

R E S I D E N T S '

# Journal

*A publication for and by Chicago public housing residents March - April 2002 /Volume 6/ Number 3*

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Chicago, Illinois  
Permit No. 5398

**EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!**

## Inside

*A \$20,000 Electric Bill? Pg. 5*

*Central Advisory Council Battles Pg. 7*

*Former Clinton Advisor Vernon Jordan Pg. 16*

*Urban Youth International Journalism Program Pgs. 12 - 14*

# **Haymarket House AD**

# Contents

PAGE 4: A 'One Strike' Battled Planned...by Mary C. Johns	PAGE 15 Harold Ickes News...by Jacqueline Thompson
PAGE 5: Newsbriefs...by Beauty Turner Shocking Electric Bills...by Beauty Turner Ickes' New Managers...by Jacqueline Thompson	PAGE 16 The Renowned Vernon Jordan...by Lorenzia Shelby
PAGE 6: 'Girl X' Case Reveals Tragic History...by Patricia Johnson Gordon Squatters Worry About Homelessness...by Beauty Turner	PAGE 17: Stop the Violence...by Cenabeth Cross
PAGE 7: CAC Prepares for Battle...by Mary C. Johns	PAGE 18-19: Shocking Electric Bills (in Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, Russian and Korean)
PAGE 8: Lathrop Homes Private Management...by Bobby Watkins Management at Ogden Courts by: Cenabeth Cross	PAGE 20: ABLA News...by Karen Owens
PAGE 9: Productive Men in CHA...by Bobby Watkins	PAGE 21: Lathrop News...by Bobby Watkins
PAGE 10: African American Male Youth Suicides...by Michael Ibrahim	PAGE 22: Letters to the Editor
PAGE 11: Child of the Pack Saddle: Part IX...by John 'Popcorn' Sampson	PAGE 23 Dear Resident...by Patricia Johnson-Gordon
PAGES 12 -14: Urban Youth International Journalism Program Section	<b>FRONT PAGE</b> <b>The front page photo depicts two of the young people who assist with the distribution of Residents' Journal in the Harold L. Ickes Homes on the near South Side.</b> Photo by Jacqueline Thompson

**Publisher**  
Ethan Michaeli

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Mary C. Johns

**Assistant Editor**  
Beauty Turner

**Intern**  
Crystal Medina

**Circulation Manager**  
Bobby Watkins

**Layout Design**  
Mary C. Johns

**RJ Correspondents**

Earl Battles, Deborah A. Britton, Cecelia A. Clark, Cenabeth Cross, Patricia Johnson-Gordon, Michael Ibrahim, Julio Martinez, Alicia McNeal, Karen Owens, John "Popcorn" Sampson, Lorenzia Shelby, Jacqueline Thompson, Beauty Turner, Bobby Watkins

**Photographers**

John Brooks, Cecelia A. Clark, Mary C. Johns, George Johnson, Patricia Johnson-Gordon, Karen Owens, John "Popcorn" Sampson, Jacqueline Thompson

*Residents' Journal is published by We The People Media, 4859 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago, IL 60615. All Chicago Public Housing Residents are welcome to contribute to Residents' Journal©. Please call (773) 285-0200 x3372 or fax us at (773) 285-2853 with your ideas, comments and concerns.*

## Our Mission

This publication is committed to the journalistic principles of fair representation and free speech. Above all else, this publication will strive to fairly and accurately represent all sides of the issues that the editorial staff chooses to investigate. In maintaining an unwavering guarantee of editorial independence, this publication will contribute to the American media's mission of faithfully providing balanced, truthful accounts and information.

Residents' Journal strives to be accessible to all communities, regardless of income, ethnicity or disability.

We The People Media is committed to the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which protects the Freedom of the Press.

The views expressed in this publication do not reflect the views of We The People Media or its staff.

## Publisher's Box

**by Ethan Michaeli**

Transformation is actually allowing the infection to spread to other areas.

"We've got to look at neighborhoods that have a whole host of problems," Lurigio said. "We've created a breeding ground for all kinds of human suffering."

There's ample evidence for Lurigio's point of view in the homicide statistics from 2001. Chicago had more homicides than any



## Drug War Diagnosis

other city in the country, 666.

