditional programs into McAuliffe that holistically address the needs of the community's children.

GERALD AND LOREAN EARLES



After nearly two decades as North Lawndale residents, Gerald and Lorean Earles in 1985 gathered their determination to improve their community and started what would eventually become Slum Busters—a group of more than 100 concerned Lawndale citizens who meet regularly to clean up and beautify the neighborhood, one site at a time, every Saturday. To bring in resources, the Earles write and phone aldermen, commissioners and representatives, leveraging their community ties to influence voting for politicians who have responded positively, and acting as a voice for the silenced and a face to the invisible.

The Earles remind young Slum Busters that to do nothing is to be nothing—that they should take pride, not just in their appearance, but also in the quality of education and overall lifestyle offered in their community. Both Gerald and Lorean have an interest in photography and keep an extensive archive of the history of North Lawndale that they proudly share with young people. The Earles also continue to share their dreams with the youth of Lawndale, reminding them that education is only as good as what you do with it, and encouraging them to look around, take inventory and then take interest—as they themselves have done.

PAT HERROD



A resident of North Lawndale for more than 35 years, Pat Herrod is a vital member of in the pastoral care department at Lawndale Christian Health Center, which addresses the spiritual needs of patients at a time when they may be overwhelmed with concerns about their health. Pat has been a tireless advocate for patients who need housing, shelter, financial assistance and, most importantly, prayer and encouragement. Pat also commits heart and soul to the betterment of her community at large. As a recent addition to Lawndale Christian Development Corp. (LCDC) board of directors, she develops outreach strategies and connects the community to much-needed services.

Often called “The Queen of Networking,” Pat “is just like a North Lawndale directory,” says Tracie Worthy, NCP program manager at LCDC. “She works with shelters, hospitals, places people can get assistance with utilities, places they can find food, and other kinds of support services. Because she has lived in the community for so long and outreach is such an essential part of who she is, she knows just about everybody.” Pat attributes her strength to her personal relationship with Jesus Christ and says her favorite book is the Bible; she can be found singing in the choir on Sundays at Lawndale Community Church.

OSCAR TORRES



When St. Ann's Parish was struggling and in danger of closing, Oscar Torres rallied and energized parishioners and other Chicagoans. He helped to raise thousands of dollars through golf outings and church festivals, expressing an affinity for the parish that stems both from his family's 40-plus year history with the church and his desire to put faith into action.

But Oscar's commitment to the community doesn't stop there—he volunteers and recruits others into a mentors program at St. Pius V parish for at-risk youth. He contributes to the NCP-funded Resurrection Basketball League as a veritable hoops Renaissance Man—coach, organizer, cook and anything else that's needed. Viewing this time as an investment in the next generation of community leaders, Oscar has taken several young people under his wing and engaged them in community service.

"He's a hands-on person," says NCP Director Álvaro Obregón of The Resurrection Project. "It could be 100 degrees outside, and he'll love flipping burgers for kids. He'll take the grunt work." A trainer for the city's Office of Emergency Management, Oscar also has reached out to his neighbors and assisted them in receiving benefits through city service requests.

MARTHA MONRROY



In the four years since Martha Monrroy became its principal, Cooper Dual Language Academy in Pilsen has significantly increased academic achievement, improved student attendance, and created dynamic programs for students and parents alike. "She's created an environment where kids and parents love to be," says Álvaro Obregón, NCP director at The Resurrection Project.

For 15 years prior to her time at Cooper, she worked as a teacher, program coordinator and administrator at Orozco Academy while pursuing additional master's degrees, which helped her students see that learning is a lifelong process. The daughter of Mexican immigrants, Martha went into teaching with a deep desire to return to her community and positively influence Latino children with the message, "If I can do it, you can too!" Martha's students have done it, succeeding in areas like medicine, education, public service and private business.

As a member of Pilsen's NCP Education Taskforce, Martha helped organize the first-ever Pilsen Education Summit, where hundreds of community members came together to address issues of education. This has led to a monthly principals' network meeting and face time with Chicago Public Schools CEO Arne Duncan.

MONICA HASLIP



Monica's Haslip's passion for art and desire to portray the importance of African Americans in every aspect of life led her to found Little Black Pearl Workshop, an innovative neighborhood art program designed to show children the vast contributions that African Americans have made to the arts. Created in 1994, the workshop creates an avenue for exposure to art and culture while teaching the profitable connection between art and business. "Art must become and remain a part of the machinery that moves us to change quickly and creatively," she says. "We have always said, and continue to say, the battle we are waging is the battle for the minds of our children. It then becomes very important that art plays the role it should in empowerment, education and survival."

