

R E S I D E N T S '

Journal

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O u r M i s s i o n

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P u b l i s h e r ' s B o x

by Ethan Michaeli



It's up to residents and their leadership to design the public housing of the future.

Residents will have to fight for their ideas - on the pavement, in the community rooms, court rooms and board rooms, and at the ballot box.

But no one knows better than residents the consequences of failing to fight for these ideas. No one wants to see families on the street and families breaking up.

Residents and their leaders will have to fight hard to change the minds of so many government officials, scholars and so-called advocates for the poor. These figures envision the public housing developments that will replace today's Robert Taylor Homes, Ida B. Wells and others as far different communities.

The new communities will be mixed-income, with only a fraction of the new residents being from the current resident population. The private managers of the new developments will use tough screening and strict criteria to make sure that only the "deserving poor" get services from the government.

Over the past 20 years, the so-called experts who have dreamed up these new public housing communities have built these new public housing communities on the notion that welfare made its recipients dependent on the government. The experts - Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives - agreed to cut back on programs and create

Police Department, which should be patrolling CHA anyway - and which admits it hasn't even filled the ranks of its public housing squad yet. Residents' Journal Editor-in-Chief Mary C. Johns discovered in her investigation (Story begins on Page 4) that CHA is transferring millions of dollars to the other city agencies without much oversight to make sure those dollars are being spent on residents.

The City is quickly dismantling the CHA under the guise of the Plan for Transformation. But the method behind the political madness is rooted in the idea that only the deserving poor should get help.

It is just as difficult to categorize someone as 'deserving' or 'undeserving' as it is to categorize someone as 'lease compliant' or 'non-lease compliant.' Is the mother struggling to control her teenage son deserving or undeserving? What happens to this woman if her health - or the health of her child - deteriorates? Is her teenage son forever undeserving if he is arrested? What will happen to him if he is forever locked out of any government services?

The Deserving

standards designed to screen out the "Undeserving Poor." Federal and state legislators eagerly passed laws and slashed budgets.

At CHA, the local term for "deserving poor" is "lease compliant." For "undeserving poor," read "lease non-compliant." Lease compliance is important because only those who are 'lease compliant' will be able to move back into new units that are eventually built on former CHA sites. Many of our articles over the past two years have described the various definitions of lease compliance. But the number of lease compliant residents is known to no one - not the scholars who study CHA residents nor the social service providers to residents and certainly not to the CHA.

The Service Connector program is supposed to help those who aren't 'lease compliant.' CHA is spending just \$5.9 million per year on the Service Connector Program and \$12 million on annual grants to the Chicago Police Department.

In other words, the CHA is spending one-half as much on a program to get residents "lease compliant" as it is giving to the Chicago

Government officials, scholars and advocates don't have the answers to those questions. Just like 'lease compliance,' the definition of 'deserving poor' is a sliding scale on a slippery slope.

Lease Compliance is already being used to build new public housing. Anyone who wants to find out what a development could look like after transformation should read Beauty Turner's article about her visit to the mixed-income development that replaced the John Hay Homes in Springfield, IL.

All agree that the new buildings are high-quality housing. But just four former residents of the Hay Homes, a 500-unit development that resembled one of Chicago's public housing communities, live in the new mixed-income communities.

Mbanna Kantako, a resident who operated a pirate radio station from the Hay Homes, described the treatment he and other Hay Homes residents received since they've departed as a human rights violation.

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Transforming CHA

City Gets CHA Funds

by Mary C. Johns
Editor-in-Chief

Top Chicago Housing Authority officials have said they want to get out of the business of providing residents with programs. However, a *Residents' Journal* investigation has found that CHA is transferring millions of dollars from its budget to other city departments to administer its former social service programs. Only a few of those city departments can demonstrate that they are serving residents with those federal funds. And other city departments have yet to begin their efforts to serve residents.

Where's the Money?

Residents and others have on occasion questioned CHA officials at public meetings on the whereabouts of the federal funds the agency received for social service programs since the transference of the programs began in 1999.

During a February 2001 Tenant Services meeting at the Central Advisory Council (CAC) office, Mildred Dennis, the Local Advisory Council (LAC) president for Robert Taylor "B," followed up on activist Bamani Obadele's question to CHA officials regarding the federal

uments obtained earlier as well as interviews with CHA and other city officials.

From this review, *Residents' Journal* has learned that CHA contracted the services of the Chicago Police Department at a rate of \$12 million a year to patrol CHA family developments.

The Authority also was negotiating at the time of this report to hire the Chicago Department of Human Services to administer social services to residents through its Service Connector program for \$5.9 million a year throughout the implementation of the CHA's "Plan for Transformation."

CHA used to spend approximately \$40 million annually – excluding police services through its CHA Police Department - on programs it formerly administered to its residents.

The housing authority's total operating budget for 1999 programs was \$47 million, according to a CHA Office of Programs 1999 Funding Sources document. The Authority's operating budget for 2000 programs was \$42 million. For 2001 programs, the agency projected \$40 million, according to CHA's 2001 Fiscal Year Comprehensive Budget.

CHA Chief Peterson said he didn't know how the program dollars were used for 1999 because he didn't come on board until June 2000. During a June 26 interview, Peterson said

and it was used to pay off invoices for 2000," Gomez said. "For all program-related expenses, we pay them as invoices come in. Some of those invoices may not be settled until the following year and we use the operating subsidy that we got in this calendar year for our last year's expenses," Gomez said.

Where Are The Programs? CHA and the Chicago Police Department

Although Chicago Police Department officials acknowledge they have received millions of dollars from CHA, Police officials have had trouble finding police officers that want to patrol CHA sites.

In reports published in the *Chicago Sun-Times* on Feb. 2 and as late as April 20, police officials admitted that fewer than 300 officers had been assigned to the 450-man unit.

In late June, Chicago Police spokesperson Dave Bayless said the department now has police officers who are willing to patrol CHA developments after Chicago Police Superintendent Terry Hilliard offered officers incentives.

"We've done that by providing them an alternate work schedule. Meaning, they can work 10-hour days instead of 8-hour days and get an additional day off," said Bayless.

Bayless said that the department is close to attaining the 450 officers but wouldn't give out the exact number.

"We don't give out strength numbers whether it's in the CHA or North, South, East or West. That's what the superintendent has always said," Bayless said.

"It's safe to say that we are reaching our capacity there."

Peterson said during the June 26 interview that monthly reports from the police department, reduction in crime at CHA sites, and eyewitness accounts by himself and the residents themselves show that the police officers are doing what they are being paid to do.

"What they have to provide to us is a month of reports on the number of arrests, what they're doing and where they are patrolling. Crime is down in a greater percentage around public housing developments than the city as a whole. That's a fact. And before, they (police officers) weren't walking 16 floors in gallery-style high-rise buildings. I've seen them in the buildings walking," Peterson said.

"You've got residents participating in CAPS. You can talk to some of the LAC presidents. They will tell you that they've seen a difference. And that they've seen the police department out at their developments walking the gallery-style high-rises buildings and being involved in CAPS meetings. So the residents are the monitors."

Peterson said that the police department would be contracted until all of the CHA high-rises are demolished.

"What we've said was that our contract would run until the buildings come down and public housing is integrated back into the neighborhoods and then those developments would become part of the beat patrol of those districts that they're in," he said after a June 13 Tenants Service meeting.

CHA and the Chicago Board of Education

Because CHA doesn't want to administer social service programs any more, in 1999 they started transferring their educational programs and money for those programs to the Chicago

Board of Education.

A *Residents' Journal* review of legal agreements between the Board and CHA showed that funds for those transferred programs were to be used to hire former CHA employees and to operate the programs. However, CHA Chief Peterson said the funds transferred were only to be used to pay salaries of the former employees.

In late June, a CHA official admitted that no tracking mechanism was in place to demonstrate that residents had participated in Board of Education programs.

According to the Aug. 21, 2000, Intergovernmental Agreement that *Residents' Journal* obtained from the Chicago Board of Education, CHA agreed to pay \$1,895,618.89 to the Board for provision of educational and cultural programs to residents from 1999 to 2001.

For the Employability Plus Program (EPP) - an alternative adult education and training program for 50 ABLA Homes youths 16 to 21 - CHA contracted with CPS for \$45,121.00 for reimbursement of a full-time school teacher's summer and extended pay, parent stipends, general supplies and carfare. The 12-month program that began in January 2000 was designed to assist the youths with academic, counseling and employment training.

According to a document dated July 28, 1999, and titled "Ratify an Intergovernmental Agreement with the CHA," CHA agreed to pay the Board \$307,181 for a welfare to work program called the "Chicago Works Project." Contracted in January 1999, the Chicago Works Project was to provide GED and pre-GED preparatory training to 450 CHA residents of Washington Park Homes, Stateway Gardens, Robert Taylor Homes, Madden Park Homes, Ida B. Wells, and Lawndale Gardens developments until June 2001.

In a third contract, CHA agreed to pay the Board of Education \$1,421,816.89 to go towards the salaries and benefits of former CHA employees.

CHA agreed to pay the board \$121,500 for 5 transferred programs:

\$60,000 was to be spent on the Just Say No Program, a drug prevention and intervention after-school program for children ages 7 to 12; \$36,150 was for the Mama Said...Program, a mentoring initiative for teenage mothers; and \$7,300 was to be spent on the Mock Trial Program, designed to expose youths to the legal system.

\$16,700 was contracted for the Presidential Classroom Program, in which high school juniors and seniors with a B or better grade point average spend a week in Washington, D.C., to meet and have workshops with federal government officials. And \$1,350 was to be spent for the Science Fair Program, an after-school initiative for exploring the world of science.

The Aug. 21, 2000, Intergovernmental Agreement states that the board employees were to be hired specifically to operate the programs described above:

"The Board agrees to interview and consider for Board employment the persons...are or were employed by the CHA for the purpose of operating the Programs."

The same Intergovernmental Agreement also states that the transferred programs would be integrated into the Board's existing programs only after June 30, 2001.

"The Board will run events currently scheduled in each of the Programs through June 30, 2001.

(Continued on Page 5)

Transforming CHA Between A Rock and a Hard Place

by Beauty Turner

For the last 4 years, a former resident of Robert Taylor Homes, Mary Sistruck, a young single mother of six, has been moved around from slum to slum after receiving a Housing Choice Voucher – formerly known as a Section 8.

I wrote about her in *Residents' Journal's* February 2001 edition. Sistruck once lived in the "Hole," a notorious cluster of buildings that once towered over the State Street Corridor at 53rd Street.

Sistruck described herself as "moving around like cattle" since she received the Housing Choice Voucher. Her children have attended six different schools since her first move.

In a late June interview, Sistruck said, "I wish that I was back in Robert Taylor. At least there I had a roof over my head. I didn't worry about becoming homeless

2000, it didn't pass inspection due to code violations in the basement and in the hallways.

"I've been to court off and on since then. As a matter of fact, everyone in the building has to vacate the premises.

"It has been rather hard trying to find a apartment. I've looked at over 75 apartments, spent over \$325 in application fees, and still wasn't able to find a place to stay."

Sistruck called me at the *Residents' Journal* office in February. She told me that a friend of hers told her about me, that I was a writer and an activist. She asked me for help. The only help that I could give her at that time was to write about her. As I continued to write, other women called me with their dilemmas. They told me about their dilemmas and I decided, after listening to them, that I would bring their stories to the attention of Chicago

pass."

Sistruck signed the lease before looking at the apartment. She continued with her story, "I had to leave and go on a trip the very next day. I was very elated and happy when I heard that news. I thought that my trouble was finally over. But that was short lived.

"After I came back from the trip, I went to see my new apartment. It was unlivable. I don't know how in the world that place passed inspection. I told Sharon Glenn and we agreed to tear up that lease that I had signed. But that also left me back in the same situation I was in at first, between a rock and a hard place, facing the pavement once again to homelessness.

"The last court date said I had to be out of the building by June 5. So I moved so that I wouldn't lose my Section 8 housing choice voucher.

"Due to my family helping me find a place, they found me a place at 67th and Green, a community that is infested with drugs and gangs. "The first day that I moved in, my son almost got shot in our front yard. There was a shoot-out right by my window. "I'm very much afraid that this place will not pass Section 8 inspection either because it is also a slum.

"Where will residents like me stay?" I called Sharon Glenn and asked her about large families that have Housing Choice Vouchers. I asked her if the program has a safety net concerning large-sized families like Mary Sistruck, who are finding it quite difficult securing decent housing.

Glenn said, "The same rules apply to families that are large or small when it

I t has been rather hard trying to find a apartment. I've looked at over 75 apartments, spent over \$325 in application fees, and still wasn't able to find a place to stay.

-former Robert Taylor resident Mary Sistruck

like I do now.

"Since I've moved out into the private market, it has been one big headache after another. My head is constantly spinning. It's like riding a mental roller coaster with this constant moving every year.

"I used to live on 46th Street and Indiana Avenue. It was nice living there. It was right near my children's old school, right around people that I know, but it burned down.

"All the apartments that I lived in didn't pass the second inspection, so they abated the rent.

"After the apartment on 46th Street burned down, that lead me to 90th and Exchange. By looking at my apartment, it may look beautiful. But as of February

Housing Authority officials. I hosted three meetings about the Housing Choice Vouchers, which I called the "Great Debates about Section 8 on State" at Omega Baptist Church, 4623 S. State St. At the first meeting on March 26, CHA official Sharon Glenn took notes and listened to the residents' concerns. At the next meeting on April 5, Glenn came back with the status on the inquiries – a memorandum that reported on what she did for the people who spoke out.

For Mary Sistruck, the memo reads, "Prospective apartment passed inspection on April 3, 2001. Awaiting completion of rent negotiations which should be completed by Thursday, April 5, 2001. I have a copy of her inspection form indicating

became truancy workers within the high school level.

"And very little was done for follow-up. It was no separation of CHA students from CPS. Everything was CPS."

"When we first started at CPS, a CHA official asked us, 'Were we doing what CHA wanted us to do?' We told them what we were doing period. But then again, some people might have lied because they wanted their jobs," the former CHA employee said.

In his June 26 interview, Peterson said none of the transitioned former employees were required to manage or oversee the transferred programs. He added that CHA was not paying the city agencies to provide programs. He said that CHA contracted with the agencies to hire the former employees so they could have a job for at least one year.

"What was supposed to happen was that the former employees would go over. They would be integrated into those agencies who would work for us. They were not to go over to those agencies and be supervisors of those programs. Then we would have kept the same programs," Peterson said.

"The majority of those dollars were staff dollars so that individuals who were working in those areas would not lose their jobs. The pro-

grams that were being duplicated at the Housing Authority would be integrated into those agencies. We transferred over dollars for staff (former CHA employees) to be retained for one year. And to have them integrated into those agencies' budgets the following year."

"The only money that I'm aware of that we transferred was to the Park District to continue a program called the Beach Blast.

"And we transferred money to continue that program for two years because it was not a program that the Park District was running or had."

Tracking

Peterson said last fall that CHA would soon have a system to track resident participation in all the programs transferred to other city departments. A written, revised copy of Peterson's remarks on the Oct. 2, 2000 Annual Plan Announcement, states, "We're also installing a computerized tracking system to monitor our capital programs, the performance of private property managers, resident usage of city services, and the resident relocation process during redevelopment."

But in the June 26 interview, Peterson said that residents shouldn't be tracked.

CHA Funds

(Continued from page 4)

"Thereafter, the Board will integrate the Programs and their participants into substantially similar existing Board Programs."

But the former CHA employees who worked at the Board did not operate CHA's former programs or similar programs, according to one of the CHA's former employees. The former CHA employee - who requested to remain anonymous - said CHA residents were not given special attention by the Board programs. This former employee added that she was laid off by the Board of Education on June 12.

"We did not oversee any programs," the former employee said. "The staff from CADRE (Combating Alcohol and Drugs through Rehabilitation and Elimination) was teaching drug-prevention classes in up to 5 schools a week. But most of us were administrative clerks.

"And a huge majority of the rest of us



Former Robert Taylor resident Mary Sistruck (left) with Robert Taylor resident Betty Sim and four of her six children. Sim is presently going to court for eviction under the One Strike policy.

Photo by Beauty Turner

come to the Section 8 program. "We are seriously thinking about getting an ombudsman (a middle man) to advocate with the landlords and tenants so that we can begin to combat some of the problems that may occur before it gets to eviction court. As a matter of fact, we received that suggestion from one of your 'Section 8 Debate' meetings, so meetings do come in handy. Otherwise, they do help.

"We are also thinking about having mentors from the (FSS) Families Self Sufficiency program come out and talk to the residents. We are also asking families to get involved in this program. Many of the families that went through this program are self-sufficient; it worked for them.

"We don't have all the answers. That's why we are asking the residents to get involved, so that we can solve any problem that may arrive together."

"I really have a problem with folks putting our residents down," Peterson said.

"They are not animals to be tracked. They are residents. They are Chicagoans. They should have access to the same services and benefits as everyone else.

"I get upset when folks continue to talk about public housing residents like they are a separate part of this city. Do folks track you? No. Do folks track me? No," Peterson said.

A Dec. 6, 2000 memo from CHA's Office of Resident Programs to an unidentified CHA official states, "In our assessment of the programs that were transitioned from CHA to CPS, the schools in which some of these programs currently exist are not adjacent to public housing developments."

The memo also states that a CPS official informed the unidentified writer of the memo that "currently there is not a tracking mechanism in place to track CHA residents participating in existing programs."

The Office of Programs officials would have to contact the coordinators from each school region themselves to come up with a plan to track CHA residents, the document states.

(Continued on Page 17)

Transforming CHA Ickes: Back to Square One

by Jacqueline Thompson

When and wherever we residents of Harold L. Ickes Homes start to realize any improvements, it takes just a little time to figure out that soon and very soon you're back at square one.

Adding to the list of many good and very visible new developments that began to take place after the first of the year is the front entry doorway. From open steel gates and slit windowed doors, residents now have full doors and glass bricks to beautify and protect from Chicago's cold harsh winds that circulated through the first floor lobby as one waited for the elevator.

Even though it is a slow process, when all of the buildings receive the new look, the residents can feel better treated. The new doorways come on the heels of newly painted hallways, stairwells and floor lobbies and much-needed new lighting fixtures in the stairwells, hallways and lobby area.

Nevertheless, back to square one seems to be the never-

Where do we go from here? What is our security? Who knows? The city police cruise throughout the area but to them, we all look alike. Legal and law-abiding residents have been stopped, searched and humiliated.