**(Continued on Page 14)**

## We The People Media Board of Directors

**President**

Eugene Scott, Publisher, Chicago Defender  
Secretary/Treasurer

Stelios Valavanis, Founder/CEO, On Shore  
Maner Jean Wiley LAC President Hilliard Homes

Sandra Young, Commissioner, Chicago Housing Authority  
Francine Washington, LAC President, Stateway Gardens

Danny K. Davis, U.S. Representative, 7th District/Illinois

Judith Kossy, Senior Consultant, CAEL Associates

Dr. Sudhir Venkatesh, Columbia University

Dr. Nathaniel Deutsch, Swarthmore College

Jamie Kalven, Author,

Sunil Garg CEOIRT Inc.

Izora Davis, Lakefront Community Organization

Jonathan Rothstein, Attorney at Law

## Thank You to Our Sponsors

Dr. Daniel and Julianna Horton

Joseph and Judith Shuldiner

Peter Holsten, President, Holsten Real Estate Development Corporation

Valerie Denney, Principal, Valerie Denney Communications  
Capers Funnye, Beth Shalom B'nai Zaken Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation

Rhonda S. Kantor, President, Global Yoga and Wellness Center Inc.

Robert B. Lifton, Jewish Council on Urban Affairs

Fred Matthews and Mary Irvin, Duncan YMCA

Toni Preckwinkle, 4th Ward Alderman

Thom Clark, President, Community Media Workshop

David C. Perry, Professor/Director, UIC Great Cities Institute

Jean Butzen, President, Lakefront SRO

Kathryn Haires, JCUA

Bud Myers, Executive Director, Indianapolis Housing Authority

William Riley, Executive Director, CHAC, Inc.

Gregory Washington, President, Grand Boulevard Federation

John Nelson, Executive Director, Detroit Housing Commission

Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County

Dr. Calvin Morris, Executive Director, Community Renewal Society

Tracy Occomy, Statewide Housing Action Coalition

Mary Pattillo, Associate Professor, Northwestern University

WIX Auto Company, Inc.

Leonard Rubinowitz, President, Northwestern University Law School

AI McCowan, Senior Vice President, Habitat Company

Residents' Journal and the Urban Youth International Journalism Program are supported by the Chicago Reader, the Wieboldt Foundation, the Open Society Institute, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Chicago Community Trust, the Albert Pick Fund, the Woods Foundation of Chicago, the Polk Brothers Foundation, the Mayer and Morris Kaplan Foundation, and the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation

# Transforming CHA A 'One Strike' Battle Planned

By Mary C. Johns  
Editor-in-Chief

s law-abiding public housing residents across the country continue to walk on pins and needles wondering if they will be evicted for a drug-related crime perpetrated by a family member or a guest, a battle is being planned by Chicago public housing resident leaders and housing activists to get the "One Strike" public housing eviction law amended.

On March 26, the U.S. Supreme Court decided to uphold the One Strike law in the case of the Department of Housing and Urban Development v. Pearlie Rucker, and Oakland Housing Authority v. Pearlie Rucker.

The Rucker case involved four senior residents of the OHA who faced eviction for drug-related activities committed on and off OHA premises by family members and a home-care provider in late 1997 and early 1998.

In explaining the decision, Chief Justice William Rehnquist wrote that the 1988 Anti-Drug Abuse Act, as it was amended in 1996, was designed to fight "the reign of terror on public housing and other federally assisted low-income housing tenants."

Under the Anti-Drug Abuse Act, public housing agencies are required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to include in tenants' leases a clause that states

think it's a bad law and needs an amendment. I think it's a statute run amuck.

**-Robert Whitfield, legal counsel for the CAC**

"that any criminal activity that threatens the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other tenants or any drug-related criminal activity on or off such premises, engaged in by a public housing tenant, any member of the tenant's household, or any guest or other person under the tenant's control, shall be cause for termination of tenancy."

In other words, if a tenant, family member of his or hers, or a guest is charged on or off any public housing property with drug possession or any other drug-related crime, he or she can be evicted.

Many of the nation's leaders, housing advocates and public housing residents are saying this public housing policy is unfair and impartial treatment of the poor.

In Chicago, the resident leadership council is planning to get the "One Strike" policy changed.