As founder and executive director, Monica has received recognition from the likes of Hillary Rodham Clinton, *Essence* magazine, *Crain's Chicago Business* magazine, the African American Arts Alliance of Chicago, *Chicago Magazine* and the *Chicago Defender*. Monica also contributes her time to boards and committees representing various important causes, including the Greater Chicago Food Depository, Jane Addams Hull House Association and the African American Arts Alliance.

CLEANSLATE



The social enterprise program CleanSlate provides both transitional job opportunities to people who face significant obstacles to employment and neighborhood beautification services in nine communities, including the Quad Communities. This program empowers homeless and poverty-stricken people with the skills, confidence and resources to secure permanent employment and achieve lasting success. Since 2005, CleanSlate has provided internships to more than 320 people, nearly half with at least one criminal conviction, 134 of whom have been placed into quality, permanent employment after their internship.

In the Quad Communities, the program has swept up Cottage Grove Avenue and other commercial strips while maintaining vacant lots and gardens, collecting 13,934 bags of recycling and 9,190 bags of garbage in its first 2 1/2 years of operations. CleanSlate's host organization, The Cara Program, has placed more than 2,000 people into full-time, quality jobs with leading Chicago-area companies, including several in the Fortune 500, with an average wage of \$10.72 per hour, with benefits.

AL REYES



A contributing member of the combined South Chicago NCP and Building Community Through the Arts task force, Al Reyes supports the plan's implementation through his volunteer leadership at La Causa Community Committee. La Causa works to serve at-risk youth and their families on the Southeast Side of Chicago through programs that address the importance of education, delinquency prevention and family unity. Al has partnered with other organizations to plan a youth summit for 2007 and now 2008.

In collaboration with Germano Millgate, Al continues to promote after-school programs for more than 300 youth. Al was born and raised in South Chicago, and his career in youth work began at age 16 as the assistant swim instructor at the YMCA. He has since worked for Chicago Area Project as a grant-in-aid youth worker, director of the Title XX youth program, and community service worker, collaborating with other neighborhood agencies to strengthen services for the agency's youth.

NEIL BOSANKO



Neil Bosanko is a product of the South Chicago community and uses his historical knowledge and understanding about the community in his work. A contributing member of the NCP task force process, Neil Bosanko is executive director of the South Chicago Chamber of Commerce. In that role, he has led sidewalk festivals where merchants sell products outside and food vendors without storefronts set up booths, as well as a Back to School Fair where Neil organizes a giveaway of 500 book bags stocked with supplies that was recently recognized by the Chicago Public Schools.

Neil and the chamber also have launched a plan to provide incentives to beautify the neighborhood's main retail corridor, Commercial Avenue, with the support of the City of Chicago. He helped plan and organize informational networking sessions to understand the Middle East and Islam shortly after the 9/11 attacks and has conducted Hispanic and African-American networking sessions to help facilitate a dialogue between those communities. His guidance and commitment have helped the South Chicago community work together.

DELLA MITCHELL



More than 15 years ago, Della Mitchell began organizing homeless women to find a way to take control of their lives, and in the process, built an organization that is making Washington Park a better place to live. Della is the founder and executive director of Brand New Beginnings, a faith-based organization that provides supportive housing to formerly homeless women and families. The Brand New Beginnings facilities feature rent based on income and employment and educational resources. Thanks to Della's leadership and vision, the organization has expanded, opening the new Harriet Tubman Building in November 2007—other housing and business development plans are in the works.

Della's commitment to bring faith into "the hedges and byways" has motivated her to expand the spiritual reach of Brand New Beginnings as well as its facilities. The organization hosts annual tent revivals, bringing community members of all ages under its tent on 58th and Indiana to sing, dance and commit together to root out and destroy drugs and prostitution in the neighborhood. Della is also building a partnership with Daley College to begin a service learning program with their nursing students and is building Washington Park entrepreneurs of tomorrow in a new youth entrepreneurship program.

CLIFF KELLEY



Cliff Kelley has been a resident of Washington Park for 45 years—serving the community as a young volunteer and community organizer, human rights advocate, and for four terms in City Council as Alderman of the 20th ward. Cliff is best known in Chicago in his current role with WVON-AM as one of the city's most popular radio hosts.

With his wealth of knowledge on local, national and international affairs and a sense of justice and activism developed serving Washington Park, every afternoon Cliff brings important information to the neighborhood and Chicago.

Cliff has featured information and resources for minority-owned businesses, covered the Olympics and how it will affect Washington Park, and addressed the changes in public housing. One of Cliff's favorite recent segments was a historic discussion with Rev. Jesse Jackson and Minister Louis Farrakhan, which explored big picture issues in African-American communities all over America. In many different roles throughout the years, Cliff Kelley has asked the right questions and focused on the needs of his community and city.