One resident who prefers to be anonymous was stopped upon entry to the rear door leading from the back area where he had parked his car, and was searched and then allowed to pass on.

RJ: "Was it a plain-clothed officer?"
Anonymous Resident: "I don't know."
RJ: "Didn't they show any identification?"
Anon.: "No."

RJ: "Why did you let them search you?"
Anon.: "I dared not let them search me. I had no money and of course no contraband so they let me go. I am an old man. What could I do? It was late night and all."

So our "security" is of the essence and note of a concrete thing. Back to square one.

While seated at a monthly LAC meeting, we residents in



Pieces of these newly installed glass windows are missing above the doorway of this Harold Ickes building after being installed two days prior.

Photo by Jacqueline Thompson

vacant apartments and often allow their personal business to overflow into the hallways. There is no way for residents to know whether or not families who move into vacant apartments are legal or not. Can you still welcome your new neighbor? Management has not addressed these issues.

In the fall of 1999, we were unceremoniously lumped from spacious parking close to home and left to figure out how to park within the laws of the city. Once you find a spot that is safe, close to your building, it rains. When you go to your car in the morning, you either wade in the water or trudge in the mud. This issue is unaddressed.

The new school, the Cermak Teachers Teaching Academy, is going up right on schedule. The foundation, the steel beams, part of the three-story area is concrete and bricked in. The skyline has changed forever.

This reporter still has concerns about the student population that will occupy the class in this grand building. Are the children of the families that were displaced from their old school truly going to attend classes here? Are the parents of these children being kept abreast of the progress being made on the completion of this school? Do they have a dateline to apply and transfer in?

I wish I knew the answers to these questions so I could feel secure about the promise made.

Time will tell.

Where do we go from here? What is our security? Who knows? The city police cruise throughout the area but to them, we all look alike. Legal and law-abiding residents have been stopped, searched and humiliated.

ending story. As welcome and beneficial all the new trappings are, we still have the very unwelcome presence of the vandal. The "I don't care" acts of vandalism range from fresh graffiti to broken glass bricks in the newly constructed front door wall. Brand new door handles of brand new doors are broken off even before the whole development can be outfitted with the new building fronts. The new door stops at the top of the doors were broken and hanging loose two days after installment. Where is the caring?

Square one is full of the description of what wasn't expected to happen as a result of improvement. Yes, our hallways and stairways and lobbies are very well lit, but it also makes it easier and less threatening to strangers to pace up and down the stairwells and congregate in well-lit floor lobbies, all day and half the night.

attendance were encouraged to hear Deborah Mallory, head of our new management team, outline plans to upgrade services for the residents by making plans to connect with a major medical center to establish an on-site clinic within Ickes.

Mallory also told us that she was seeking reasons why the laundry rooms were not available and how and where they could be made to function. Mallory made it clear the laundry issue was a priority. The residents were gratified that something was in the work for the issue of laundry room access.

Many residents feel the absence of regular town meetings. We rarely know when something new is going to be done to the buildings. We have no guidelines for reacting to so many strangers in the area. Squatters still inhabit so-called

The Razing of Brooks Extension

by Karen Owens

I can just slip on a pair of slippers and walk across the street to the store."

"Overjoyed is how I feel due to the fact that we have clean and modern laundry facilities. I like that I'm on a lower floor in a cleaner, spacious unit." These are just some of the views expressed by former residents of the last two buildings of the Robert Brooks Extensions as the wrecking ball slowly knocks down pieces of many memories. These residents were moved into the relocation building at 1440 W. 13th St.

The residents of the Brooks Extension who chose to remain in ABLA and not take a Housing Choice Voucher (formerly known as a Section 8) have been relocated to various other units within our vast community. Some have gone to the relocation building, some to the Grace Abbott Homes and some to the new low-rise units that are the new Brooks Homes.

The History of Brooks Extension

During the late '50s and the early '60s, a need came about to accommodate larger, lower income families. These families faced many

issues from deplorable living conditions in inadequate and unsafe housing. With this in mind, ABLA was chosen as one of the 28 sites to address these problems.

The Brooks Extension opened in 1961 and once consisted of three 16-story buildings. These massive high-rise structures also share their name with Robert Brooks Homes, a group of row houses located just west of the high rises.

Both developments were named after U.S. Army Private Robert H. Brooks, a veteran of World War II. Brooks was an African American believed to be the first soldier killed near Fort Stotsenburg in the Philippines Islands while engaging in combat.

Brooks Extension also was neighbor to many well-known pieces of architecture such as Holy Family Catholic Church, St. Ignatius College Preparatory School and one of the oldest fire houses in the city. Also there's John M. Smyth Elementary School, the gone but not forgotten Liberty Center, and finally, the Roosevelt branch of the Chicago Public Library a few miles away from Brooks Extension.

Many residents of the Brooks Extension took part in the activities that were offered at the facilities. Smyth School educated exceptional students. All of the buildings house memories for the people who lived in the Brooks Extensions.

With the demise of Brooks Extension in 2001, some 60 years after the death of Private Brooks, part of his legacy still lives on in the recently rehabbed Robert Brooks Homes.

Opening of the New Play Area

Long-time ABLA resident and secretary of the Local Advisory Council Willie McKay felt a new playground was needed for the children of the Grace Abbott Homes. LAC members, residents, and other interested parties who also shared McKay's vision made it into a reality.

On a bright, sunny, windy recent Saturday morning, the ground-breaking took place at the circular site behind the remaining high-rise. A huge turnout from residents, the LAC, officials from CHA, H.J. Russell - the property manager for ABLA - and others gathered for the dedication.

A proud and very concerned LAC president, Deverra Beverly, said the site was the first new playground built in ABLA in over 30 years.

The brightly colored, well-maintained playground has something for children of all ages. It even has neatly arranged seating areas for parents to watch their little ones at play.

Transforming CHA

A Trip to the Future

by Beauty Turner

Robert Taylor Homes resident leaders went on a trip in April to Springfield and Peoria where they saw beautiful new homes that were built by the same developers that will rebuild Robert Taylor. But the homes that they saw weren't for all but a few of the former residents that used to reside in the John Hay Homes and Warren Homes.

Before the redevelopment of Robert Taylor started, many of the residents thought the development teams would be no more than scheme teams, only out to get their land. But in late February, Robert Taylor seemed to hit the jackpot with a dream team of developers from Brinshore-Michaels. Brinshore-Michaels held community meetings and answered the residents' questions with respect. Brinshore-Michaels sponsored a trip to Springfield and Peoria, Ill., in April to let the residents see first hand some of the handiwork of developer Peter Levavi. Levavi hosted the trip and Rich Sciortino, President of Brinshore-Michaels, accompanied the residents.

The Trip Begins

The residents of the Robert Taylor "A" waited patiently in the twilight hours of 7 a.m. on April 17. A luxury lined coach bus pulled up to the curb behind the off-white concrete tenement building at 4429 S. State St.

A coach bus driver adorned in a chauffeur's black outfit with a matching hat opened the doors and smiled and treated the residents like major VIPs - very important people. Already comfortably seated were developers Levavi, Sciortino and David Moore from Brinshore-Michaels and Chicago Housing Authority official Jose Anthony Alvarez, among others.

Living in the John Hay Homes was like your typical concentration camp, wasn't nothing nice....You probably find the same situation in every development.

-Mbanna Kantako, former resident of John Hay Homes in Springfield, IL

As we boarded the bus, breakfast - in the form of bagels and cream cheese and fresh apple and orange juice - was given to whoever desired it.

We watched 4429 fade away into the background like a ground hog's shadow on a semi-cloudy spring day.

We entered Robert Taylor "B," where Local Advisory Council President Mildred Dennis and a few more residents boarded the bus.

I started thinking that some of the residents didn't know what it means to be "lease compliant." Those residents who are not "lease compliant" stand a chance of being evicted and will not be able to come back into the newly built homes. I asked everybody on the bus to explain what "lease complaint" means.

LAC President Dennis said that "lease compliant means all your bills are paid up, electric bills, too. Make sure that nobody has a felony and if they do, get them off of your lease. Make sure there are no One Strikes."

Dennis said she was having classes to teach residents how to be lease compliant.

"I tell people how to become lease compliant in case they are not," Dennis said.

In the midst of her conversation, community activist Tyrone Galtney interrupted, "You already know that lease compliance is nothing more than a way to take my people's homes, nothing more or nothing less."

What the LAC presidents don't know is that when they are finished tearing down these buildings, they are no longer needed. The developers who will become more privatized will no longer be obligated to CHA. It will then be changing hands. Otherwise, if the LAC presidents don't do a contract with the developers, they will still lose out and so will the residents."

We entered the golden gates of Springfield and went into the Madison Park Place Homes, where we were greeted by Springfield Housing Authority Executive Director Bill Logan. Logan showed us around the newly developed com-

plex of single and duplex deluxe homes. He said the area once was occupied by notorious gangs and highly infested with drugs, a development that was once called the John Hay Homes. The Hay Homes once consisted of over 600 units of low-income housing on 33 acres of land. Logan said the Springfield Housing Authority redeveloped the Hay Homes with a \$35 million Hope VI grant, the same program that will be used to redevelop Robert Taylor.

Logan said there weren't many people in the Hay Homes in 1998 when redevelopment started. "When I got here, it was only 39 families from the Hay development still here. All the other ones were already relocated. They were given a contract to return back," he said.

I asked Logan how the housing authority kept track of the displaced tenants?

"We used media outlets, such as radio, television and community newspapers," he said.

I asked Logan how many of the residents from the Hay Homes still live there?

A representative for the management of the Madison Park Place Homes said only two families from the former development live there and two more are pending.

Logan corrected the management representative:

"Well over 200 people came back to fill out the applications but due to them not being able to pass the criteria, they could not come back."

I asked Logan about the criteria and he said he would provide me with a list by the end of the trip. I have yet to receive that list.

Cora Dillard, LAC president of Robert Taylor "A,"

asked Logan, "Where's the schools?"

Logan answered, "About a mile from here. I used to reside here and I walked to school."

LAC President Cora Dillard replied, "So we will need a car."

Many of the residents were very impressed with Madison Park Place Homes. They liked the way the new homes looked, the way they were built, and the safety of the community.

The trip continued to Peoria. We stopped at a construction site and were given out hard hats by Roger John, the CEO of the Peoria Housing Authority.

John showed us around the site, a place that was once a development called Warren Homes, 13 acres of land being filled with wooden homes.

Some of the residents on the trip said they liked the Madison Park Place Homes better. The Madison Park Place units were arranged in a circle, decorated better, and made of stronger materials, said Shashak Ben Levi, Tyrone Galtney and Barbara Dennis, a resident of Robert Taylor "B."

John said only the former residents who can pass the screening criteria will come back to the new development. John also did not provide me with the screening criteria. On the bus ride back to Chicago, the residents reflected on what they saw.

LAC President Dillard said, "I liked the houses in Springfield better than in Peoria. I didn't like the fact about the schools being so far away."

Mary Reed, president of 4525 S. Federal St. in Robert Taylor "A," said, "This trip was a wonderful thing."

Barbara Dennis, a resident of Robert Taylor "B," said, "I was wondering, Why do we the residents get to view what might become of something? Take, for instance, the preschool that's behind Farren Elementary School on State Street. We dug the dirt to build that school but now I found out that none of our children can attend it.

"Will the housing be the same way? We will help build



Robert Taylor "B" residents tour a new mixed-income development in Springfield in April.

Photo by Beauty Turner

them but want to be able to live in them. Otherwise, we will be like a child looking in a candy store at all the sweet treats that line the shelves with our faces pressed up against the window looking through a glass with no money to afford to buy any.

Will the housing be the same? We want be able to afford to live in them."

Mbanna Kantako

I called a former resident of the John Hay Homes in Springfield, Mbanna Kantako. Kantako was the very last resident that was left behind after they had forced or moved everybody else out.

Kantako described the Hay Homes: "Living in the John Hay Homes was like your typical concentration camp, wasn't nothing nice. But it wasn't the people that lived there. The gangs and the drugs were a government mission just so they could take the land. You probably find the same situation in every development."

We talked about keeping in contact with his former neighbors.

Kantako said, "I only know of one resident that's living in the same place. All of the rest are constantly moving at least more than once. Even I had to move twice now. That's what the residents of public housing who are underneath the transformation plan have to look forward to now."

Kantako explained what it was like in the last days of the redevelopment process in the Hay Homes when he was the lone resident left.

Kantako said, "The Springfield Housing Authority did me wrong. They stopped accepting my rent and I didn't have to pay for numerous months. So after a while, they took me to eviction court, saying I owed \$3000. I didn't pay it.

"They did dirty tactics such as having gang bangers shoot at me. They took my furniture out of my apartment, took it and sat it on the curb and then took it back to my apartment all broken up.

"I had a pirate radio station in my house and my organization, called the Tenant Rights Association, that I started so I could document all of the things that they were doing to the residents.

"Plus, I am an activist. I wouldn't let them get away with the dirt. They eventually gave me a Section 8 voucher for me and my wife and three children.

"They asked me to give them a receipt for all the things that I had to repair and buy. They were going to reimburse me. I gave them a receipt for \$1,800. All they gave me back is \$127, no more and no less."

Kantako said what happened to him could happen to Chicago residents.

"All kinds of dirty tricks are going to be played on you. Many people are going to be done wrong, especially young mothers with multiple children.

"This is no longer a tenants rights issue but is now a human rights issue all over the world."

Transforming CHA

Relocation In Wentworth Gardens

by Wateka Kleinpeter
Managing Editor

The Wentworth Gardens community is about to be redeveloped as a part of the Chicago Housing Authority's Plan for Transformation.

The famous \$1.6 billion dollar "Plan" will remodel, rebuild or demolish most of CHA's current housing stock.

Wentworth Gardens is a 422-unit low-rise development which spreads northwest from 39th Street and Wentworth Avenue. Wentworth consists of mostly 1-4 bedroom row houses and 1-3 bedroom units in three-story walk-up buildings.

The residents of Wentworth have had numerous meetings to discuss the redevelopment. So far, the residents have been told about the choices available to them, given an explanation of lease compliance, as well as directions to fill out the housing choice survey. The survey lists the family composition, income and other key information as well as the family's preference for housing. The survey is what will determine how CHA will proceed with relocating a particular family.

At a meeting in April, more than 100 residents came to Abbott Elementary School to listen to Robert Whitfield, an attorney for the resident leadership, and Denise Johnson, a CHA official. Residents asked a lot of ques-

Wentworth Gardens Resident Management Corporation. Amey has been in Wentworth for 51 years.

At the relocation meeting residents took a very vocal stand about moving out. Amey said, "I would like to see the current units in Wentworth fixed and not torn down. I would like to see them come in and remove the interior (walls/plumbing, floors and fixtures) and replace with new materials."

A small number of residents want a Housing Choice Voucher or want to move to another location. Johnson answered all the questions about the actual move. Residents were told that CHA will be providing the movers, even the boxes to pack their belongings.

Johnson explained to residents that if they take a permanent Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8), they would lose their right to return to the redeveloped community. Johnson said, "If you take a permanent section 8 and you want to move to Alabama, we will move you. But you can't come back. A permanent Section 8 is a one time move."

Whitfield elaborated on the Housing Choice Survey. He recommended that residents take a temporary Housing Choice Voucher so they can exercise their right to return to Wentworth.

Since many residents said they don't want to leave Wentworth, they did not want to fill in an "alternative



Wentworth Resident Management Corporation board member Janie Dumas listens to CHA's Section 8 Relocation Senior Manager Denise Johnson talk about the relocation process during the April 4 relocation meeting.

Photo by Wateka Kleinpeter

cold outside." She sadly predicted CHA would start the actual relocation of residents in November or December.

Many residents just don't trust CHA. They feel that CHA will say one thing and then later change the plans. They fear the land Wentworth is on has already been sold.

Much of CHA land is now prime property. Many areas of where CHA developments were built were formerly slums. Wentworth Gardens is located one block south of Comiskey Park. It is no secret that the Chicago White Sox wanted the land that is occupied by Wentworth Gardens. At the meeting, many residents said they feared if they moved out completely, the development will be leveled.

The White Sox originally played in a field at 39th Street and Wentworth Avenue – the southern boundary of Wentworth Gardens. The property had once been the city dump and was owned by Chicago's colorful mayor, "Long" John Wentworth. Wentworth Gardens is named after him.

In July 1910, when the team left that site, they moved further north and leased the ball park to the Leland Giants. Later, it was home to Rube Foster's American Giants. Both teams were part of the Negro League Baseball Association.

Many residents just don't trust CHA. They feel that CHA will say one thing and then later change the plans. They fear the land Wentworth is on has already been sold.

tions and many were concerned that they would have to move two or three times before they reach a permanent home.

One resident said whatever happens, she would like to know soon because her children will be back in school in two months.

"If we are moving out, my children's school might change," she said. "This will mean getting transfers, school records and physicals. They (CHA) always take so long when they do anything."

A few residents were willing to take the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) but fear they might be moving several times. One resident discussed a young lady written about in **RJ** several issues ago who has six children and has had to move several times. This resident used that story as an example and said that is not what they want.

For the most part, Wentworth Gardens residents don't move very often. There are some residents who have been there for many years, like Hallie Amey, president of the

relocation site" on the survey. However, Whitfield assured residents if they did not specify a choice and had to be moved out of Wentworth Gardens, they could be placed anywhere. He said if they did not make a choice, someone would do it for them.

The majority of Wentworth residents at the meeting didn't want to move out of the development. They are hoping that the actual construction will be done in stages where they can move from one part of the development for a short period of time, and then to a newly remodeled unit.

The RMC and LAC, along with other residents, will be working on how to successfully move everyone around the development without moving them out. When CHA gets through with the surveys and eliminating "what they call non-lease compliant residents," said Amey, "we will work with the people we have left. The background issues and other factors may cause some people to have problems being lease compliant. The RFPs (request for proposals) will be out soon and once a developer is selected, we will be on the way."

Wentworth has been involved in strategic planning for several years. CHA had a group of construction professionals work with the RMC and residents. The crew consisted of architects, landscapers and builders. From that effort, they have a model of how Wentworth could look.

The residents have always been vocal about their development's new look and will be involved with the redevelopment process. Many residents say they will refuse to move out of Wentworth. At the meeting, many residents said they are afraid that they will be part of the "CHA land grab." Many residents said they don't trust the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) program either.

Another resident said, "We still don't know anything. We have been having meeting after meeting and no one wants to move when it's



Wentworth Gardens residents being informed about the Housing Choice Surveys and other issues during the April 4 relocation meeting at Abbott Elementary School.