CHA has been enforcing its "One Strike" eviction policy at a fast pace since its Plan for Transformation began in 1999. Residents and public housing advocates are concerned about the impact it will have on the current homeless crisis.

Richard Wheelock, an attorney at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago and one of the legal counsels for CAC, said in early April that the agency handled 110 One Strike eviction cases.

Bill Wilen, an attorney for the National Center for Poverty Law and legal counsel for Henry Horner Homes, reported 35 as of March 8. At the April 16 CHA Board of Commissioners meeting, East Lake Management reported 75 One Strike cases at the CHA far South Side Altgeld Gardens development in which 25 are pending, 40 were Agreed Orders and 10 were evictions.

Mary Wiggins, chairman of the Central Advisory Council and Local Advisory Council President of Washington Park, said that CHA residents should also be concerned about Mayor Richard M. Daley's views on One Strike for the general city population.

Under the "civil forfeiture statute" in the U.S. 1988 Anti-Drug Act, a person's property can be taken from them or confiscated by the city or federal government if the property is used to commit drug-related criminal activities.

"Did you read where Mayor Daley said any property that anybody has two felonies he would evict?" Wiggins asked. "They (the city) took a court-way building. It's not just public housing. It's going to be across this nation.

"See, you all are worried about public housing but you'd better worry about the city. It's a reality. Our people won't

have any place to go if he plays that game," she said. In 1995, the One Strike law was challenged in a suit Simpson vs. the Chicago Housing Authority, according to Wheelock, the legal counsel for the Central Advisory Council. "And as a result of that suit, the CAC reached an agreement with CHA to improve the lease. And one of the improvements was to allow residents to raise as a defense that they did not know or had no reason to know about criminal conduct alleged against a guest or family member.

"CHA did comply with that agreement and did change its lease in 1997 and again in 2000," Wheelock said.

Wheelock said the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago represents many CHA residents in One Strike eviction cases.

"I would imagine that we have handled over 200 (eviction) cases for the year 2001," Wheelock said, referring to all eviction cases, including those for 'One Strike' and for non-payment of rent, among other issues.

"I would say, a third of the One Strike cases involve guests," he said.

Wheelock said CHA would have to give a 30-day notice to the CAC and to all its residents if it intended to make any changes in the lease.

"That's the normal procedure under the (HUD) regulation. With an opportunity for residents and the CAC to comment," he said.

CAC along with its legal counsels are preparing to try and get the Anti-Drug Act amended to include a clause that gives innocent public housing residents a safeguard against eviction.

Robert Whitfield, another legal counsel for the CAC, said that although he agrees with the way the CHA chief Terry Peterson is handling its One Strike evictions, an amendment is needed to the Anti-Drug Act to protect the public housing residents in the future. "I believe that Terry is a man of this word and I applaud his approach and stance, but Terry will not be here for 10 or 20 years. I think it's a bad law and needs an amendment. I think it's a statute run amuck," Whitfield said.

Whitfield said that public housing residents should be entitled to a statutory defense such as the 'innocent owner defense,' which is the civil forfeiture property statute under the Anti-Drug Act that exempts tenants' property or money from being taken by the U.S. government if they had no knowledge of property being used for drug-related criminal activities. An example of the 'innocent owner defense' is when a landlord uses the defense in court that he or she had no knowledge of nor consented to a tenant or anyone else charged with buying or selling drugs in or on their property. If the landlord proves his or her case, then the property is not taken or forfeited.

Whitfield said the CAC will push Congress to include in the Anti-Drug Act an 'innocent tenant defense' clause so that family and senior residents would not lose their homes because of drug or criminal activity they had no knowledge of. He also said the CAC would arrange to meet with CHA soon and inform them of resident leaders' intentions, and to also ask them for a letter of support. Then CAC would draft a document to present to the Illinois congressional legislators proposing the amendment to the drug law.

"I would hope that the Illinois Caucus can support this effort," he said.

Housing activist and public housing resident Bamani Obadele said during the April CHA Board of Commissioners meeting that One Strike was unfair to public housing residents across the country and that he would rally against it.

"I don't believe that One Strike is equal under the law. I am going to put a bus together in protest and I hope that you will be the first one on it," he said to Francine Washington, Local Advisory Council president of Stateway Gardens.