CRYSTAL PALMER



Cystal Palmer has spent nearly a decade advocating for Near West Side residents to receive the resources they need to become self-sufficient members of the community. As a case manager at Near West Side Community Development Corporation, Crystal serves as a liaison between public housing residents and the Chicago Housing Authority, Illinois Department of Human Services and other government agencies. She works to secure employment for people in public housing, particularly at West Haven (formerly Henry Horner Homes) by organizing job fairs and health fairs.

Crystal has helped to place 200 residents in jobs through the job fairs and direct involvement with Near West Side CDC's Service Connector program to assist public housing residents. As a West Haven resident, president of the Henry Horner/West Haven Local Advisory Council, and secretary of the Horner Resident Committee for the past three years, Crystal has been actively involved in the implementation of the Horner consent decree, a federal court order that cleared the way for Horner to be redeveloped into a mixed-income community.

KEITH JACKSON



Keith Jackson is a lifelong resident of the West Side who once played lead trombone in the Duke Ellington Orchestra. After tiring of the grind of touring the world, Keith returned home to Chicago to begin his life's mission: organizing people in communities of color to realize self-empowerment. He has spent a quarter-century as a community organizer for the Chicago Area Project and now serves as president of the Chicago Institute for Community Organizing. In those roles, Keith has helped to create numerous organizations throughout Chicago and Illinois, including the Horner Association of Men, an organization that helps former public housing residents find employment—sometimes through Keith's own cleaning service.

More recently, he helped launch a computer lab to help kids develop technology skills at the Major Adams Academy, formerly part of the Horner Boys & Girls Club. Keith also participates in Roll Call, an organization that helps formerly incarcerated people re-enter society. Recently, Keith has come full circle with his passion for music, playing trombone with the "Gentlemen of Leisure" band and remaining active in efforts to preserve and promote the arts in low-income communities.

N. JEANE CLARK



For the past eight years, life-long Woodlawn resident N. Jeane Clark has been dedicated to the upkeep and renovation of her neighborhood. Jeane has been a staunch advocate for community beautification and safety through her leadership of the 6100 S. Rhodes Block Club, and she has also assisted other residents in organizing and maintaining functioning block clubs. As a member of The Woodlawn Organization's steering committee, she serves on the housing and youth subcommittees to help catalyze other grassroots initiatives throughout the neighborhood.

A CAPS volunteer, Jeane has taken it upon herself to be a whistleblower for poor building management, slum landlords and criminal activity. She was a key organizer of the annual "Hands Across 3rd District" and "Ring the Bell, Sound the Alarm" safety campaigns, and she was an advocate for closing liquor stores that sold to minors. Jeane has received numerous awards from CAPS, T.W.O. and NCP for her innovative thinking and endless dedication.

BRYAN ECHOLS



As the executive director for Metropolitan Area Group for Igniting Civilization, Inc. (MAGIC), Bryan Echols has worked close to 10 hours a day for 5 years helping to build the organization, even though he was paid a meager stipend of \$600 monthly in the early going. Under his watch, MAGIC has launched exciting programs for teens, such as a young women's leadership development program, mural arts program, youth organizing training, and the NCP-funded gem, Woodlawn String Instrument Program. In addition to his MAGIC duties, Bryan has chaired the Woodlawn Social Service Network, comprised of human service providers who meet regularly to help facilitate collaboration and cooperation on issues.

He also has become a big brother and counselor to youth and always encourages them to develop a spiritual side so that good decision-making becomes more intuitive and easier to execute. From the Woodlawn Heroes mural at the Harris Park Center, to the African mosaics enhancing the playground on 62nd and Kimbark, to the melodic sounds of string instruments coming out of Carnegie Elementary, evidence of Bryan Echols' acts of heroism abound in Woodlawn.



LISC/CHICAGO NEW COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Meaningful partnerships with dedicated organizations and individuals are the hallmark of the New Communities Program. LISC/Chicago and all of the NCP lead agencies congratulate these community heroes and thank them for their dedication, inspiration and steadfast commitment to improving the places we call home.

NCP NEIGHBORHOODS & LEAD AGENCIES

Auburn Gresham	Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corp.
Chicago Southwest	Greater Southwest Development Corp.
East Garfield Park	Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance
Englewood	Teamwork Englewood
Humboldt Park	Bickerdike Redevelopment Corp.
Little Village	Little Village Community Development Corp.
Logan Square	Logan Square Neighborhood Association
North Lawndale	Lawndale Christian Development Corp.
Pilsen	The Resurrection Project
Quad Communities	Quad Communities Development Corp.
South Chicago	Claretian Associates
Washington Park	NCP/Washington Park
West Haven	Near West Side Community Development Corp.
Woodlawn	NCP/Woodlawn

PHOTO CREDITS

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LISC Sustainable Communities



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