Photo by Wateka Kleinpeter

The Chicago Metropolitan Housing Development Corporation (CMHDC) is a non-profit housing development corporation providing housing in mixed-income buildings to families of limited financial resources.

We have units available throughout the City of Chicago that have been allocated for CHA families who choose Section 8 assistance. CMHDC also manages the HOME OWNERSHIP program for CHA. If you are a public housing resident, you may qualify to own a unit at the Wentworth Gardens Annex development. All dwelling units are available on an equal opportunity basis. Please contact us at (312) 422-1680 for a list of available units.



Transforming CHA Another CHA Fiasco?

by Mary C. Johns
Editor-in-Chief

Not only the Chicago Housing Authority, the alderman and Habitat have been negligent but the city itself," stated Eunice Crosby, the Madden Park Local Advisory Council president, in a recent letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley.

The letter, dated May 17, concerned the dismissal of the lead developer for the Madden Park/Wells/Darrow Homes redevelopment.

Earlier in May, the partnership of developers McCormack Baron, Mesirov Stein, Granite Development and Turbov Associates for redevelopment of the three CHA sites had been dissolved.

"I do not want to see another CHA fiasco that will be a repeat of the stagnant scenario at ABLA, the incompleteness in Cabrini, the slow progress at Horner and the tragic situation that exists with the Lakefront, where families were moved out over 10 years ago and there is still no replacement housing on site," Crosby stated.

CHA received \$35 million in HOPE VI funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in 2000 for redevelopment of the three public housing sites. The development team had already been selected by that time. Under the first phase of the HOPE VI plan, some Madden Park residents are being relocated and certain buildings are being demolished.

In her letter to the mayor, Crosby expressed disappointment about the break-up of the development team. Crosby was especially dismayed about the loss of developers McCormack and Baron, who are also the private property managers for the three developments.

"This has been devastating news and has caused mental and emotional anguish to myself and great concerns to the families of Madden Park," Crosby wrote.

Crosby said at a June 21 community meeting for Madden Park residents that she wrote to the mayor because she didn't feel city officials considered the ordeal residents under relocation are facing.

Crosby expressed grave concerns about the availability of land space for phase one of the redevelopment.

"Land acquisition should have been acquired two years ago and it still hasn't happened," Crosby said.

Crosby added that she didn't want the matter to result in situations similar to those at other CHA developments. In those locations, residents fought CHA in court.

"So before they think they can romance behind the door and make decisions to treat us like peons to be pissed in the wind, it's going to be a story," Crosby said.

"If I can't do anything else, I can end and create the exposure."

Crosby said McCormack Baron was selected during a two-year process and that Mayor Daley, Ald. Toni Preckwinkle (4) and the Habitat Company, the court-appointed receiver for the Gautreaux Decree, submitted letters of support to the HOPE VI application. Crosby blamed those three entities for the "firing of this developer."

"So it's a lot of questions that need to be answered," she said.

Crosby cited HUD's withdrawal of a HOPE VI grant from another public housing authority in April 2000 and expressed concern that the Madden Park/Wells/Darrow's \$35 million grant also will be withdrawn.

"The grant was awarded based upon the quality of our plan and the capacity of our developer. CHA would have never won this grant without this team," Crosby said.

Crosby stated in the May 17 letter to Mayor Daley that "even if HUD does not take back the money, we have no confidence that the City, CHA and the Receiver (the Habitat Corporation) will implement our plan."

At the June 21 community meeting, Crosby told Madden Park residents that the mayor had not responded to her letter. CHA CEO Terry Peterson responded to Crosby's May 17 letter to Daley. But Crosby told *Residents' Journal* that Peterson didn't address her concerns.

"This is in the mayor's lap now. I hope the mayor is not trying to give me a cynical response. I'm looking for a meeting," said Crosby.

On June 14, Crosby sent a letter to HUD Secretary Mel Martinez asking for an "extensive investigation."

CHA CEO Responds

Peterson said during a June 26 interview that CHA remains committed to the redevelopment of the three sites. Peterson said 10 developers had responded to a Request for Proposal for Ida B. Wells and Madden Park.

"We continue to move forward because we're committed at the end of the day to keeping our promise and our commitment to the residents as well as the resident leadership at Ida B. Wells, Madden Park and Darrow Homes," Peterson said. CHA spokesman Derek Hill said the agency did not fire the development team.

"Stein and Baron could not come together as partners. We have nothing to do with their separation," said Hill in early June.

Hill said the development teams were not yet contracted with CHA for the redevelopment process.

"They did not have a contract (with CHA). They broke up before that happened," he said.

Is Land Available?

CHA projected that it would build 319 mixed-income units in the first phase of redevelopment of the three sites, according to a May 3 press release. These units would include 120 public housing units, 72 affordable housing units and 127 market rate units.

Construction on the first phase was supposed to begin between April and June of this year, states the Moving to Work Annual Plan for 2001.

Families have been and are currently being relocated out of Madden Park. And according to CHA spokesperson Hill, the 319 mixed-income units will not be built until 2002 and 2003.

"If you look at our Plan for Transformation, you can see that in the year 2002 and 2003, homes will start going up," Hill said.

Pete Scales, a public information officer at the Chicago Department of Planning and Development, said small, scattered portions of vacant land would be available for phase one of redevelopment.



CHA's former Darrow Homes at 39th and Langley Avenue being demolished in 1999.

Photo by Arminta Clark Muhammad

"It's not big tracts of land," Scales said. "It's kind of small parcels that are all kind of put together for assembly for later, bigger projects directly east of Madden/Wells sites."

"Vacant land and that sort of thing were picked up," Scales said.

"So the additional property is combined with the CHA property is what was needed for phase one."

A Senior Building

In her May 17 letter to the mayor, Madden Park LAC President Crosby also expressed concerns about CHA property being leased out for development of senior replacement units before units are built for relocated families.

Catholic Charities, along with several other non-profit organizations, is in negotiations with CHA to contract to build a \$500 million 700-unit senior building in the Madden Park/Darrow/Wells area.

"I have concerns about this," Crosby wrote.

"I understand the CHA Board is agreeing to lease the land to Catholic Charities. While I think we need elderly housing, it cannot be the first part of this development. The City and the CHA's commitment must first be to the already displaced families and those in the process."

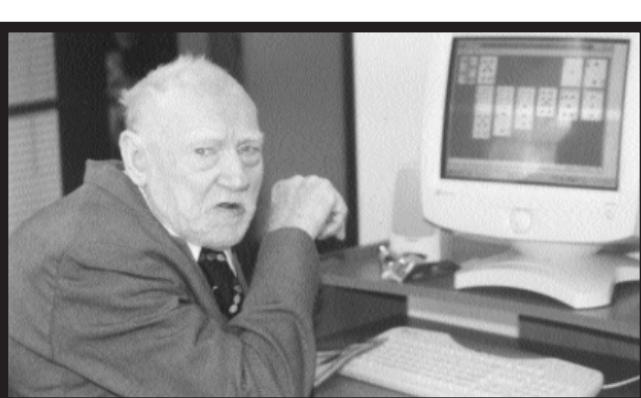
The senior building will be built at the former Darrow Homes site near 39th Street and Langley Avenue, according to CHA spokesperson Derek Hill.

"It is a long-term land lease. Several not-for-profit groups are actually building the building. It won't cost the CHA a penny," said Hill.

CHA head Terry Peterson said during the June 26 interview that the senior building would assist with housing the relocated seniors of Madden Park/Wells/Darrow Homes.

"As to why are we putting up a senior building as part of the Ida B. Wells/Madden Park first phase, we had an opportunity to partner with an organization that had money in hand to build a senior building," Peterson said.

"We're fortunate that Catholic Charities partnered with us to build a senior building to provide senior housing for those seniors in Ida B. Wells and Madden Park and Darrow Homes who might choose senior housing," Peterson said.



Computer Learning Center Opening

This CHA senior resident spends time on one of the computers at the opening of the Computer Learning Center at the CHA Lincoln Perry Apartments in March.

Photo by Arminta Clark Muhammad

Publisher's Box

(Continued from Page 3)

It doesn't take a cynical journalist like me to figure out CHA's priorities. Move residents out, by any means necessary. Tear the buildings down, as fast as possible. Build new housing, but make sure it goes to only to the 'lease compliant.'

That policy has failed even before it's implemented. A look at the city's many homeless shelters filling with former CHA families shows us that arbitrary decisions of who deserves our compassion will simply hurt certain families.

Residents have a more realistic

vision for CHA and many of the articles in this issue contain those visions. At Wentworth Gardens, Managing Editor Wateka Kleinpeter found residents ready for improvements to their housing - but mistrustful of the CHA and its motives. "Dear Resident" columnist Patricia Johnson-Gordon and correspondents Bobby Watkins and Karen Owens found similar sentiments among residents at Cabrini-Green, Lathrop Homes and ABLA Homes. At Harold Ickes Homes, Jacqui Thompson found residents getting promises from the new private managers but still living among squatters and lacking basic security.

Residents know what they want and what they need to make their communities work. Reliable security. Responsible Maintenance. Effective social services. Those should be the principles behind any Transformation of Chicago's public housing stock.

Screening for lease compliance will become a further excuse to reduce the number of residents for whom CHA is responsible. All residents who live in CHA, like anyone who asks for assistance, should be considered 'deserving.' They deserve our care for as long as it takes.

A safety net only works when no one is allowed to fall through.

Transforming CHA

The State of Section 8

by Michael Ibrahim

Advocates for public and subsidized housing tenants provided residents and activists with new information about HUD and CHA at a conference April 28 in downtown Chicago.

The conference was held in the beautiful surroundings of the Holiday Inn located on the corner of Columbus and Ohio streets. This conference in many ways resembled the one held March 16 by the Chicago Rehab Network at the Palmer House Hotel. This conference was far more interactive than the March 16 event; participants attended various workshops.

The workshops were geared towards the distribution of new information. Due to the workshops' small size, the atmosphere was that of an intense training ground for activists. It was an atmosphere in which everyone appeared excited and eager to get involved. Everyone – whites and Blacks, rich

administered by the local housing authority. In Chicago, the vouchers are administered through CHAC Inc.

Grow said tenants can use the enhanced vouchers to stay or move. But the enhanced vouchers are different from other vouchers in their value and displacement protection. For tenants who stay, the enhanced vouchers can cover the entire amount of the rent increase beyond 30 percent of income if the local housing authority, in our case CHAC, finds the new rent "reasonable." If not, the tenant could be forced to move. Also, the units must pass CHAC's Housing Quality Standards (HQS).

For tenants who move, the value of the enhanced voucher is based on a regular CHAC payment standard or Fair Market Rent, the tenant's income and prior rent. CHAC's payment standard should usually be between 90 percent and 110 percent of Fair Market Rent.

On displacement protection, Grow said the law has now been clarified. The tenant has the choice to remain with no stated qual-

Technology in 1989, the Chicago Mutual Housing Network went on its own in 1994. They work primarily on low- and moderate-income resident management.

Schenkelberg talked about how to foster relationships between tenants, landlords and property managers. Schenkelberg said that all three parties were in fact working for the same things:

everyone wants a good building, good tenants and everything to run smoothly. "I tried to show how self-interests overlapped while also acknowledging that there are real differences and not trying to gloss over them. For instance, I would not say that as soon as you understand that everyone has similar self-interests, everything is happy go lucky," said Schenkelberg during an interview after the workshop.

"Rather, there are still issues which need to be worked out. People still diverge. However, as long as you have this basic understanding where you connect, that makes those issues where there is conflict easier to deal with."

Schenkelberg continued, "I wanted to use these things as a starting point for a discussion about possible conflicts. And so we ran through some discussion about how do we begin to get at self interest.

"We first began by trying to understand what are the main interests of all the parties involved. And, it's a huge step for people to recognize that. Most of the time, communication is based in conflict, focusing on what is wrong and how we are different. Therefore, many of those conversations do not go very far because everyone is just so upset with each other."

Schenkelberg was genuinely trying to get the landlords, tenants and property managers, in each case, to see how their own self-interest also serves the self-interests of the others.

I decided to interview at least one of those responsible for getting a few things done behind the scenes of the Tenants United for Housing conference. I wanted to know, for instance, how does the ordinary, everyday worker define what it is they do and also what motivates them. I wanted to get the foot soldiers' definition of their activism. I did not want to interview board members or others in the forefront of the organization.

I spoke with Laverne Nickson, who is active in Tenants United for Housing.

"Everybody who lives in HUD housing should be involved in efforts to save affordable housing," said Nickson to my query as to why people become activists.

Since I've noticed that many residents of public and subsidized housing feel a great deal of apathy, I asked Nickson how she became comfortable being an activist for social, political and economic change. She answered, "Everyone fights for what they want. Corporations, the wealthy, or lesser entities. If they are passionate about what they want, they must and they will get involved and fight for what they want automatically.

"Personally I think that people should advocate for what they need, whatever it is that they are committed to, and feel passionate about. One thing that people must understand is that alone you can not accomplish very much. However, when you advocate



Doug Schenkelberh of the Chicago Mutual Housing Network.

Photo by Michael Ibrahim

with others who feel the same as you do – as is the case with a group - where each one obviously has the same interests as you, only then does it seem that one is able to accomplish what they want."

Next, I spoke with Charles Daas, the current head of the Chicago Mutual Housing Network about the Chicago Housing Authority's Plan for Transformation:

"One of the reasons we have been interested in the transformation in CHA and public housing is that we see cooperatives as a great solution to deal with the affordable housing crisis in Chicago," said Daas.

"Essentially, we were established to work with resident-controlled and managed housing and cooperatives. For us, these are the ways of providing the ultimate in resident control. Whenever I visit the Chicago Housing Authority developments or other affordable rental properties, the residents do not have control over the development. It clearly is in hands of the property manager or some larger entity like the CHA.

"With the cooperatives, the residents actually learn and through the day-to-day affairs of the building, they learn and take on leadership roles in property and financial management. Which is not something that can typically be achieved with rental properties. And so, we look at this as a way of - to use a well-worn term - empowerment. This also will provide people with a nest egg with an equity investment in the property. Because when families convert from a rental to a cooperative, or just say form a cooperative from the ground up, they make an equity investment of say \$1,000, what we call a share payment, which is a portion of the value of the cooperative.

"The similarity is to a rental property where you will have a security deposit. However, in a co-op, there is no such thing as a security deposit. You have a share payment which is your equity stake in the development and then you have monthly, what we call carrying charges, which include the cost of occupying the unit, the insurance and the taxes. In a cooperative, that equity earns interest and value over time.

"This then is not only a form of home ownership but also a much more freeing experience."

In the case of CHA involvement, Daas felt cooperatives would loosen the frequently overwhelmingly paternalistic feeling that accompanies being a tenant at CHA. From cooperatives, Daas implied residents will get a lot of experience in entrepreneurship.

Don't move...If you move, your Enhanced Voucher will lose some of its value.

-James Grow, attorney, the National Housing Law Project

and poor, scholarly and unlearned – harmonized.

At the first workshop I attended, I was pleased to meet attorney James Grow from the National Housing Law Project again. Grow clarified many of the laws recently passed at the federal level. He informed those attending his workshop about changes in federal law since his address at the Palmer House in March.

All of those present – including myself – who could be displaced due to landlords' opting out of the "project-based Section 8" buildings were glad to hear what Grow had to say about revisions to enhanced housing choice vouchers.

Grow said enhanced vouchers are available to all of those tenants currently living in project-based Section 8 buildings where owners have decided to opt out of the program. The enhanced vouchers are not exactly the same as other vouchers but they also are

ifications, according to the HUD Guide published Jan. 19.

"Don't move," said Grow. "If you move, your Enhanced Voucher will lose some of its value."

Money must be appropriated by the U.S. Congress every year to renew the Enhanced Vouchers. HUD can now cap subsidies at some "reasonable" percentage of local fair market rents only if there is no harm to tenants, Grow said.

The workshops were plentiful, brimming with new information and new insights on how to handle some old and some not-so-new problems.

I next went to a workshop held by Doug Schenkelberg from the Chicago Mutual Housing Network, a not-for-profit organization which advocates for resident control and management of properties. Originally created as a program of the Center for Neighborhood



Juneteenth Day Rally

Local Advisory presidents (right) and others look on as Cabrini Green resident Carol Steele speaks out against the CHA's Plan for Transformation during a CHA Board meeting on June 19 at the Charles Hayes Family Investment Center.

Photo by Beauty Turner

Royalty in Children

by Arminta Clark Muhammad

On May 6, the Malak Wal Malika Modeling Troupe hosted their 1st Pre-Mother's Day Fashion and Dance Extravaganza at the Executive Center banquet hall located in the heart of South Shore on Stony Island Avenue.

This is no ordinary modeling troupe: it consists of children with no formal training. The troupe has 20 children from 3 to 17 years old. Many of these children are from low-income backgrounds and hard-working single-parent households. These very special young people have been given the opportunity to strut their stuff to rhythm and blues divas and kings like Janet Jackson, Whitney Houston, Erykah Badu, Lil' Bow Wow and R. Kelly, just to list a few.

Sa'Rah Mitchell choreographed skits to today's music for these young people to model by. Calvina Mason, one of the young model's parents, emceed the show. During intermission, Mason read different words of inspiration written by

In our opinion, all children have royalty in them. It just has to be pulled to the surface.

- Sa'Rah Mitchell, founder of the Malak Wal Malika Modeling Troupe.

great African American women. The finale was Erykah Badu's hit, "Bag Lady." That song has become like a trademark for the troupe, according to Sa'Rah Mitchell.

In this skit, Myeesha "Simone" Pinkney led the way barefooted with all the young ladies wearing fashions designed by Queen Mitchell.

Malak Wal Malika is a non-profit organization of which Sa'Rah Mitchell is the president and founder and her mother, Queen Mitchell, is the vice president. "Malak Wal Malika means king and queen in Arabic," said Sa'Rah Mitchell.

"We wanted to choose a name that would make the children think highly of themselves. In our opinion, all children have royalty in them. It just has to be pulled to the surface." The Malak Wal Malika Modeling Troupe was started to give young people an alternative from gangs and drugs. The program aims to introduce them to a modeling program most would not be able to afford. Sa'Rah Mitchell lives across the street from a Chicago Housing Authority development that is being demolished. Mitchell watched the closing of the youth clubs in the CHA communities that once served children. She noticed other programs being eliminated due to lack of funding. This left many children outside with nothing to do constructively. "Being a single parent myself, I realized there are many children who have a natural talent without an outlet to express themselves," Sa'Rah Mitchell said.