## Leaders' Opinions

I asked a few of the nations' leaders what their thoughts were regarding the One Strike law for public housing residents. And I also asked if any of them were proposing changes to the policy.

If someone in Congress wanted to revise the One Strike public housing policy, they could introduce a bill into the U.S. Senate or U.S. House of Representatives to change the policy within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. And it would then have to be considered by the appropriate committee in either the House of Representatives or Senate, and then go through a committee vote and then be considered on the house floor, or the Senate floor depending on whether it was initiated from the house or the Senate, according to Stacy Zolt, press secretary for U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL).

Zolt said Durbin feels the drug law is needed for public housing residents, and that "there are no plans to introduce such a bill at this time."

U.S. Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-7) said basic consideration in carrying out of the law is the key, not necessarily the changing of the One Strike policy.

"It's the application of the law oftentimes that is the determinant, and that kind of what makes the difference in terms of how you use the law.

"And you would think that you would have rational people applying the law and that they're not going to do something that's overt and stupid," Davis said.

"I don't know if we would want to change the law. I'm saying, I wouldn't want a law that says automatically that you are evicted. Nor would I want a law that said 'you can have all of the dope up in the Robert Taylor Homes that you want and they can't evict you.'

"I'm saying, the law has to be flexible so that local situations can be dealt with by the individuals who have to administer the law."

## Is One Strike a Deterrent?

The One Strike public housing eviction policy is supposed to be a deterrent to crime within public housing authorities.

CHA recently reported that over the past two years there was an 18 percent reduction in crime at CHA sites.

CHA reported at the April 16 Board of Commissioners meeting and in a written statement that, typically, 90 percent of the people arrested at CHA properties buying and selling drugs do not live in public housing.

I asked Chicago Police Commander Ernest T. Brown, who used to run the Chicago public housing unit, on April 4 if the One Strike evictions in CHA were a factor in the reduction of drug-related crime.

"It is all part of the equation. I don't think it's the most important factor but I think it all adds up. With aggressive police work-good solid police work-where the residents are treated fairly, One Strike of responsive management, other government agencies from the city that are responsive. I think that all of that has an impact in reducing crime," he said.

## Oakland Evictions Update

Following the March 26 opinion of the Supreme Court in the case of HUD vs. Rucker, the Oakland Housing Authority said in an April 4 written statement that the Authority dismissed its case against Pearlie Rucker in 1998 and that upon review of the other three cases that were included in the Rucker case, OHA intends to dismiss its case against 67 year-old Barbara Hill and 74 year-old Willie Lee.

In the case of 79 year-old Herman Walker, "the Authority is continuing to review the case and is considering requesting to amend their original complaint to address events that have taken place since the original incidents," OHA Executive Director Jon Gresley stated in the April 4 press release. In the document, Gresley stated that the Walker case was never a 'One Strike' case.

"There have been several different incidents involving a number of different 'guests,' with several warnings and other attempts to resolve these issues with Mr. Walker before the Authority filed for eviction," he stated.

Gresley also stated that OHA believes that Mr. Walker's continued occupancy of an apartment in a building housing other seniors poses a threat to the other residents of the building, but the Authority remains available to work with Mr. Walker's legal representatives to find a mutually satisfactory resolution to the case.



# Transforming CHA 'Girl X' Case Reveals Tragic History

by Patricia Johnson-Gordon

'Girl X Settles With CHA for \$3 million.' That's the way the headlines appeared in the April 18 daily newspapers and how the story was announced on several television and radio news stations.

The settlement was the result of a lawsuit filed on behalf of 15-year-old Toya Currie. Currie was given the title 'Girl X' after her attack at 1121 N Larrabee in CHA's Cabrini-Green public housing development in January 1997. Currie was nine years old at the time of the attack. Another, possibly unauthorized Cabrini-Green resident, Patrick Sykes, was convicted of the assault and sentenced to 120 years in prison this past July.

This may be the first lawsuit of this type resulting in such a large settlement against CHA. But we all know this is not the first child to be injured or lose life and liberty in one of America's largest public housing developments.