"My mother worked three jobs in order for me to participate in different performing arts programs and modeling school."

Mitchell realized it was time to give back to the community and share her skills with young people who could not afford to attend an expensive modeling school.

"We are starting the children out with modeling first and

later have people who are actors come in and teach them acting classes. They learn dance techniques as well. Today's youths are into today's music so we organized a program utilizing the music. Rehearsals are every Saturday from noon to 3 p.m. at Kennicott Park." Mitchell found out that allowing the youths to have input has produced a positive response. In just a few months, Mitchell has noticed a change in the youths' self esteem.

She added, "We also work with them on etiquette. There are discussions on hygiene and a lot of positive reinforcement. It takes guts and courage for someone to perform in front of an audience."

Mitchell feels she is contributing to the youths' growth. Mitchell said, "The criteria to join the troupe is everyone had to audition first and must maintain a 2.5 grade point average. No child is denied. This is not a pass or fail situation. Once a member goes to first grade, we mail out evaluation forms to all the members' schools. Education is very important for our children and it comes first. Several school teachers agreed to volunteer and tutor our children in the program

if their grades fall below the grade point average.

"So far, all their evaluations have been good."

The group is diversified in age

categories. The older children are mentors for the younger ones. The troupe is open to all nationalities. Malak Wal Malika has a strong support base with the parents," Mitchell said.

"We have meetings just for them. They are actively involved."

Calvina Mason said, "This program is important because it gives our kids a positive outlook. It also helps build self esteem and it gives them a way to express themselves and teaches them how to be comfortable. These are positive traits we need to instill in our kids so that they can be productive adults.

"They could be out in the streets playing or rough housing it up and doing other things. This is something that the kids chose to do. They are not made to do it. They volunteer to participate and they work very hard at what Sa'Rah is trying to teach them."

Mason added she has seen a great deal of difference with her 16-year-old daughter, Tracey.

"She's a lot more out going and lot more out spoken where as before she was a little bit more introverted. It's really given her encouragement that she can do things and she can be positive. She can present herself before the public. Tracey was little hesitant at first but after a couple weeks of going, she decided she wanted to continue and I continue to give her positive encouragement."

Kendra Washington, a 12-year-old young lady who is in the troupe, said she enjoys the program.

"It has given me the opportunity to model fashions and I want to be a model," Washington said.

Aqueelah Muhammad, 13,



Rahamanh Katumbusi II models his sports wear at the 1st Pre-Mother's Day Fashion and Dance Extravaganza.

Photo by Arminta Clark Muhammad

said, "Modeling has allowed me a freedom of expression and a new self confidence along with being exposed to the Katherine Dunham dance technique." Her goal in life is to become a lawyer.



Malak Wal Malika Modeling Troupe members pose for the camera shortly after the 1st Pre-Mother's Day Fashion and Dance Extravaganza at the Executive Center banquet hall on May 6.

Photo by Arminta Clark Muhammad

PROVIDENT HOSPITAL QUARTER AD



Community

The Wabash Y

by Iesha Griffin and Mia Dunlap

The Wabash YMCA is a rather huge and beautiful place. It is also very historical in the African-American community, as coach Michael Moseley explained on a May 24 tour of the Y. It is located at 3763 S. Wabash Avenue. It was built in 1912 and 1913. It's a very unique building. The Y was closed for a long time while it was being rehabbed.

In 2000, the YMCA reopened. The rehabbing happened after it was bought by four churches, St. Thomas Episcopal Church (at 38th Street and Wabash), Quinn Chapel AME (24th and Wabash), St. Elizabeth's Church (40th and Michigan) and St. Edmund's Episcopal Church (60th and Michigan).

After the churches bought it, the building went through a renaissance. The Y rents two floors and the churches run the other floors, where there is a residential area with 100 single rooms.

The Y has state-of-the-art exercise rooms. The original swimming pool is still open, though the track that used to circle the gym no longer exists. There used to be a cafeteria, which was turned into the fitness center.

There is also a computer room in the Y, with 10 computers (eight Dells and two Apples), which were donated by the Illinois Institute of Technology. The computers are used for educational programs.

Moseley said that the first-ever Black History Month originated at the Y. There is a hallway called Historical Hall, where many famous Black leaders have been.

"Lots of history has walked these halls," said Moseley. These people include Marcus Garvey, W.E.B. DuBois and Carter G. Woodson.

Walter Warrill was the former executive director of the Y during the 1950s and 1960s. The Y was one of the first in the country to serve the Black community.

"The YMCAs across America were segregated and African Americans were not permitted to participate in them," said Moseley.

So through the collaborative effort of a large segment of the African-American community and a wealthy Jewish philanthropist named Rosenwald, the necessary funds were gained to construct the Y, according to the Y newsletter.

"Just as it took a collaborative effort to build the Wabash Y, it has taken a consortium of religious institutions to bring about its renaissance," states the newsletter.

One of the most unique things about the Y is its ballroom. It is a place where banquets and dances were held. It also serves as a family room and multi-purpose room. The room holds a mural painted by William Scott. He started the mural in 1935 and finished in 1936.

The mural is called "The Vision." It shows Blacks with dreams of being famous and having different occupations that weren't usually open to Blacks at the time. These people wanted to be golfers, doctors, lawyers, radio announcers, scholars, scientists, nurses, singers and tennis players.

Moseley noted that it was as if Scott could visualize the future, because one of the buildings in the Chicago skyline in the mural looks just like a building that was built only three years ago at Jackson and Wacker streets downtown.

Scott's mural and other things in the Wabash Y make it a lovely as well as a historical place.

Palm Tavern

by Shanna Stitts

Bronzeville is a pretty decent area. There are many stores and businesses and buildings. Bronzeville Academy, an alternative high school, is located at 46th Street and King Drive. Ald. Dorothy Tillman (3) has her office right across from the school on King Drive. New buildings are being constructed in the area, including the Lou Rawls Theater on the corner of 47th Street and King Drive. It is possible the Lou Rawls Theater will not be opened because of financial and other problems, according to recent news reports.

Not far from there is Gerri's Palm Tavern, where many celebrities used to go after performing at the Regal Theater. The Regal is no longer there.

Gerri's Palm Tavern is owned by an 83-year-old woman named Gerri Oliver from Jackson, Miss. She has owned the Palm

Tavern for 45 years.

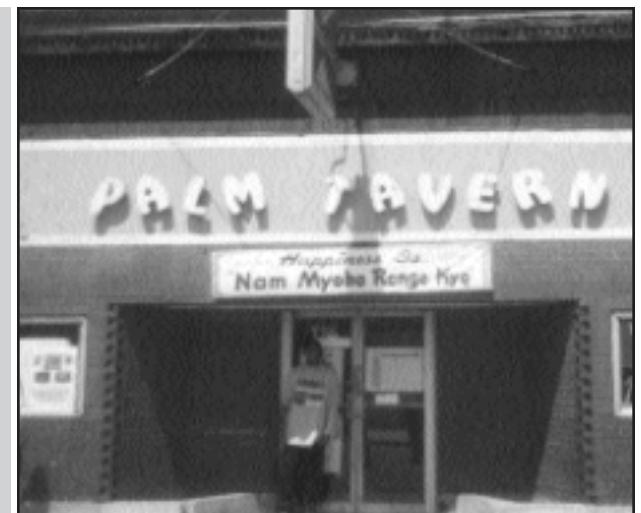
The Palm Tavern may soon be closed because Ald. Tillman doesn't think Oliver is capable of keeping the place together. In May, the City of Chicago ordered the tavern closed but a deal was worked out so that for the time being Oliver will remain as the owner.

Oliver said that Tillman wants to bring in a younger and wealthier owner to keep the tavern running. I attempted many times to get an interview with Tillman. Every time, she refused to meet with me.

"Gerri is not so pleased with Tillman closing the Palm Tavern," said Dorothy Bryant, a Bronzeville Academy student who recently visited the Palm Tavern. "Gerri is a nice lady who should keep the Palm Tavern."

Many in the community think it would be wonderful for the Palm Tavern to stay open. Then, when the planned Lou Rawls Theater and African American Cultural Center are opened, if they are, people will have somewhere to go and relax afterwards.

The Palm Tavern would be the perfect place.



Gerri's Palm Tavern

Photo by Shanna Stitts

The Abortion Question

by Monique Delgado

There are about 4,000 abortions a day in the U.S. Many of the people having abortions are teenage girls. There are many reasons why a young teen would want to get an abortion. First of all, they are young. Second, they are not ready to handle any real responsibility. And third, some people just don't care. Sometimes a girl wants to keep the baby but gets an abortion because the father is not ready to be a father and doesn't want to help take on any responsibility.

Abortion seems to be the first thing that pops into a young, devastated girl's mind when she finds out she is pregnant and she knows she doesn't want the baby. Some people seem to think there is no other way out, but there are other options, including adoption. There are adoption agencies all over the U.S. The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) places the child with a family that wants to adopt the child and take care of it.

People have varied opinions about abortion and whether it should be legal. Leticia Delgado, 15, said she is undecided whether abortion should be legal. She thinks it depends on the situation.

Ricardo Santiago, 14, said, "I think it should be legal if that's what the girl thinks she has to do."

Michelle Pantoja, 15, said she believes abortion should be legal.

"What about girls who have been raped by their father or

brother. Should they have to keep the baby as a reminder?" she said. "It should be legal for people who have been raped or mothers who have AIDS and don't want to pass it on to their child. And in life or death situations."

Christina, 18, who asked that her last name not be used, thinks abortion should be legal but she wouldn't have one.

"It's up to them but I would never do it," she said.

"If people don't want to have kids, they shouldn't have to," added Jose Pique, 18. "But I feel that it's not cool because when they had sex, they knew what was coming to them."

Harold Mendez, 24, also thought abortion should be legal, especially in the case of rape.

"I feel that a woman should have the right to make whatever decision is right for her," he said.

Of the women interviewed, almost all said that in a life or death situation, they would choose their baby's life over their own.

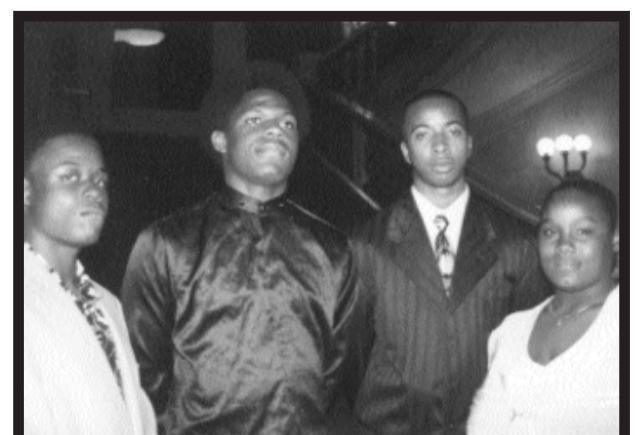
There are several methods of abortion. In one, performed very early in pregnancy, a suction generated by a vacuum pump sucks out everything in the uterus, including the torn fetus. No dilation of the cervix is needed with this procedure. In another procedure, the doctor dilates the cervix with a mechanical device. Then he inserts a tube into the uterus and extracts the fetus. A loop-shaped knife is used to cut up the fetus and scrape the uterine lining to detach the placenta.

In the procedure used during the third trimester (14-26 weeks), due to the larger body of the fetus and the toughness of more developed fetal tissues, the cervix is dilated more and the fetus is dismembered by the doctor. In this procedure the fetus's skull is crushed and its spine is snapped.

There are a variety of groups both opposing and supporting legal abortion. Planned Parenthood is the main group supporting legal abortion. Cindy Hansen at the Chicago area Planned Parenthood said there was no spokesperson available to answer questions for this story and referred me to the group's Web site.

"Planned Parenthood believes that reproductive self-determination with effective sexuality education and access to family planning and related services is necessary to enhance the quality of life, preserved individual opportunity and serve the interests of the family," says the site.

There are other groups that believe abortion is murder and that people should know more about adoption options.



The Twelfth Annual Diamonds of Donnelley

CYC-Elliott Donnelley Center youth volunteers Michael McIntrye (from left) Anthony Savage, Anthony Williams and Danialla Williams at the Twelfth Annual Diamonds of Donnelley Event on May 18 at the Chicago Cultural Center.

Photo by Mary C. Johns

Poets You Should Know

by Iesha Griffin

At the Guild Complex, I met Jo Jo, otherwise known as Keith Jackson. He was one of the poets there on June 5, one of the teen poetry slams they have every other Tuesday. He held the audience in awe as he read his work. He told me that he had been writing poetry for as long as he could remember. He also said that he likes to write poetry because it is a "dual way into the planes of bliss." He is 22 years old and a graduate of the Young Chicago Authors program. He wrote a little for me: "The day is an embracement of experience. One must open the eyes, the heart, the mind To the solace of life. That beyond the enigma of turmoil Blooms the soul's spark. Ever redeeming Of God's ultimacy."

I also talked to Clinton Montgomery, who read at the Guild Complex. He is 19 and has been writing poetry since he was 13. He said he "loves" writing poetry because it lets him express his inner self. He wrote: "Honor, responsibilities and being respected Are a few steps to becoming a man. When you are trifling, ignorant and negligent

Death is your demand
I try to understand negative circumstances
Only to embrace in finding my true self
A man."

I even got up and wrote a few poems. It was an open microphone. I was nervous because I didn't know these people. There were about 70 other writers there. The Guild event was a tribute to Gwendolyn Brooks. Today, there are many famous poets such as Brooks, Maya Angelou and Langston Hughes. But there are also young, talented people like those at the Guild Complex who write poetry but are not yet so famous. Like me, for instance. I am 13 years old and I write poetry. I like writing poetry because I hope to be known someday and it's just something I enjoy doing. I started writing poetry when I was 10 years old. I became interested in poetry after reading poetry from well-known poets. The first poem I wrote was entitled "Don't Drop Out," and it was featured in the last issue of *RJ*. I wrote it in the summer of 1998. I wrote it because I was bored and it was hot outside. But since then, I have been very creative and imaginative when it comes to poetry. Now, I write poetry as often as ideas come to me. I like both reading and writing poetry that rhymes. To get my work noticed, I have been showing my poems to different people and entering poetry contests such as the ones on www.poetry.com and www.famouspoets.com. But I am not the only kid who writes poetry. Here's what 13-year-old Desaray Moore had to say: "I like writing because I can express myself. I started writing poetry when I was 11.

I started writing because of my grandmother. When she died, I had feelings that I couldn't express through a story, so I made a poem about her. The first poem I wrote was called 'Angel (For You I Sing This Song).' I wrote it Dec. 2, 2000 because that's my grandma's birthday and she was deceased. I write poetry whenever I have spare time. Just like Iesha, I love reading and writing poetry that rhymes. To get my writing noticed, I have been showing my work to people and I entered one poetry contest. I write poems like this:

Oh beautiful, oh beautiful as we rode by
With you in your little Jeep looking at the sky
Oh beautiful, oh beautiful, I can't tell why I like you
Everybody that we pass by say, Oh, she's so cute.

14-year-old Sylestine McKay also writes poetry.

"I like writing poetry because it is fun to do and I can let what I feel be known," said McKay. "I started writing poetry when I was 14 years old. I just started writing poetry. I started because my favorite aunt writes poetry and I love to read her poems. The first poem I wrote was called, 'Try to Remember.' I wrote it earlier this year. I write poetry whenever I feel like it. I do not like writing poetry that rhymes because I can't get my point across like I want. Since I just started writing poetry, I have not been looking to publish my work just yet. This is the end of one of my poems called 'Try to Remember':"

Try to remember that the mistakes we've made
Are part of life
Try to remember when things go wrong
I'll be by your side

Whether you think you're right or wrong
Listen to your heart and try to remember."

And finally, 12-year-old Mia Dunlap said: "I love writing poetry because it helps me express myself mentally. I started writing poetry when I was 10. In fact, I've written 93 poems from August until now. The first poem I wrote was called 'Life in the Projects for Me.' I used to write poetry every day but now I write poetry about three times a month. I don't like to rhyme my poetry all the time because I need to come to a point. I have not yet been getting my work noticed but it won't be long before I do. "I write poetry like this:"

Your presence makes my heart glow
Again, I'll never let you go
You always show that you care
It is deep in my heart that you're there.

These are all notable poets who will blossom some day. For more information on the Guild poetry readings, visit the Guild Complex Web site at www.guildcomplex.com.

Here's an example of how I write my poetry, taken from a poem called "I Dream I Was."

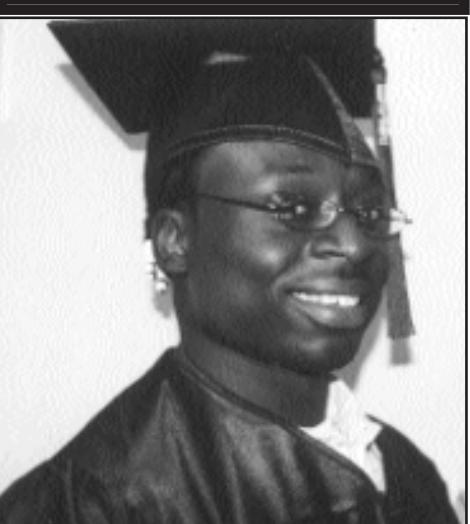
I dream I was a blue bird in the sky
And for no odd reason, I'd just fly, fly, fly
Watching over the people below
With the pleasantest weather my wings should know.

Visiting Ireland

by Angie Chavez

I am a 16-year-old Puerto Rican and a student at Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School. I was one of the students that got chosen to go on a trip to Ireland April 13-21 of this year. I was accompanied by the assistant director, Michelle Morales Gaunt, one of the high school teachers, Veronica Crespo Rich, and a senior at our high school, Carlos Morales.

2001 Graduate



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I was chosen by Jesse Mumm, a former teacher at Albizu Campos High School. Jesse Mumm works at the One World Center in Galway, Ireland, a place in which they help find asylum for those who migrated to Ireland. In other words, they help them find a place to stay. Mumm raised enough funds for the students from Albizu Campos High School to visit Ireland. The purpose of us going to Ireland was to present the methods used at our school to different people, and to learn about political and cultural issues in Ireland. We visited a school in Derry called Mean School Doire. It was very similar to our high school. They played Irish music for us. I also did a Puerto Rican traditional dance for them. They gave us a tour around the school and showed us what they teach.

We also told them about our school and what we teach. We explained how our school is an alternative high school with about 60 students.

One of the main groups seeking asylum in Ireland is the Nigerians. They are having a hard time in Ireland. There has been a big Nigerian immigration to Ireland due to political instability in Nigeria. In 1993, the people of Nigeria had voted for their president and a military coup had overthrown their decision. The military coup installed their own president. People who opposed the decision were persecuted and secular law was imposed.

The Nigerians were getting put into jail and getting mistreated. This was the cause of the Nigerians immigrating out of Nigeria. A lot of them went to Ireland. Then the Irish Government called the Nigerian Government and asked them what was the issue. They told them that they are politically stable so they can send the Nigerians back. Now the Irish Government wants to do a mass deportation of 5,000 Nigerians.

In Ireland, the Irish Government pays each Nigerian \$10.50 a week. This amount of money is what they live off. Some of them don't eat because they don't like the food that they are

given. They are not allowed to cook their own food. They also can't get any jobs in Ireland, so they are struggling against many issues. We didn't know that this was going on in Ireland with the Nigerians.

We also visited Dublin, Galway and Derry. Our first night in Dublin, we stayed in a Bed and Breakfast (BB). We stayed in Galway a couple of days with a family Jesse knew. They treated us as if we were at home. It was a wonderful experience for everyone. The next place we headed to was Derry. There we stayed with another loving family who Jesse Mumm also knew. We saw the Derry wall, which said "You Are Now Entering Free Derry." There were a few murals painted on walls of buildings. One mural showed the 15 people that died on Bloody Sunday on Jan. 30, 1972. These were people that were killed by the British Army.

We also saw the watch towers. In Derry, the British Army has watch towers all around to see people's actions. Northern Ireland is ruled by the British. Catholics in Ireland have been struggling against the British to gain freedom of self-determination. Catholics want to have their own government, while the British want to have control over Northern Ireland. The Protestants want Northern Ireland to stay a part of Britain. Almost everywhere in Ireland, we saw farms. I never even knew that there were farms in Ireland. They had a lot of sheep and cows. I was so surprised when I saw the cars with the steering wheels on the right side. The mountains were so beautiful. The weather was kind of cold and it rained once in a while. I liked the shoes and clothing.

The food was not that good but we survived. I really enjoyed the time that I spent with the people I went with and the people we got to meet.

I learned a lot about the issues in Ireland that I didn't know about. One thing that I liked very much was their accent. I think that for Michelle, Veronica, Carlos and myself, this was a trip we will never forget.

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Music Is My Life

by Arminta Clark Muhammad

If you want to hear some good jazz music on a Sunday evening, try listening to the father and son team who host "What Is This Thing Called Jazz? Adventures in Modern Black Music." The show is a 90-minute, bi-weekly jazz program on WHPK, the University of Chicago radio station. For Lofton "L.A." and 10-year-old Kyle "Theolonious" Emenari, the show has been a labor of love. They have been educating and exposing their audience to new, hot jazz music. Lofton Emenari celebrates 25 years of broadcasting this September.

A major part of his broadcast is his son, "Theolonious," whom he named after the jazz genius Thelonious Monk. Emenari said he chose to name his son after Thelonius Monk because of the style and the type of music that Monk played and his contributions to this great American art form. Monk was also a student of the great Duke Ellington, who is the godfather of jazz.

"I just spelled the first name differently," Emenari said. Emenari is proud of the fact that his son still enjoys accompanying him to the radio station. He has literally grown up on the station. Emenari is delighted by the fact that he has molded and shaped his son with this music. Although Kyle Emenari is rather shy on the show and doesn't like to talk much, he generally reads the name of the artist and the title of the tune on the air. Emenari said he doesn't force his son to learn the facets of working the board or playing a record.

"None of that stuff," he explained. "Now if he asks: 'Dad, how do you do this or that?' as it relates to broadcasting, it's no problem."

Emenari has been his son's first teacher in

music. He introduced his son to the diversity of music. Kyle Emenari can now identify different artists and their music. He is able to differentiate different types of music, which has made him an astute listener.

Emenari himself was born and raised in a home filled with music. His father was a part-time jazz musician playing the piano and alto saxophone.

"My mother is a classical-trained opera singer and still performs today with several groups," Emenari said.

Emenari admitted he has tried playing numerous instruments but was never successful.

"My mother said to me recently that music is her life," he said. "A musical life that has profoundly affected me. Now music is a major part of my life as well."

Emenari has been scanning the jazz circuit for close to 30 years. He writes a weekly entertainment and community-based issues column for the *Chicago Citizen*. He has hosted different shows in the past on Classical, Gospel, Reggae and Blues music. However, jazz has been his immediate circle of culture. Emenari takes pride in making his show different from the other broadcasters.

Emenari said, "We have to understand one thing about jazz. On the air waves, there's not much of it. So you have a very select crowd or a group of jazz deejays who play a select group of music."

Emenari decided a long time ago that he had to make his program different from mainstream jazz programs.

"The beauty of jazz is its diversity," Emenari said. "That there is so much music to hear that it is not heard. With commercial air waves, we don't get a chance to hear a lot of the music that is quote unquote so called jazz."

Listening audiences are generally served a

steady diet of over-saturated pop music. Most of the stations that play jazz like WHPK are low-watt broadcasters and are not heard by a large audience. Those who seek out those low-watt stations are getting an education in quality. Emenari feels jazz is healthy in the sense that a lot of new jazz musicians are coming up. A lot of people say there aren't enough jazz musicians.

Emenari said, "Let's say, for example, you have the over-thirty crowd, the over-forty crowd, the over-fifty crowd, and they are still perpetuating this music. You have musicians who are out there on the front line. You have musicians mainly to educate the other musicians. Musicians like Billy Taylor and Wynton Marsalis are very valued members of the jazz community because of their values and education.

"Then you have the musicians that are in the trenches, not necessary doing the overt education in terms of speaking and teaching engagements but who are examples by doing their playing. Then you have another whole level of musicians who are basically teachers. Teaching is all that they do. These are the educators. They teach in the schools, the youth clubs, at the community centers and YMCAs. These are a lot of the life blood line for many in this capacity.

That's the grunt work. The people that you never hear about as musicians."

On his show, Emenari said he's trying to emphasize wonderful musicians mainstream audiences might not normally hear.

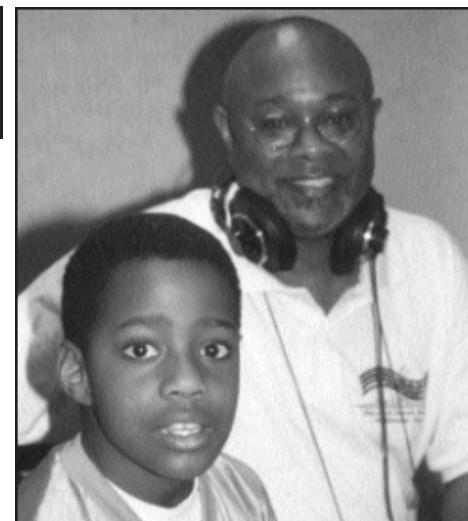
"They make very wonderful music. So jazz is in very good shape," Emenari said. Music plays a major part in African society both traditionally and now. Music is used in all facets and fates of life. Music has a definite functionality in African society that actually permeates.

But here and today, music is compartmentalized and used as a form of entertainment. Today, we use music to sleep and to wake us up. Music to relax by. Music is used for healing. The power of music in healing people has been used as a technique over the years and over the centuries.

Emenari said, "Two profound musicians that used music as a healing technique are the late Henry 'Light' Huff, a naturopath, someone I had the opportunity to know, and Horace Silvers, who has made many albums about the power of musical healing. What it could do to your mind, body and soul. So there are musicians that propel their life living philosophies into what they actually do with a sense of seriousness and a sense of history and seize the moment. And they know their value to society as a whole."

Emenari said jazz and rap music do and can coexist:

"Music is music. Music is basically out of



University of Chicago Jazz radio deejay Lofton 'L. A.' Emenari with his son Kyle 'Theolonious' Emenari.

Photo by Arminta Clark Muhammad

the African American experience. A lot of people like to put it in a lot of different categories. But actually, it's very seamless in a sense that all of these things can coexist and they do coexist."

Emenari contended the music industry dictates what music comes out and is out of most artists' hands. The music industry is made up of "tastemakers" or "big clones," Emenari said.

Most African American musicians and most jazz musicians do not dictate the style and the taste of music. Sometimes a musician plays a particular style of music because the industry dictates it. The record companies might not want to produce the work of an avant garde musician. Consequently, the labels are limited. Emenari said conformist musicians have greater opportunities because the record companies dictate what we hear.

Emenari is near completion on one of the three manuscripts on which he is currently working.

"I'm nearly half-finished with my first book titled 'What Is This Thing Called Jazz? Adventures in Modern Black Music Theories, Philosophies and Opinions.'" It's the same title as his jazz program.

The second manuscript is a documentary of different Muslim musicians who have come along through jazz and pop culture and their roles as musicians.

Drummers like Art Blakey, whose Muslim name is Abdullah Ibn Buhaina, Tani Tabbal, Philly Joe Jones, Billy Higgins and pianists Randy Weston and McCoy Tyner (Suleiman Faud), saxophonist Pharoah Sanders and woodwind player Yusuf Lateef, to name a few. The third is a book of poetry, which is long overdue. Emenari said he has won many awards for his poetry. "My role is to educate my listening audiences about what is this thing called jazz. To play music that one ordinarily would not hear. Modern yet classic."



Gospel Fest 2001

Legendary gospel singers Clay, Cleve and the Pilgrim Jubilees are honored again. Joining them were Pam Morris, Albertina Walker and Dr. Charles G. Hayes and others.

Photo by Arminta Clark Muhammad

by Bobby Watkins

Congratulations go out to all 2001 graduates, be they grammar school, high school or college grads. Best wishes in the future from the Local Advisory Council.

The council would also like to welcome our new property manager, Ted Stewart. Best of luck to you. We look forward to working with you.

It is also that time of year to visit the Jimmy Thomas Nature Trail. Thanks to the Friends of the Chicago River and Green Corps, the Nature Trail has been made ready for your visiting pleasure. Friends of the River and the Lathrop residents are looking forward to everyone coming out to River Rescue Day.

Congratulations to Johnnie Marshall on his award.

Keep up the good work.

Special congratulations to Asia Edwards, a young lady who was one of my 4-H club members. She went on our first Friends of the River field trips to see what a nature trail was. Presently, she is working with the Dan Cotter Boys and Girls Club, where she was the recipient of one of the club's scholarships. She got another scholarship from the Church of Good News upon her recent graduation from Lane Tech High School. Keep up the good work at Michigan State University.

I would like to say to all our young people in Lathrop: Follow your dreams. Stay in school and away from drugs for the saying is true, a mind is a terrible thing to waste.



Lathrop Homes resident Johnnie Marshall (3rd from left) receives the "Spirit of the River" award from the Friends of the Chicago River.

Photo by Earl Battles

Child of the Pack Saddle: Part V

by John
“Popcorn”
Sampson

The policeman had come to Miss La Nora's farm for me. That was something that I learned when the policeman called out loudly, “Hey you, n——r, get over here.”

“His name is Popcorn and you call him Popcorn as long as you're on my property,” said Miss La Nora angrily.

“As you say, Granny, as you say,” the officer said apologetically. “It won't happen again. But I got to take this little n...boy down town because Mister Fuquay says that he been getting fresh with his daughter, Mona, and he don't want him in this neighborhood any longer. This is a neighborhood where white folks live and Blacks are not allowed to live among white folks.

“And if I don't get this boy away from his daughter, Mister Fuquay said he will kill the Black bastard. Excuse the expression, Granny.”

The police officer was none other than Joe Billie, a hater of Black people and Black males in particular. He had been an officer of the law for some 20 odd years and in that time, he had killed better than 10 Black men. It was said among the other city officers that Joe Billie would rather have a poisonous snake bite his mother than to see a Black man looking at a white woman.

And the reason why Joe Billie harbored this paranoid hatred for Black people was because, soon after he joined the police force, he had a Black man working around his house doing odd jobs such as cutting the grass and various other chores. One day, he came home before his usual time for lunch and found the Black man in bed with his wife.

He killed the man, of course, but he never got over the sight of the big Black ass that confronted him when he entered the bedroom door. Then, to make matters intolerable, his wife ran away from home the very next day while he was at work. Joe Billie hired a detective to track her down. Then, after a few weeks or so, the detective reported to Joe Billie that he had found Mrs. Billie living in Chicago with a Black lover.

In later years, I learned that the weight of hatred got to be too cumbersome for the paranoid Joe Billie to the extent it caused the demented officer to leave his job, go to the bedroom where he found the Black man on top of his beloved, stick his gun into his mouth, and blow himself into hollows of Hades.

But getting back to the destruction of the happiest days of my youth: In spite of Miss La Nora's pleas and threats of legal retaliation, Joe Billie took me to jail anyway.

Since I was too young to be housed with the men, I was put in a cell with three women, one of which was way out of touch with reality. So much so, she kept trying to put me on top of her to a point that completely baffled me. I didn't know whether or not I should try to take care of a little business, laugh or stand there looking like a running back who dropped the football a few feet from the goal line. All of which hurled the other two women into a fit of uncontrollable hysterics.

I was embarrassed completely out of my wits. And let me tell you, there is absolutely no moment in life that will leave you out on a limb with nowhere to turn like a moment that is diminished and mortified by chagrin. In this bastards period of utter confusion, one is so out of touch it is impossible to decide whether one should laugh, cry or lay down and die.

The section of the jail where the women were housed was, seemingly, an area that had been a storehouse or a warehouse or something of that nature. What I'm saying is one could see without taking a second look that the place had been given a hurry-up transformation or a quick fix in other words. The bars weren't the usual steel bars that are common among jail house décor. On the contrary, the bars in the women's cell-block were two-inch wide iron beams placed horizontally from the floor straight up to within six or eight inches from the loft.

Scrutinizing the rather odd penal institution and its eccentric configuration kindled my boyish curiosity to a famish degree. So then, unable to hesitate any longer, I decided to scale this most usual barrier and try my hand in taking a look-see into yonder loft.



Often times a golden opportunity comes to he that is least expecting and the unprepared. Which only goes to prove, and proves conclusively, that preparation is the father and the mother of success.

Urged on and championed by the trio of cheering ladies standing idly by, I brazenly started my climb up the bars, and made my way to the roof of the loft.

When I made it to the top, I was surprised to discover that the opening at the top was easy for me to squeeze my body through. Once

unending ebony shadows of night were shooed away by the glow of a golden bright spring morning. I silently removed myself from the bunk on which the nude woman lay snoring on my backside - an act that I learned to regret bitterly some years after having learned, to my chagrin, just how seldom, seldom indeed, that such good fortune befalls a man, any man! But then, often times a golden opportunity comes to he that is least expecting and the unprepared. Which only goes to prove, and proves conclusively, that preparation is the father and the mother of success.

I believe it was 10 a.m. or there 'bouts when Joe Billie came to the jail and escorted me to the courthouse and to Judge Schuller's court. I swear to you by all that is holy that this was by far the very most nervous time that I had ever known and ever hope to know. It's a good thing that I had gone to the toilet before I left the jail or otherwise, I surely would have drenched the court house floor with a pool of urine.

I was in the loft, I saw that directly across from where I had entered was a window completely void of bars of any kind.

It was in that moment that the idea came to me that this was a way out for me. But not at that time - because it was the middle of the day hours and, should I climb out of the window, I would have been seen by anyone and everyone as a prisoner making an escape. To make such a bone-headed mistake was a no no. So then I said to myself, ‘When it gets dark, I'm going to climb out of that window and I'll be gone.’

I was elated, thrilled and anxious to tell Agnes, one of the women in the cell. Agnes treated me like I was her little brother from the moment I was placed in the cell.

I wanted to tell Agnes about what I discovered in the cell and what my intentions were once it got dark. I couldn't wait until I got back down there with them.

But after I finished telling Agnes about the window and how I intended to make my getaway just as soon as it got dark, she took me by my two hands, sat me down on the bunk, and said to me in a motherly tone of voice:

“I don't think you ought to do that, Popcorn, and I'll tell you how come I say that. If you have to go to court, and I doubt that you do. But if you do, you will go before Judge Schuller. He handles all juvenile cases and Judge Schuller is the lenient judge in this city. I wish there were more judges like Judge Schuller.

“Everybody that has to go to court hopes and prays that they go before Schuller. They call him the Black folks' judge. The man don't got a prejudiced bone in his body! But what I wanted to say to you is this: Even if you can escape from here tonight, don't! Because I got a feeling that you won't get sent back here if you go in front of the judge.

“I don't think he will send you back in that white neighborhood on Holly Street because he knows that the old peckerwood is badmouthing you and nothing more. And he knows too that most of them white bitches want some of that Black meat. Then too, if you escape out of here tonight, you will have to get out of town. And if you leave town, how and when will you ever see your mama?

“So, take an old bitch's bit of advice and look before you leap! Don't walk into a dark tunnel blindfolded. I am your friend, Popcorn, and I won't tell you nothing wrong, baby!”

I took Agnes at her word and didn't make no attempt to escape from the jail that night. Instead, I spent a long, sleepless night sitting on the side of my bunk too scared to sleep for fear of what the naked woman might do to me if I dosed off.

But then, at last, the slothful,

Then, suddenly all my anxieties, all that tension and all my solitude were swept away with the blinking of an eye the moment that I saw Miss LaNora waiting for Joe Billie and myself, at the witness stand. What a joy, what a feeling of all is well. Indeed, what a feeling of hurrah and hallelujah it was for me to see that wonderful white woman; my heart did cart-wheels, my woes, and woebegone took flight into the wide blue yonder, while my Black soul did a jig!

As the officer and me came within a few yards of the throne of justice, Judge Schuller pointed to me and said, “Come over here, son, and tell me why you caused me to postpone my fishing trip for a visit with you. I suppose you got a good enough reason for me, right?”

(To be Continued...)

Corrections

There was an error in the spelling of Mr. El' Zabar's first name in the “Voices and Music” article and photo caption that appeared in the April 2001 edition. The correct spelling of his name is 'Kahil.'

The photo of Racine Apts. senior resident James Bates that appeared in the April 2001 issue was mistakenly credited to Mary C. Johns. The photo was taken by Mr. Lorenzia Shelby.

MEDICARE eIGHTh PAGE
AD

Saltting the Men in CHA

by Bobby Watkins

As a 10-year resident of public housing, I would like to write a little about men in public housing and how little respect we receive.