I suspect that there are few public housing families in Chicago that have not been touched by violent tragedy made even more devastating when the victim is a child. Whether or not lawsuits were filed against CHA on behalf of these families is not known. CHA's response in support of many such families in the past has been to relocate them to another housing development or a scattered site unit.

According to the Chicago Sun-Times, "The suit alleged that CHA and its guard services failed to protect Currie when she was attacked by Patrick Sykes in 1997 in the Cabrini-Green housing complex. It also

charged that the housing agency allowed the condition of the premises to deteriorate to such a degree that Sykes was able to get the roach poison he used on Currie from a vacant apartment. The cost of the settlement will be split among the CHA, Digby's Detective and Security Agency, and the Apollo Detective Agency, with CHA and Digby's assuming the bulk."

Security doors, bars and guards were instituted during the reign of former CHA Chairman Vincent Lane to ensure the safety of residents at a million dollar amount that far exceeds the settlement that Currie will receive after attorneys fees and other costs.

The security measures instituted by Lane speak to his legacy of grandstanding (doing for show or to impress on lookers) at the expense of residents.

Lane's attempt to secure public housing was not the first, but it was the worst. And like the other attempts, all that remains of the millions spent is some fence, wood, metal, plexiglass, holes in the lobby walls here and there, and bad memories for residents who were subjected to the worst attempt at secure public housing ever made.

The poorly trained, often rude, forcefully flirtatious, armed security guards were as much a threat to residents as the individuals that they were supposed to protect the residents from. The legacy of Lane, much like a dead body in water, will float to the top of CHA for years to come. CHA has never had such a haunting former chairman like Lane.

In the same article, "CHA general counsel Gail Nieman said the agreement clears the housing authority of any further liability." CHA will never be clear of liability, for it

has become their legacy. The same conditions under which Currie was attacked still exist today with the exception of the security guard service, which is probably the pivotal factor in the lawsuit. Lane's institution of and payment for security services implies that measures have been taken to ensure the safety of residents.

Unfortunately, such was not the case for Currie, who was described as an energetic and articulate nine-year-old who wanted to be a dancer. Currie's legacy is one of survival. Now, she wants to be a writer when she grows up, to tell her story. "Life is harder now," she said in an interview.

Currie will receive approximately \$357,690 of the \$3 million after costs. But CHA's \$2 million portion of the settlement must be approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development before Currie will receive any cash.

Perhaps the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development should be sued for allowing Lane and other former chairmen and CHA to fail. For decades, hundreds of millions of dollars a year, every year, were poured into CHA with nothing to show for it.

Enough money to have re-built public housing over and over again. And no one took responsibility or was held accountable for the waste of billions of dollars.

Several years ago, I inquired into the ownership of the Chicago Housing Authority. I was told that no one owned it. It was a free-standing entity (unit). The federal government did not own it. The City of Chicago did not own



One of many unboarded vacant units in Cabrini-Green public housing buildings at the time of the Girl-X crime.

Photo by Patricia Johnson-Gordon

it. The entity could not be sold. Perhaps that's the reason that no one took ownership or accountability. However, during the beginning stages of CHA's redevelopment plan, I learned that the developments had to be offered to residents first and that residents had to participate fully in the redevelopment process before any plan could take place.

Unbelievably, especially to CHA and HUD officials, we fought to take ownership in our portion of Cabrini-Green. We won the right to assume responsibility. And our public housing has improved.

Perhaps if we had ownership then, Currie would be dancing right now.

## Squatters Worry About Homelessness

by Beauty Turner  
Assistant Editor

Many residents of public housing are asking the public, what would you do if you had no money, no job and no place to call home? How low would you go? Would you become a squatter?

I'm running into many squatters as I continue to do my research with professor Sudhir Venkatesh from Columbia University, author of "American Project."

Take, for instance, a young man who's squatting in one of the vacant units in a Chicago Housing Authority development, a young man known to the other building residents as

"Larry." I asked him how he got to be a squatter?

Larry is a relatively young man that resides in two vacant units with his cat, who he just calls "rat eater." Larry is known to many of the residents as a classic squatter. Other residents like him because he does odd jobs around the development, fixing things that most of the time the management ignores. He does this type of work just so that he can eat.

He said, "I used to have my own apartment in the Dearborn Homes. I had a lease there. I just gave up and stopped paying rent, so the city evicted me.

"I was sick and tried of the gangs taking over my apartment as if it were theirs. Police used to chase these boys into my house. Plus, nobody ever visited me.

"Otherwise I didn't feel comfortable living there any more. So I moved closer to my mother in the Robert Taylor Homes. I stayed here with my sister but my mom and my sister recently moved out with a Section 8 voucher, leaving me here to fend for myself in shark-infested waters.

"I used to be a janitor for CHA until former CEO of CHA Phillip Jackson laid us off. That was the beginning of my downfall."

I ran across another young man who was squatting who goes by the name of Eddie. Eddie is a mature man in his early 50s. He claimed that he has been working all of his life. He fell on hard times, or should I say hard times fell on him, when he was laid off from his job.

I asked Eddie about his situation. He

said, "I fell on hard times when my job closed down and my unemployment ran out. I have been looking for a job but I can't seem to find one quickly. I know I have skills and something will turn up."

I asked him why he stays in a vacant apartment instead of a homeless shelter? He said, "Shelters are too overcrowded. I can't hear myself think. Besides, they wake you up very early in the morning and put you out, even if you don't have anywhere to go.

"Here in this vacant apartment, I get up when I get ready, unless the police put me out. But those are the chances that I'm willing to take to keep my sanity."

Recently, another young man came to my job to see me. His name is Albert Hughes. He explained that he used to live with his sister in the Robert Taylor Homes building at 4950 S. State St. His sister recently put him out, afraid that she might not receive her Section 8 voucher because he wasn't on the lease.

Confused and cold, dumbfounded and bewildered, Hughes asked me what I could do to help him. I called 311 and asked them to help find a place where this young man could stay. The operator told me to send the young man to the police station or to the hospital.

When I called the police station, the policeman told me that if I send the young man there, he would be sitting on a bench for half the night. That wasn't a good option.

I called the services center at 43rd Street and Cottage Grove Avenue. I was told that the day was a holiday, Pulaski Day. The voice on the phone said, "We are closed. Have him get in touch with us the following day."

Eventually, he went to the Pacific Garden

mission, spent two days there, and now is residing on 43rd Street and Wabash Avenue at a community center.

Many CHA residents are panicking, thinking that they will lose their housing if they have tenants who are not on the lease. They are putting their relatives out onto the Windy City's streets, even though some of these individuals have stayed with these tenants for years.

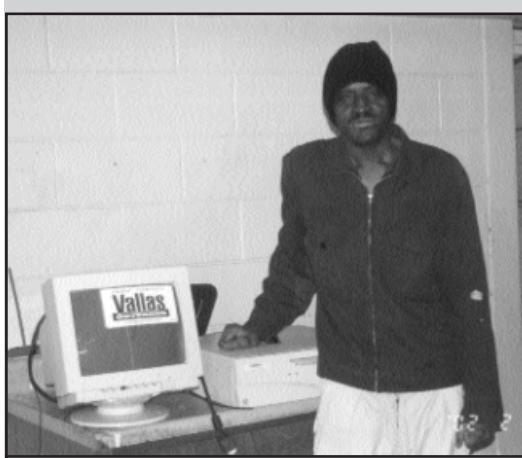
I remembered that CHA CEO Terry Peterson said he was going to help the squatters. I called CHA spokesperson Derek Hill and asked him what plans CHA has to help the squatters that reside in vacant CHA units.

Hill said, "Terry is such a compassionate man that he plans on turning them over to the Department of Human Services (DHS) so that they can get the necessary help they may need." I called DHS spokesperson Tom Green and asked him about the special program that CHA and DHS have put in place to help service the squatters.

Green said, "I'm not familiar with the CHA program that's supposed to help squatters but I will look farther into that and I will let you know more about it, when I learn more."

So I re-called CHA spokesperson Hill to get the name of the program. I figured if I knew the name, I could call Green back and get more information.

Hill said, "Terry is helping the squatters out of compassion. That's because he is a very compassionate and caring person. There's no name (to the program). He is only doing it because he (doesn't want) to see anyone become homeless. That's why we are working with our sister organization, the Department of Human Services (DHS)."



This squatter makes himself at home in one of the vacant units at the Robert Taylor Homes.