We never hear about the positive things that men do in and out of the Chicago Housing Authority. But we are quick to hear about the negative things that occur in the developments, such as the gang violence, drug activity, unemployment and dead-beat dads.

So in this article, I would just like to write about some of the positive things that some men have contributed to CHA. Contrary to popular belief, there are male leaseholders in CHA and some who try to make a difference.

I, for one, have been a volunteer in the development

where I live; I've been a 4-H youth leader, a past member of the Local Advisory Council and have served on the Friends of the River committee as well as the city-wide advisory council to the board of directors for the Legal Assistance Foundation. I've also volunteered with the local Boys and Girls Club.

But I have written enough about myself now. I would like to write about some of the men who we should know in CHA and that have made positive contributions. We have fathers who are raising children on their own, serving on the local school councils as well as men who have their own businesses.

Especially with the changes in public housing, a lot of men want to make a difference and help to make the developments in which we live safer and better places in which to live.

Below are just a few of the residents that have done some very positive things to help not only themselves but others as well. I'm really happy to be able to write about their accomplishments. Most of the things these guys are doing are volunteer efforts and it is really hard to find any one to volunteer, especially residents of public housing and especially the way the economy is today. No one wants to do anything for free.

One of the men we are proud to be talking about is still a public housing resident. Willie Burrell, or Mr. B as he is called, marched with the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the 1960s for equal rights to open housing. Burrell fought for jobs and organized a youth drill team for the youth of the North East Scattered Sites public housing units, where he is currently the president of the local advisory council as well as the resident management corporation. He also serves on the board of the Central Advisory Council as secretary and is also one of the founders of the Coalition to Protect Public Housing. This list could go on.

To this day, Burrell is still fighting for the residents of his community and wants to see changes in CHA as long as it is for the good of the residents.

Arlander Adamson, a resident of the Robert Taylor "A" development, is a young man who has been a resident of CHA for many years. Adamson has a resident-owned business that installs exterior fences. Adamson is one of the many young men who has been through some bad times but overcame them. This young man turned his whole life around and now likes to talk to young people about the dangers of drugs and alcohol and gangs. He would also like to see a change in CHA, especially an end to the gang wars that have been going on in Taylor for some time now. He also would like to see

more positive role models in the developments.

Jackie Brown is a former CHA resident. Brown lived in Robert Taylor in the early 1960s and later went onto write a short book about the Taylor homes. Brown's book goes into detail about one of the first shootings in the development and how CHA was then. After leaving CHA, he served in the U.S. Air Force. After completing his term, he went on to college and majored in political science.

He made three unsuccessful political bids: for U.S. Congress in 1978, then for alderman of the 3rd ward and later for state senator of the 12th District.

Now he works to help the residents of Taylor as a social worker for the Department of Human Services at the South Side office which serves Robert Taylor.

Brown feels there is a need for change in CHA, but he

Contrary to popular belief, there are male leaseholders in CHA and some who try to make a difference.

wants the government to play a better role in helping to make residents feel safe that they will have housing after they are relocated.

The Rev. Odis Prince is a building president in Robert Taylor, where he has lived since 1993. He attends Omega Missionary Baptist Church and lives with his wife, daughter and grandchild. Prince works as a community asthma health educator for the Grand Boulevard Federation Asthma Coalition, which is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency. He goes out to the community and educates those who have asthma on controlling and monitoring their illness. "I would like to see men in CHA take their place in the family and be like it used to be," said Prince. He also would like to see CHA rebuild before they tear down. Prince also wants more jobs in the community, more clinics and community centers. Finally, Prince would like to see peace and unity and the end of gangs.

Larry Washington is truly some one I feel and consider to be a man to recognize. Washington is someone who really cares not only about the development in which he lives but about residents in general. In the time I've known Washington, I have always seen him working to help some cause for the residents, such as the annual Youth Can Cook event or preparing Thanksgiving or Christmas baskets for needy families. Washington is always somewhere around. Washington reminds me of the many of the neighborhood men I grew up with who would plant gardens and coach baseball teams, anything to help to keep young people in line. Washington is a hard-working member of the Victims Assistance Program – a CHA department that assists people who have been victims of violence.

Washington is a role model for his two sons, whom he has made his top priorities. He has taught them to survive and with the help of his Muslim faith, he has taught them that they can beat the odds.

"Reach inside yourself and find the good," Washington said.

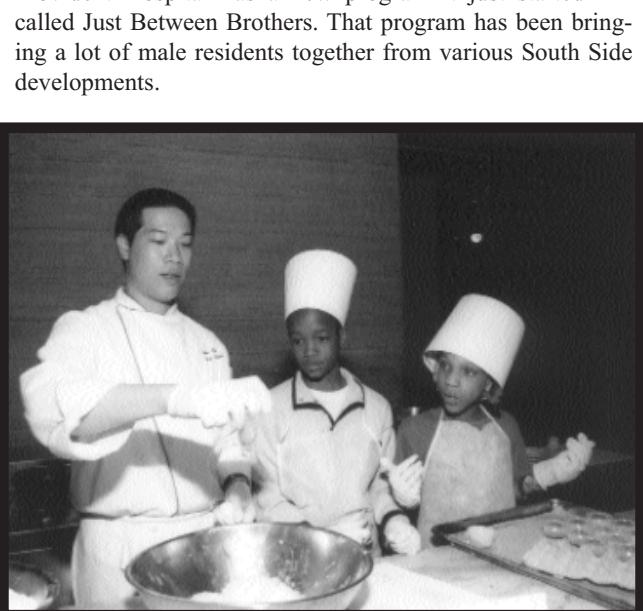
Titus Kirby is another male resident that has been successful and has tried to help residents get jobs through his resident-owned business, Exodus Community Development Corporation. Kirby has helped to have Midnight Basketball in

his development. Exodus has given out Christmas baskets to needy families. Kirby serves on the Lathrop Local Advisory Council and is at present vice president of the Lathrop Resident Management Corporation.

Kirby, along with his Lodge Brothers, made several Lathrop youths happy with a bike give-away at the Safe Summer kick off recently. They gave away 12 new bikes.

CHA also has produced many great men, including former residents radio personality Herb Kent, Cook County Commissioner Jerry "Iceman" Butler, the late Curtis Mayfield, U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush (D-1), Evangelist Jackie Jordan, Dallas Mavericks basketball player Juwan Howard, actor Mr. T, the late Leroy Watkins, Charles Reynolds, Louis Brown and the late Eddie Davis.

Some people have done their part to recognize the men of CHA. U.S. Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-7) set up the Fathers and Families Forum, which meets weekly. That program is doing well. I was in attendance at the Forum at Malcom X College and saw quite a few male residents from various CHA developments.



"Kids Can Be Chefs Too"

On May 8, the Chicago Police Department's Public Housing Community Policing Office took CHA youths 8 to 12 years old of the Donoghue Elementary School to the downtown Lowes House of Blues for the nationwide "Kids Can Be Chefs Too" event.

Photo depicts chef Tobias Cox preparing a dish as two Donoghue Elementary School students looks on.

Photo courtesy of Shureberger, Inc.

Y O U R H o a l t h

ues." Here's how.

All of us have "values." They shape completely how we live. The dictionary tells us that values are traditions, behaviors and institutions that any group of people think of as important to living a good life. This means that we all have values. If you want to know what someone's values are, just observe their behavior over a period of time. What they do has been determined by their values.

Those who find themselves at Haymarket Center have a very clear set of values. Most of all, they value feeling good - being pain free in every way all the time.

I agree that this is a wonderful idea but unfortunately, it's completely unrealistic. Living on planet Earth has always been and always will be a pain-filled experience. But that does not stop our clients from having that value. This value controls their every thought, feeling and action. It finally results in their arrival

at the door.

As long as they are attempting to take control of their lives so that they can feel good, is their value, they will continue to experience the same kinds of problems.

What controls your life? What are those traditions and behaviors that contribute to your life going well? What are those ideas and feelings that bring the most pain into your life?

As you ponder those questions, know that you can change! You can change your values. But first you must clearly identify them. God can help you see the truth if you ask him. Once you are aware of the values that control your life, ask God to change the unhelpful ones. While your values are in the process of changing, you will discover that your behavior is also changing.

What's Important

by Dr. Bill Miller
Haymarket Center

There has been a lot of talk in recent years about values - some serious and some mocking. There's an old saying that says, "Anything that changes your values changes your behavior." This statement goes a long way in helping us understand "val-

CHA Funds

(Continued from Page 5)

The Chicago Public Schools did not respond to numerous requests regarding the duties of the former CHA employees and if residents actually participated in the five former CHA programs for which money was allocated.

Gil Walker, an official from the CHA Office of Resident Programs, said during a recent interview that CHA is itself determining if residents participated in Board of Education programs.

"The Chicago Public Schools sent us a list of all the kids that participated in their programs. Holly Holzer (a CHA official) is cross-checking the names by way of address.

"So it's a tedious process but what she has to do is go through a listing of the various schools adjacent to public housing and find out what kids are involved in what program," said Walker during a June phone interview.

"So that's the only checking mechanism we have."

To be sure that residents would receive programs and services in the future, Peterson said that David Doig, executive director of the Chicago Park District, and Paul Vallas, former CEO at the Chicago Public Schools, both would assign staff to work with the Central Advisory Council (CAC) and Local Advisory Councils (LACS).

Peterson said, "How do we determine that our residents are being served by these agencies that have now taken over our programs? David Doig of the park district is working with Michael Brown.

And Paul Vallas if I'm not mistaken was also out there last week (the week of June 18) said 'guess what, because of a budget shortfall we have had to make staff cutbacks but I'm committed to working with the residents or the employees who came over to find other opportunities within the agency.'"

"So you've got both department heads meeting with the CAC, with individual LACs that are having a point person to work with them to make sure that our residents get access to their services. That's how you are sure," said Peterson.

Paul Vallas is no longer at CPS. As of June 28, 36-year-old Arne Duncan replaced him as CEO.

As for the CHA Office of Resident Programs, the remaining employees will be working as door-to-door outreach workers passing out flyers and providing CHA residents with information about events, programs and services. They are also responsible for monitoring the services provided by the service connectors.

The Park District

Michael Brown, the Chicago Park District's liaison to CHA for provision of sports and recreational programs, said his agency has a couple of ways to track CHA residents participating in the Park District programs.

"They are tracked by roster and registration forms at park sites in or around CHA developments and through sports coaches who live within CHA developments," said Brown after the June 13 CHA Tenant Services meeting.

"They are also recruited by flyers. We can safely say that 99 percent of kids come from that development. We know because of where the parks are located," Brown said.

Chicago Park District spokesperson Angelynne Amores said CHA's sports-oriented programs were switched over to them in September 2000 with the aim of servicing approximately 2,000 CHA residents.

Amores said the Park District hired 7 former CHA employees and would receive \$757,000 to be portioned out in three aspects, according to the Intergovernmental Agreement with CHA. She said a portion of the money was to cover the salaries of the 7 former CHA employees from September 2000 to May 2001. Another portion of the money was for equip-

ment and materials to operate the programs for 2000.

Amores said \$275,000 was for the 2001 Summer Camp Programs fees for one year with an option to extend in 2002.

"The Park District will hire up to 7 former CHA employees currently working to support these programs," Amores said.

"The CHA will pay salaries and benefits to the hired individuals through May 31, 2001 with an option to extend an agreement to 2002.

"After May 31, the CHA will pay the Park District a sum of \$275,000 for summer programs fees," said Amores.

Amores said 5 of the 7 former CHA employees were at the Chicago Park District in June.

Amores said she was unable to provide the number of residents who participated in programs transferred from CHA and already administered by the Park District, such as Midnight Basketball, which was integrated into the Park District's Late Night Basketball program. And Amores said the Park District would not know the numbers of residents who participated in the summer programs until September.

"We at the Park District tally the numbers at the end of the program. For the summer programs, we will not have until mid-September," she said.

Mark Plummer, CHA's deputy chief in the Office of Programs, said that the Park District would have to pay for programs themselves after a year.

"And then after a year, the Park District is supposed to just have all of those programs within their own budget," said Plummer after the June 13 Tenant Services meeting.

Department of Human Services

At the time of this report, CHA was continuing to negotiate with the Chicago Department of Human Services to administer social services

to residents through the Service Connector program for \$5.9 million a year.

In mid-June, Human Services Department Deputy Commissioner Ngoan Le said her department had not contracted with CHA nor had it received any of the \$5.9 million.

"We are working with the agencies who will be selected," Le said. "This month (June) is the month that we hope to finalize the contracts.

"This is all just in paper and contracts for negotiations," she said.

Le said the Human Services Department is being paid by CHA because they are designing a program specifically for CHA residents.

"The reason why the additional funding is necessary is because right now, our programs are open to residents in the city. So people come to us when they need help but we don't design a program for any targeted population," she said.

The Department on Aging

Ella Muhammad, the deputy commissioner at the Chicago Department on Aging, said her agency was contracted to replace the CHA's former Gladys Reed Senior Program. She said the Department on Aging is contracted to receive \$1.2 million from two separate grants for a year's service to hire staff as on-site coordinators at 42 of the 58 CHA senior buildings.

"The 1.2 million would be provided by two separate grants. A ROSS (a special HUD fund) grant totaling \$600,000 for 2000 that expired in October 2000. And another \$600,000 grant whose contract will expire in July 2001," said Muhammad.

"Right now we're spending a lot of our dollars. We are currently invoicing CHA.

"The other grant will expire in July, so we're in the process of contracting with CHA again."



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Comprehensive Clinics

All telephone area codes are 312, except where indicated.

Comprehensive Clinics

Englewood	641 West 63rd Street	747-7831
Lower West Side	1713 South Ashland	746-5157
Roseland	200 East 115th Street	747-9500
Uptown	845 West Wilson	744-1938
West Town	2418 West Division	744-0943

Maternal/Child Clinics

Grand Boulevard	4410 South State	747-0005
South Chicago	2938 East 89th Street	747-5285
South Lawndale	3059 West 26th Street	747-0066

Public Health Clinic

Sexually Transmitted Disease/HIV	530 East 31st Street	747-0102
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Affiliated Clinics

Circle Family Care	4909 West Division	(773) 921-8100
Komed Health Clinic	4230 South Greenwood	(773) 268-7600
Lakeview Neighborhood Health Center	2849 North Clark	(773) 528-1188
Lawndale Christian Health Center	3860 West Ogden	(773) 521-5006
Mile Square	2045 West Washington	996-9000
Woodlawn Adult Health	6337 South Woodlawn	(773) 747-7700



Key Public Health Telephone Numbers

All telephone area codes are 312, except where indicated

CDPH General Information	747-9884
TTY	744-8599
Addictions Services	(773) 476-0622
Outpatient Program	850-0080
Residential (Women/Girls)	(773) 737-4600
Residential (Men)	747-9825
Prevention	744-3796
Birth Certificates of Newborns	747-9875
Board of Health	1-800-4-CANCER
Cancer Information	747-8816
Case Management	746-5380
Communicable Disease Reporting	744-3800
Death Certificates	747-9810
Epidemiology	747-FOOD
Food and Dairy Protection	747-9726
Health Surveillance	747-9820
Hispanic Affairs	747-AIDS
HIV/AIDS	1-800-243-AIDS
Statewide Hotline	746-5380
Immunization	746-6122
Chicago CareVan Program	http://www.ci.chi.il.us
Internet Address	747-LEAD
Lead Poisoning	747-9768
Mental Health	747-9140
Nutrition Services/WIC Program	747-9822
Public Health Nursing	747-9805
Public Information/News Media Requests	747-5400
Sexually Transmitted Disease	746-5380
Tuberculosis	747-8787
Violence Prevention	1-800-603-HELP
Crisis Hotline	747-9569
Volunteer Services	May 1999



Chicago Dept. of Public Health
John L. Wilhelm, MPH Commissioner

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Residents' Journal/June 2001 p.17

Stop the Violence

by Cenabeth Cross

The month started with me covering the case of Jonathan Tolliver. The jurors had come to a deadlock on the first trial and I covered the retrial. Tolliver was on trial for the death of Police Officer Michael Ceriale. Ceriale and his partner, Joseph Ferenz, were staking out a Robert Taylor Homes building on an undercover drug sting Aug. 15, 1998 when Ceriale was shot and killed.

First there was a new set of jurors to be picked. This took two days. Two jurors asked to be excused, one because he said he had a history of mental problems.

Then the testimonies started. Ceriale's partner said on May 3 when he testified that he had never seen the gunman's face.

The first ones to testify were so-called friends of Tolliver's who changed their testimonies from the first trial. Now they were testifying in his favor. The first friend said she was coerced into her testimony because the police had threatened to involve her. One of the friends was Carlos Hendricks, who said the police beat him and made him testify against Tolliver. On May 9, when the assistant State's Attorney Jim McKay asked where he had been beaten, Hendricks first pointed to his eye but quickly put his hand on his head. McKay then asked Hendricks why he had put his hand over his eye. He replied that he didn't know: "I made a mistake," Hendricks said.

The final outcome of the trial found Tolliver guilty in spite of the witnesses' recantation. The jury didn't believe them.

Latanya Haggerty

On May 7, 2001, I attended the hearing in which the family of Latanya Haggerty received a settlement of \$18 million from the City of Chicago. It was formalized in court today. Latanya Haggerty was the woman shot and killed by police officers in a traffic dispute. When the police approached the car, they killed her because they thought she had a weapon in her hands when it was really a cell phone. The Mayor gave in to the settlement, saying only that the City Council Finance Committee would have to OK the same. The Mayor planned to meet with the family the next day and express his apologies. The family was represented by two attorneys, James Montgomery and Johnny Cochran (the attorney in the O.J. Simpson trial). The family consists of the mother, father, a sister and two brothers. One of her brothers, who had been vocal the entire time in the anti-police brutality marches with the Rev. Paul Jakes, spoke, "We would like to get on with our lives."

Raid at Stateway

Then I was on to the case of the Stateway Gardens raid. The raid occurred on Feb. 22, 2001. I learned about the incident from an article May 4 in the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Stateway Local Advisory Council President Francine Washington asked Police Superintendent Terry Hillard to investigate the raid in March. "They (policemen) need to stop thinking that just because they have a license to kill and they wear a badge that they call the shots," Washington said. Back on Dec. 20, 1999, I interviewed Washington about the job the police were doing since they had taken over. The CHA

police had been fired and the regular police took over. She had expressed fear for her own life, saying that the police came into the complex with their weapons drawn when they stepped out of their cars, regardless of the complaint.

A later article in the *Lakefront Outlook*, written by Todd Spivak, said the LAC filed a

suit in U.S. District Court with the Mandel Legal Aid Clinic, which had set up shop at Stateway to document incidents of police misconduct. The director, Randolph Stone, said, "We've been concerned about the relationship between the residents and the police."

The community has a long-standing basketball tournament that takes place in the field house. The tournament has been going on for years

and has been noted for its success in creating an organized setting for the youth to engage in constructive activities. It is called the Stateway Roundball Classic.

In the class action complaint filed May 3, 2001 by Mandel about the incident, the lawyers cited a *Sun-Times* article from July 31, 1994, pg. 23, in which the Mayor talked about the Roundball Classic: "New ideas - that's what you need. Some of these guys could have been gang-bangers. Now they're maturing, playing together, playing as a team. That's what life is all about."

He was talking about the same games. The tournament teaches teamwork, love, respect and a lot of other good things. On Feb. 22 in the evening at about 8 p.m., over 30 Chicago police officers blocked the field house's exits and refused to let the people leave. There were over 250 people at this event that night. They were from all over the city, other housing units and some who were from outside the CHA housing complexes, even from as far as Oak Park. It was a place for our different communities to come together as one, something positive for us out of all the conflict we face daily just living in CHA. Everyone there was searched.

Francine Washington, the president of the Stateway Gardens Local Advisory Council, wrote a letter to the police Superintendent Terry Hillard on March 22, 2001, demanding to know why they would do something like this. In this letter, she also states that Hillard had at first referred her to the Chief of Patrol, John Richardson, during a board meeting, who had informed her that he knew nothing about it.

The letter states that she was promised an investigation into the situation but received no answer from him or anyone else on the matter. In the letter to the superintendent, she asks these questions: Why this was allowed to happen? What was the goal? What were they trying to accomplish? Who ordered the raid and who had organized same?

According to the lawsuit, the raid was "coordinated" by Commander Ernest Brown, with whom I had an interview when the regular police took over from the CHA officers. In the interview, Dec. 20, 1999, Brown told me the reason for the replacement was to have residents treated no differently than they

treat the people in Beverly Hills.

This matter was taken to the Mandel Legal Aid Clinic and the case is being handled by Craig Futterman, assistant clinical professor of law at the University of Chicago Law School.

This suit was filed against more than 20 officers starting with Ernest Brown and the City of Chicago claiming that the civil rights of the 250 African American defendants to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures were violated when the police raided the field house that night.

The police even searched a woman who was 9 months pregnant, holding her 2-year old in one hand and a diaper in the other, according to the press release given to me by Futterman during my interview.

They searched a one-year-old baby. They arrested one man on a charge of disorderly conduct from the whole incident. They found no

weapons or drugs during the whole search. The lawsuit covers the mental anguish, embarrassment and humiliation that the people suffered. It seeks awards for compensatory and punitive damages, along with attorney's fees.

The lawsuit mentions Brenda Williams, 25, who remained in the field house after preparing community youth to participate in a future talent show, just to watch the game with her 1-year-old daughter, Breshontae. She was forced to line up with the rest and put her baby on the floor, who they also searched. Breshontae is one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

I went to interview Craig Futterman first. After he gave me the press release and the copy of the court order, Futterman said he was picked for the job "because I was doing work at Stateway before. I work with the LAC (Local Advisory Council) for police accountability and developing community-based programs. I began working with residents to do documentation works on human rights violations. The people called me the next day." Futterman said he works closely with law students.

"Students learn the fundamentals and not just from books. They learn how it affects real people and advocates civil rights for all of us. Because of the special problems of policemen's mistreatment of public housing residents, we've been approached by Stateway to help. The new program started just this past year, fall of 2000."

"We began informally working in late fall and have a better sense of the issues between residents and police."

Futterman said any of those 250 people should contact him.

"Anyone interested in talking, anyone who can help, I would like for them to contact me, leave a number to contact them. Unless I know about the people, I can't help. I would like to protect them."

Craig B. Futterman's address is: Attorney at Law, University of Chicago Law School, 6020 S. University Ave. The phone number is (773) 702-9611. The fax number is (773) 702-2063. All of those who were at the raid also can go directly to the Neighborhood Conservation Corps at 3544 S. State St., room 102. You can stop any time during the week

and leave information with them. I found Jamie Kalven at the NCC office during June for my interview with him. He has one heck of a hand shake, which made me comfortable with him right away. Kalven said he works with Stateway residents.

"We work with the LAC at Stateway. We generate jobs for residents. We're also working with Stateway's civil rights project as on this law suit."

"Working with Craig Futterman and the Mandel Legal Clinic is like a human rights project, holding the police accountable for their actions."

Kalven said he had been working with Futterman for six months when the raid occurred.

"Craig's law students did interviews and collected stories before the lawsuit was filed," Kalven said.

"The first thing that happened was that Francine Washington sent a letter to Hillard asking for an explanation. That was the first step and we kept getting information from the participants."

"We're not anti-police. We want good law enforcement but we don't think the raid was proper. We feel all the residents as citizens of the city and should be treated as other residents in the city."

In the press release I got from Futterman, I read that Kalven states that police mistreatment of residents is due to the City policy of "land clearance" for redevelopment."

In the next paragraph of the release, it explains that the "pending removal of the buildings has not improved the CHA's 'deferred maintenance' policy that CHA chief Terry Peterson has acknowledged has been in effect for more than a quarter of a century."

What I See

Today, I see the police in my building as regularly as I see the mailman. I have been searched more than once until I started to go to the CAPS meeting to tell them who I am and that I wanted them to stop searching me.

Like all my neighbors, I have no way to fight them legally. But I wanted them to know not to come beating on my door like before. I have pictures of the dents they made on my door beating on it.

They claimed someone had run into my apartment as they chased them up to the fifth floor. If I didn't open the door, the police promised to kick it in. I did the only thing I could do. I opened the door and let them search my apartment. Many more of the law-abiding tenants go through the same thing.

The gang-bangers and drug sellers are in the lobby all day and night and the police are there at least once a day seeming to arrest any one they think is not supposed to be there. It seems they're not arresting the drug dealers. Many of the residents feel like me, that we are the prisoners.

On Tuesday, June 19, three new cops came into my apartment with the same old story: They saw someone run in to my apartment.

I didn't open the door for them. I had been out on the gallery cleaning up so that I don't get a fine from the management. When I came in for more water, I left the door closed but not locked. They did knock and then came in. I let them look around and leave.

Sinai Health Services Program

by Lorenzia Shelby

Approximately a year and a half ago, the Sinai Health System started a new program called Sinai Senior services. They are offering their services free of charge to seniors living in the Chicago Housing Authority buildings and low-income dwellers in Chicago and surrounding communities, near or far, north, south, east, and west.

Men and women 55 years of age and older are welcome to participate in the Sinai Community Institute Program called Premier Years. You will have access to all the medical benefits and social activities they have.

The people living in CHA buildings and low-income neighborhoods are their first priorities. The healthy, sick and the reclusive. They want the seniors that are afraid to leave their apartments and the ones that fear standing on the corners waiting at the bus stops. Some of the seniors have experienced a lot of disappointment while waiting for a bus or van to take them to their doctors' appointments. Their transportation never arrives. They have to make new appointments hoping the bus or van will come the next time, with a driver that's courteous and kind with a knowledge of seniors' inability to move fast.

The Sinai Senior Services are offering all of the medical resources they have available to assist the seniors with their medical needs. As a group of people, seniors have been neglected and denied proper health care for years.

To take advantage of these medical services Sinai health systems has to offer, you can obtain information from the desk of Lasharon William, located in the lobby of the Mount Sinai's Hospital main entrance near the intersection of Ogden and California avenues. William said, "I'm Sinai health system's educator for the senior programs. I make appointments and arrange transportation for them. I escort seniors to their appointed doctors. I help them in understanding the circuit breaker form, Medicare and Medicaid."

Another member of the Sinai senior outreach program is medical assistant Noe Azpeitia. He works at the senior center in the Kling professional building.

"What I do is go out into the communities with a Sinai doctor, checking blood pressure, cholesterol, all vital parts. Also I'm in charge of transportation. I set the schedule for seniors. We have two vans that we use to provide these services. Safety is our utmost concern."

Neo Azpeitia was asked, "Do your vans have safety belts and lifts?"

"Our vans do have safety belts," Azpeitia said. "They don't have lifts. The hospital does have lifts for extreme cases."

Diane Dubey, Sinai's assistant vice president for marketing and public affairs said, "One of our most effective programs in helping seniors stay healthy is Premier Years. Premier Years is a membership group. We

don't perceive all senior citizens as on their death bed. We have some seniors who are volunteers who are working throughout the hospital."

Dubey was asked the origin of the Premier Years program. She said, "I think in the 12 years since I got here, there were committee meetings and senior services. I don't know why it was so hard but apparently, it was very difficult to put something together, from soups to nuts, because not that many people have it. Not that many institutions do it well and it took us years.

"Our program, as it is now constituted, has been up and running two years. I am told they met on and off having the top doctors, the heads of medical affairs and general nutrition and whatever.

"Another thing is we serve a population that doesn't pay the private insurance. We never have enough money left over where we can say, 'Let's buy a van for the seniors. Let's do a special program for the seniors because we have a lot of money sitting in a pot.' So when we wanted to do something, it means taking from another program. It was hard.

"It took us a long time to get everyone on board that the senior population has grown. This used to be a much younger community. Both the African American and the Hispanic communities were just young families with a bunch of kids. But then they found out that grandma was sitting there too. And certainly, in our African American communities, I met a lot of elder ladies who are actually the primary care givers for their grandchildren.

"So I think the extension of the population finally became clear and then the priorities kicked in. We care about seniors. We provide services in a way that makes it easy for seniors to take care of themselves. We can't take care of everyone in the world but we want to bring as many seniors as we can to accommodate into our program.

"Because we were founded in 1919 with a mission to care for an undeveloped community. Back then, this was an immigrant European community. Today, it's a different community. But we didn't move. Our mission didn't change and we are here to help our community.

"We only succeed if we help them. We don't worry about who has insurance or who has a rich son-in-law or whatever when they use other places. We are partners of the state of Illinois. A lot of our people are on Medicaid and seniors obviously on Medicare. We meet their needs.

"I have doctor friends who go, 'Oh, Medicaid. They pay so bad.' That's nothing we get into. 12 percent of our patients aren't even on government programs. We don't get Medicaid for them so if someone comes in with anything that's fine. Or with nothing, that's fine too. Because the point is, it's the patient, not the funding sources."

Dubey added, "We work with two hospitals, Mount Sinai Hospital, and Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital. The seniors have access to two hundred doctors."

June Fenton, who works with geriatrics in the Sinai Health System, had this to say: "First of all, we want Sinai services exposed to senior buildings and the rest of the community. There are different types of people who live in the senior buildings. They are there for social, economic or financial reasons. They are living there for a reason. "But in terms of their health, their physical and emotional being, people vary. Some take advantage of the activities going

on in the community. Some are isolated, refuse to see a doctor and have medical problems. Sinai will provide the services needed. We have activities that will provide education and an on-going screening system so they are always aware of their medical conditions. We give them information they can use to keep healthy. We also give lectures in the senior residences and churches, different types of information, whether it be about sexuality, aging or about arthritis. On very common medical conditions that seniors experience, we tend to do lectures more often. We have doctors that do that. We always allow them to choose certain topics. There are subjects they may not be comfortable with, such as sexuality, or HIV. "With AIDS, the senior population is increasing. That's a strong topic being addressed by a lot of communities' health agencies.

"You have other seniors that are somewhat healthy who are not actively involved, who seem to be more isolated. Maybe they are not taking their medication regularly or seeing a doctor at different times. Those people seem to fall through the cracks because nobody is checking on them. They do not meet Medicare requirements to have a nurse come out.

"If it's not a structured environment in the building to knock on people's doors to see how they are doing, they just let life come as it may. We want to reach out to identify people that will benefit from a phone call on a weekly basis or phone calls on a monthly basis. We'll have a nurse come out and feed them and take their blood pressure regularly, explain their medication, help them organize in such a fashion. We make it easy for them to feel good about themselves, letting them know that we do care about them and that our staff does care about the seniors. That's why there is an excitement in wanting to increase our outreach program.

"So it's more of a crisis intervention to be able to deal with the changes in aging. Sometimes people get to a point where it's difficult for them to make good decisions about their needs, to know about the legal system. The goal is to keep them in their homes and keep them as healthy as possible. So that way, we can know all the resources, even their health care provider, who can stay on top of their health and have a sufficient outreach program to stay in contact with them as much as they can.

"Transportation is very important, having transportation available all the time.

"Another thing too are the physicians we have here are great. They are trained in dealing with older adults. They have a regular clinic set up for seniors. They love dealing with older people. I did a survey when I started working with the staff here and every one of the patients said, 'I love my doctor.'"

June Fenton was asked, "Do the seniors pay for any of these services?"

She said, "Nothing I described is paid for by the seniors. The staff are dedicated to doing it because the need is there. Sinai's mission is to help the seniors."

The geriatric product line manager is Rory Lopes. His job is to help the seniors get what they want as quickly as possible. "When we do our outreach program, the goal of intent is not to bring seniors into Sinai. Our goal when we do our outreach is to take the program to the seniors, talk to them about differ-



Mt. Sinai Senior Services educator Lasharon William with the senior program's medical assistant Noe Azpeitia.

Photo by Lorenzia Shelby

ent services so they can get help, if they need it, to offer them new information if they want it. That's why we go out. Our intent is to bring people in numbers and not bring people in who don't need to be here. The idea is to be able to go out and offer these services to the community.

"When I am talking to seniors, they say, 'I take the tablet and break it in half. I take half today and half tomorrow.' I say, 'No. You have to take the whole thing.' 'But the cost of this medication is so expensive.' I say, 'We can help you.' In working with seniors, they think if they take half the pill, it's OK. 'Half is better than none. I will take the pill for one week and stop taking it for one week and start again.' Then you get nothing out of them. You can't do that. The reason the doctor gave you that prescription is because you need to take them every day.

On the Premier Years program at Sinai, Lopes said, "They get together twice a month. The whole idea is it's a social group. They go to movies. They go to the casinos. They go traveling. They go to the casinos. They go on another trip and they go to the casinos. They have birthday celebrations where everybody gets to celebrate their birthday. They have picnics, what they call a picnic in the park. They hold it inside if it's too hot outside for the seniors. They have educational programs where they bring people to talk on different topics, whether it's circuit breaker, osteoporosis, social security, nutrition or diets."

Here's some of the topics of the health link programs they offer: the Sinai wellness class, asthma, depression, osteoporosis, high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes, high cholesterol, breast cancer, stop smoking.

Suzan L. Rayner is the medical director of Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital, operated in association with Sinai Health System. Suzan L. Rayner said, "Many patients that are treated at Mount Sinai Hospital, inpatients or out patients, may require rehabilitation afterward. We have developed a linkage with the Geriatric program. We are able to offer therapies geared toward our older patients.

"Many of our elder patients have arthritis; we have therapeutic swimming pool. It's a heated pool, which is very important for people with arthritis. It's also accessible for people in wheelchairs. We have a lift. We can transfer them onto the lift and it swings around into the pool. This is for inpatients and outpatients." Wendy Benson is the out patient rehabilitation manager. Benson said "A.D.L. - that's Activity of Daily Living, where a person can practice getting in and out of the bathtub, using adaptable equipment. We have a full kitchen where patients can practice cooking, dishwashing, getting in and out of bed. This area is set up just like an apartment, with the feeling of a safe environment."

CONDOLENCES

RJ would like to extend our deep regards to the family of former Robert Taylor-B 5100 S. State St. building president Ethel Washington. We also send our regards to the family of former CHA resident Lawrence Jasper who died while working on an elevator at the 4120 S. Prairie CHA building on Friday, June 1. The Residents' Journal staff expresses its condolences to Advertising Consultant Jeffery Davis and his family on the loss of his father.

SINAI ALIADO DE SALUD

por Lorenzia Shelby

Aproximadamente hace año y medio, el Sinai Health System inició un nuevo programa llamado Servicios Sinai para Personas Mayores (Sinai Senior Services). Estos servicios se ofrecen gratuitamente para las personas mayores que viven en edificios de la Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) y los habitantes de bajos ingresos en Chicago y las comunidades circundantes, cercanas o lejanas, bien sea que queden al norte, al sur, al este o al oeste.

Los hombres y mujeres de 55 o más años de edad son bienvenidos a participar en el programa del Instituto Comunitario Sinai llamado *Premier Years*. Gracias a este programa las personas mayores tendrán acceso a todos los beneficios médicos y actividades sociales que se ofrecen.

Las personas que viven en los edificios de la CHA y en los vecindarios habitados por personas de bajos ingresos son las principales prioridades de este programa; es decir, este programa quiere llegar a los que están sanos, a los que están enfermos y a los que tienen tendencia a recluirse. El programa *Premier Years* se propone abarcar a todas las personas mayores tanto a las que tengan miedo de salir de sus apartamentos como a las que teman pararse en las esquinas a esperar un autobús.

Algunas de las personas mayores han sufrido grandes decepciones al esperar un autobús o vagóneta que las lleve a sus citas médicas. Su medio de transporte nunca llega. Tienen que hacer nuevas citas esperando que el autobús o la vagóneta venga la próxima vez, conducida por un chofer que sea amable y cortés y que tenga con-

ciencia de la incapacidad que tienen muchas personas mayores para moverse rápidamente.

Los Servicios Sinai para Personas Mayores (Sinai Senior Services) ofrecen todos los recursos médicos que tienen a su disposición para ayudar a las personas mayores a satisfacer sus necesidades médicas. Como grupo humano, las personas mayores han permanecido olvidadas y se les ha negado la atención médica apropiada durante años. Para sacar provecho de los servicios médicos que ofrecen los sistemas de salud del Sinai, usted puede obtener información en la recepción de Lasharon William, ubicada en el vestíbulo de la entrada principal del Mount Sinai Hospital, cerca de la intersección de las avenidas Ogden y California.

William nos habló de sus responsabilidades: "Soy un educador en el sistema de salud de Sinai para los programas dirigidos a personas mayores. Doy citas médicas y organizar el transporte para estas personas. Las acompaño a sus citas médicas. Las ayudo a comprender el formulario de 'interruptor de circuito' para los impuestos, así como les enseño qué es Medicare y Medicaid."

Otro miembro del programa de ubicación de personas mayores necesitadas del Sinai es Noe Azpeitia, un auxiliar médico quien trabaja en el centro para personas mayores en el edificio profesional Kling.

"Mi tarea consiste en ir a las comunidades acompañado de un médico del Sinai, ver a las personas mayores, comprobar su presión sanguínea, sus niveles de colesterol, así como el funcionamiento de todas las partes vitales del organismo. También estoy encargado del transporte. Organizo las citas médicas para las personas mayores. Tenemos dos vagónetas para prestar estos servicios. La seguridad es nuestra fundamental preocupación."

Le preguntamos a Noe Azpeitia: ¿Sus vagónetas tienen cinturones de seguridad y elevadores?

"Nuestras vagónetas sí tienen cinturones de seguridad", confirma Noe. "No tienen elevadores. Sin embargo, el hospital sí tiene elevadores para casos extremos".

Diane Dubey, Vicepresidenta auxiliar del

Sinai para marketing y asuntos públicos señaló: "Uno de los programas más eficaces que tenemos para ayudar a las personas mayores a conservar su salud es el programa *Premier Years*. Este programa es un grupo de afiliación. No creemos que todas las personas mayores estén en su lecho de muerte. Incluso tenemos algunas de estas personas que trabajan como voluntarios por todo el hospital."

Le preguntamos a Dubey por el origen del programa *Premier Years*. Ella respondió: "Creo que hace 12 años cuando yo llegué aquí había reuniones del comité y servicios para personas mayores. No sé porqué era tan difícil, pero aparentemente daba muchos problemas organizar cualquier cosa, desde hacer una sopa hasta poner una tuerca, porque no hay mucha gente que tenga esa capacidad de organización. Tampoco hay muchas instituciones que lo hagan bien, y a nosotros nos llevó muchos años aprender a organizarnos adecuadamente."

"Nuestro programa, como está constituido ahora, ha estado funcionando durante dos años. Me dicen que hacen reuniones esporádicas con los mejores doctores, los jefes de asuntos médicos y los directores de nutrición general y todos esos departamentos."

"Otro factor a tener en cuenta es que prestamos servicios a una población que no paga seguro privado. Nunca tenemos suficiente dinero sobrante con el cual podemos decir 'Vamos a comprar una vagóneta para las personas mayores. Organicemos un programa especial para las personas mayores porque tenemos mucho dinero guardado en una alcancía'. Por esa razón, cuando queríamos hacer algo, eso implicaba quitarle recursos a otro programa, lo cual no era nada fácil."

"Nos llevó mucho tiempo lograr que todos comprendan que la población de personas mayores ha aumentado en número. Esta población solía ser una comunidad mucho más joven. Tanto las comunidades afroamericanas como las hispanas estaban integradas por unas cuantas familias jóvenes con muchos niños; pero de pronto se dieron cuenta que allí estaba también la abuela con ellos y, ciertamente, en nuestras comunidades

afroamericanas, uno se encuentra con muchas damas mayores que son en realidad las que asumen la principal responsabilidad por el cuidado de sus nietos. Por esa razón considero que ahora todos tienen muy claras las cosas y saben cuál es la extensión de esta población y por eso comprenden mejor cuáles son las prioridades. Nos preocupamos por las personas de la tercera edad. Les prestamos servicios en una forma que haga que a las propias personas mayores les resulte fácil cuidar de sí mismas. No podemos ocuparnos de todas las personas necesitadas del mundo, pero sí queremos incluir el mayor número posible de personas mayores en nuestro programa."

"Recuerde que nuestra organización se fundó en 1919 cuando teníamos la misión de atender a una comunidad que aún no estaba desarrollada, puesto que en aquel entonces se trataba de una comunidad de inmigrantes europeos. Hoy en día, es una comunidad diferente, pero nosotros no nos hemos movido de nuestro sitio. Nuestra misión no ha cambiado y estamos aquí para ayudar a nuestra comunidad."

"Sólo tendremos éxito si podemos ayudarles. No nos preocupa quién tiene seguro o quien tiene un pariente rico o cualquier otra excusa que ellos dicen cuando usan otros lugares de asistencia. Somos los aliados del Estado de Illinois. Mucha gente depende de Medicaid y las personas mayores obviamente dependen de Medicare. Nosotros atendemos sus necesidades."

"Tengo amigos médicos que se lamentan: 'Oh, Medicaid. ¡Pagan tan mal!'. Nosotros no nos preocupamos por eso. El 12% de nuestros pacientes ni siquiera tienen asistencia de algún programa gubernamental. No conseguimos Medicaid para ellos, así que si alguien viene con cualquier cosa, lo aceptamos; o si viene sin nada, también lo aceptamos. Porque lo importante es el paciente, no las fuentes de financiación de esta asistencia."

Dubey agregó: "Trabajamos con dos hospitales, el Mount Sinai Hospital y el Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital. Así, las personas mayores tienen acceso a doscientos médicos".

Korean Translation

RUSSIAN TRANSLATIONS

CHINESE TRANSLATIONS

Letters to the Editor

Letter to CHA CEO Terry Peterson

Dear Mr. Peterson:

I'm writing to you because the elevator in my building has not been working for over a month or so. The residents of 3544 S. State have to walk up and down the stairs every time we need to go out for groceries, doing our laundry, walking children to school, etc.

As for myself, I am on my feet five hours a day when I'm at work. I am very tired when I get home. I do not appreciate having to walk up to the eighth floor after a hard day's work. My neighbors do not appreciate having to walk up and down stairs either. We have reported the elevator being broken many times to Stateway Management numerous times.

Sometimes the elevator gets repaired, it works, and then breaks down again. We are not happy with the situation. I have documentation (enclosed) of every time that I had to walk up and down the stairs. The residents of 3544 S. State would appreciate your help in getting our elevator working. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
-Gloria Dickson

April 18, 2001

Elevator not working.
Stuck on 5th floor with door pushed in.

April 19, 2001

Elevator not working. I called Stateway Management office and reported that the elevator was not working. Ms. Hollis took the call; she said that she would report it.

April 20, 2001

The elevator wasn't working when I left for work. I saw two elevator repairmen. I asked if they were going to repair the elevator. They said 'yes.' The elevator was working when I returned home.

April 21, 2001 to April 22, 2001

The elevator worked for one day!

April 23, 2001

The elevator was not working when I

returned home. I waited about 5 minutes before walking upstairs; I didn't bother to wait for the elevator when I left home.

April 24, 2001

Elevator not working this morning. I saw a maintenance worker. I asked her about the elevator. She said she reported that the elevator was not working. When I got home this evening, the elevator was still out of order!

April 25, 2001 to May 6, 2001

I don't remember if the elevator was working during this period of time. I was too tired to document it! It probably was not working!

May 7, 2001

Elevator not working.

May 8, 2001

Elevator not working.

May 9, 2001

Elevator not working.

May 10, 2001

Elevator not working.

Elevator not working.

May 19, 2001

Elevator not working.

May 11, 2001

Elevator not working. I reported it to Ms. Hollis.

May 20, 2001

Elevator not working.

May 21, 2001

Elevator not working.

May 22, 2001

Elevator not working.

The elevator has been stuck on the 1st floor for about one week.

(Editor's Note: In addition to being mailed to CHA CEO Terry Peterson, the above letter appeared on *The View from the Ground*, an occasional publication of the Invisible Institute—a set of relationships and ongoing conversations grounded at Stateway Gardens. Visit their Web site at www.viewfromtheground.com)

Housing Discrimination

Dear Editor:

When will it end? When will the discrimination finally end? I am a working mother of 5 with a Section 8 voucher. I've been looking for housing for 4 years.

When I received my Section 8 voucher, I thought I hit the lottery. But every time I call ads in the newspaper for a four- or three-bedroom unit, they always ask how many children I have and a lot of other personal questions, which is none of their business. One man asked me why I married at a young age after he learned how old I am. He asked me if my spouse cheated on me and did we argue and fight a lot. None of that was any of his business but I explained to him anyway truthfully because I really wanted the house.

However, no matter what I say when they ask, once I say I have 5 children, they hang up or say I have too many children or I have teenagers and teenagers draw trouble to their complex.

How can they know what kind of person I am. I have three girls - 15, 13, 10 - and 2 boys - 14 and 5. The five-year-old is my cousin. His mom died and I am raising him.

I am a good parent, a loving parent. I am very strict with my kids. I always pay my rent on time. I keep a nice clean house.

I am not bragging. I just want to show you that landlords discriminate against people without knowing really what type of person they are. I get African American property managers discriminating more than anyone.

I live in Hyde Park and they have ads for 3- and 4-bedroom apartments everywhere. But when I go to inquire about the units, they pretend they're not available or that they are for college students.

They don't want to rent to an African American with five kids but they will rent to white or Chinese people or a group of rowdy college kids who have big parties all night.

I called my white co-worker at her home and gave her an ad and told her what to say about these same units. She got the address and the name of the person she talked to while I got a snotty remark and the phone hung up on me.

I know about HUD and the Commission on Human Relations and the Leadership

Council on Metropolitan Open Communities; they all fight housing discrimination. I have lots of complaints with these groups but I was told from a source that these investigators think that I am putting in complaints just to accept money from the landlord.

But what good can money do for me when I am homeless. When I first put in complaints at the commission and at HUD, I didn't know about any money. I just thought it was wrong to pretend that there is no housing available or it's wrong to say they didn't take Section 8 or it's wrong to say a person has too many kids or their income is low.

The more people file these complaints, the better. It may not seem like they help at the time but they do.

I would like to say to people: don't take Section 8. It's a headache and landlords don't want Section 8 nationwide.

I am glad that I was smart when I moved out of CHA. I filled out another application in case something like this happened.

I'd rather live in the projects. At least I was not worried about being put out or worried that if the unit doesn't pass inspection, I have to

move, or have to deal with a landlord who might retaliate against me or a prejudiced landlord, which I have today.

People please think: if you decide to accept scattered site housing, make sure it's a nice area. Don't look at how pretty the house is. Go at night and day to check out the area, the people, the stores, the school.

One thing that I can say about Section 8, they know a lot of the landlords are discriminating against their Section 8 clients. They help me as fast as possible.

It's the landlord who is the problem, especially if they want you out any way. I always try to rent from a management company instead of private owners.

If anyone has been through the same situation that I have experienced, please contact me at the post office box 12630 Chicago, IL 60612.

You think complaining doesn't make a difference but it does.

-S. Huff

Crystal Clear Views

Dear Crystal:

I know you can help me solve this problem. Lately, life has been really tough. I've done some things that God knows I didn't mean. Being 12 and living in poverty is tough. I'm fed up. Well, I need your advice to keep my sanity. I'm losing friends,



Crystal Medina

losing teachers, feeling alienated and not really able to cope.
Thanks,

-A Youngster Needing Help

Dear Youngster:

Being young is not easy at all. You are going through a lot of different changes. You're not a little kid any more but you're not an adult yet. All of us go through tough times whether we're young or old and the truth is doing things we did not mean, losing friends, losing teachers, feeling alienated and not really knowing just how to keep our sanity is all part of growing up. These are the experiences that help shape

who we are and help us to be strong, wise adults. Life is all about learning and these tough times are just lessons. You will learn how to control yourself as you get older so you won't do many things you don't mean. You will learn many times that if you lose a friend, either they weren't your real friend in the first place or it was a blessing to have them in your life even if it was for only a little while. You will learn that we will not always keep in touch with our teachers.

There are going to be a lot of people who you lose touch with along the way. They will help us in ways we can't imagine but when they are gone, keep them in your memory and never forget them and that can be your way of saying thank you.

If you don't remember anything I have written here for years to come, please just always remember this and you will be fine. The best is yet to come. You may feel that your problems will never get better but they will.

None of this means you have to go it alone. It's always good to talk to someone you trust, like a parent, grandparent, teacher, counselor or other adult that has your confidence.

My mother always said, "In order for things to get better they have to get worse." I never understood what she meant until I grew up and realized the world is made up of good and bad but in the end, if you have faith, everything will be OK.

Residents' Journal welcomes submissions from all of our readers and especially from public housing residents. Please send all letters to our new address: 4859 S. Wabash Chicago, IL 60615. You may also call our office at (773) 285-0200 x 3372 to discuss your ideas for submission.

Dear Resident

by Patricia Johnson-Gordon

I don't know about you, but I feel as if I'm looking down the barrel of a loaded summer. In addition to the usual challenges that we face as public housing residents, it is apparent this summer, more than ever before, that we face a new challenge: the redevelopment of public housing.

This redevelopment process started over eight years ago under then-CHA Chairman Vincent Lane, with a federal program titled Hope VI, suggesting the arrival of hope for the hopeless residents of public housing. Today, the process has simply become the redevelopment of public housing and is moving at a much faster pace, offering little hope for too few residents.

To be politically correct (believing that language and practices that could offend sensibilities as to sex and race, but in this case housing, should be eliminated), the redevelopment of public housing in Chicago is really gentrification.

Gentrification is the process of renewal and rebuilding accompanying an influx of middle class or affluent (rich) people into deteriorating areas (public housing) that often displaces earlier, usually poor residents (us). To be factually correct, the redevelopment can be compared to what was done to the American Indians. Remember, according to the government, they did not own their homes and were moved from the open plains of America to reservations, a tract of public land set aside for use by American Indians, according to Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. This was done, of course, in their, the American Indians', best interest.

To be emotionally correct, I fear that many of us will be moved from what has been called the concrete reservation to the open plains of homelessness if we fail to adjust to a new environment. It will be a new environment of mixed races, incomes and expectations, none of which we have had to deal with before, especially in redevelopment areas like Cabrini-Green and ABLA Homes.

To be simply correct, we are in the way. So now, in our best interest, of course, they will save us from what we have endured for too long. Now the inequity (injustice, unfairness) of public housing can be seen. Now there's a lottery to determine which residents will move in to newly developed or redeveloped units set aside, again, just for public housing residents.

From hope to nope for most of us.



Urban development: The high rise under construction towers over 412 W. Chicago Ave. at the south end of Cabrini-Green.

Photo by Patricia Johnson Gordon

What a difference the correct information and eight years can make...

Dear Resident,

The above is how this edition's column originally began. But no sooner than I had written these words did a letter regarding the redevelopment come down the barrel, via the U.S. Mail, the very same day.

This letter is the first formal information from CHA sent to each resident regarding the waiting list for new units in the Cabrini-Green Hope VI Area, replacement housing and demolition. The letter also explains about priority families (families that will be housed first), eligibility requirements, deferral of families for good cause, work requirements, temporary housing until new units become available, the lottery process and the lottery interest inquiry form to be returned by July 2.

The letter states that residents have to return the enclosed form by July 2 to be entered into a lottery for replacement CHA and affordable units in the Cabrini-Green HOPE VI area. The letter defines that area as being bordered by Chicago Avenue to the south, Wells Street on the east, North Avenue on the north, and the Chicago River on the west. Forms received after July 2 will be put at the bottom of the lottery list in the order in which they were received. No response will be considered a lack of interest in the lottery. I returned my form in the envelope enclosed with the letter, sent a copy certified mail, delivered a copy to CHA headquarters at 626 W. Jackson, and kept a copy for my files. I'm not taking any chances.

The above column was based primarily on a combination of bits and pieces, read and heard, but more on my feelings as a resident having served on the Local Advisory Council, as it was revived because Hope VI could not begin without input from the residents. But surprisingly, the content of the letter is in keeping with the original Hope VI proposal designed to improve the quality of life for public housing residents by relocating them to mixed-income communities.

The Cabrini-Green Local Advisory Council held city, state and federal feet to the fire by filing a lawsuit against CHA and CEO Terry Peterson, the City of Chicago and Mayor Richard M. Daley. In September 2000, a consent decree was reached allowing the city to proceed with redevelopment. Believe me, had it not been for the members of the Cabrini-Green Local Advisory Council, we would probably have been scattered to the four winds long ago.

Mr. Lane and the Blue Suits that followed him had no idea that they were going to be in for the fight of their careers. Mr. Lane and countless others who sought to expedite our removal have come and gone and we're still here. To the Cabrini-Green Local Advisory Council, thank you for a job well done! Thank you for protecting the best interest Cabrini-Green families. To be honestly correct, I imagine that, like myself, many of us have, at one



Who are the people in your neighborhood?

Photo by Patricia Johnson Gordon

time or another, longed to leave behind the difficulties associated with living in Chicago's projects. Long no more. Prepare. Do what you need to do to be successful wherever this redevelopment may find you.

Because if you don't, there will be no place to return to. Many who have left in the past were not successful. They found the same difficulties in other communities or realized the benefits, yes the benefits, of living in public housing.

In Cabrini-Green, many of us realized years ago that if we could just hold on, we, too, would benefit from the urban development of Chicago. But benefiting from the redevelopment will become surviving the redevelopment for many.

We must realize that we can not continue to live as we have past, in public housing developments without mixed races, without mixed incomes, without clear expectations and rules that must be followed. The letter states that "The CHA replacement housing and affordable units will be in private developments. Selection requirements and house rules may be different from one development to another."

If we, and our children, do not follow the "house rules," we may well be evicted and find ourselves homeless.

HOMELESS. The letter further states, "The redevelopment and production of the CHA replacement housing and affordable units will take several years. It may take a few years before it is your turn at receiving a replacement unit."

The Local Advisory Council has done all that they can do. They held on and did what they had to do to ensure our best interest. And now we must do the same. We must hold on, prepare and do what is in our best interest.

On a personal note, there are many residents who worked hard to ensure and many who looked forward to living in a redeveloped community that are no longer with us: Marion, Shirley and Mr. Sims, just to name a few. And just recently, Bette.

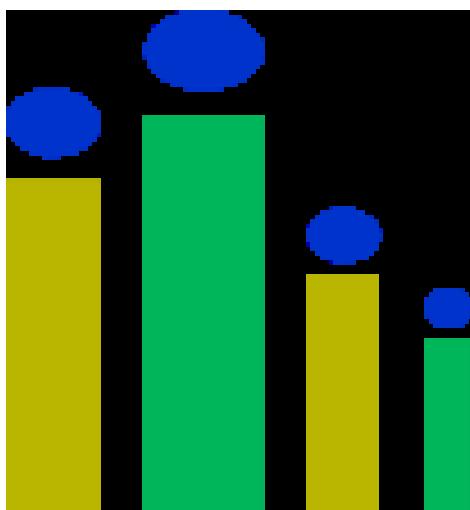
Like myself, Bette was not born here, but she did grow up here, raise her family here and love here. Bette will be missed here.

Hang in there.

- Pat

Attention: ALL CHICAGO PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS

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