Photo by Beauty Turner

# Transforming CHA CAC Prepares for Battle

by Mary C. Johns  
Editor-in-Chief

The Chicago Housing Authority resident council is preparing for the many challenges that public housing residents under redevelopment will face.

The first thing on the resident council's agenda will be to get the federal government to recognize resident leadership after relocation. The next thing on their agenda will be to come to an understanding with the aldermen in public housing areas to secure public housing sites for relocatees from CHA property redevelopment.

## Resident Voting Rights After Relocation

Mary Wiggins, the newly elected chair-

am not into name-calling but a lot it is because of the aldermen. They are building houses... They don't want any public housing next to those \$300,000 houses.

-Mary Wiggins, CAC chairperson and Washington Park Homes LAC president.

person of the Central Advisory Council and Local Advisory Council president for the CHA's Washington Park Homes, said first on the 25 resident leaders' agenda would be working to get the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to recognize them as leadership after relocation.

According to a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development document, "General Guidance on Community and Resident Involvement," regarding resident and community involvement after relocation, "Residents who relocate and choose Section 8 are not eligible to vote or participate as leaders of the Resident Council of the affected development since they are no longer public housing residents."

But the document states, "Public Housing Authorities must continue to involve affected residents in HOPE VI activities after relocation from the original public housing site."

"If you move out of the Central Advisory Council president, you are no longer president, because how can you be the president of a locality when you don't live there," Wiggins said. "That's what is concerning us too. But we don't have any dialogue to put to that until we hear from HUD."

"We're going through HUD to get the proper rights to (vote) it, so the resident population would still have leadership. "We said that, 'We are the only elected body of resident council people that HUD recognizes. We need to know when is HUD not going to recognize us as leadership if we move in the process of relocation.'"

*Washington Park Scattered Site*

## Housing Concerns

Replacement units for the 1,504 Washington Park public housing units built between 1961 and 1969 in an area that stretches from 39<sup>th</sup> to 63<sup>rd</sup> Street from Cottage Grove Avenue to State Street, has been a major concern for Wiggins.

Wiggins, who is also the LAC president for Washington Park Homes, said that the CHA leased out some of the land to a local church. The church's intentions were to bring back only a small number of public housing units back on site after redevelopment.

Wiggins explained that under Joseph Shuldiner's administration, the CHA leased out land that holds 57 units of Washington Park scattered site units to St. Edmund's Church located at 61<sup>st</sup> Street and Michigan Avenue.

She said the church, which leased out the land from 61<sup>st</sup> to 62nd between Michigan to Wabash avenues, is propos-



**Lawndale Gardens LAC President Latresha Green questions Chicago Police Cmdr. Charles Williams about what he intends to do about the vandalism of vacant units in her development during the CPD public housing unit general meeting with LAC members on April 19.**

Photo by Mary C. Johns

Board Commissioner and LAC president of Ida B. Wells on the South Side, was elected Treasurer.

Mamie Bone, the former CAC president and LAC president of the West Side's Henry Horner Homes, will finish out her 5-year term as a member of the CHA Board of Commissioners.

People have said that getting things accomplished working with CHA requires strong leadership such as the late CAC president and CHA Board Commissioner Artena Randolph, who died in 1995.

Wiggins, who worked under Randolph, said she will do the best she can in the office of president with the help of the other public housing leaders.

"I worked under her (Randolph) so I do believe in (strong leadership) and I intend to be a strong leader as I can be," Wiggins said.

"I can't say if I will do a better job than Ms. Bone because I was her vice-chair. You can only be as strong as the body (the CAC) can let you be. If they vote against you for any reason that you bring something to them, you only got one

vote. They've got 23."

Francine Washington, LAC president of the South Side Stateway Gardens' public housing development, said she voted for Wiggins because she felt Wiggins would better inform the LAC presidents about all aspects of the organization's dealings with CHA.

"I believe she will do a better job at being the chair. She will hold CHA accountable. She understands the CHA plan better than Ms. Bone. I think the CAC will be informed and she will not make any decisions without us," Washington said.

Sandra Young, the newly elected CAC Treasurer and a CHA Board Commissioner, said at CAC/LAC Inaugural Ceremonial Luncheon on March 9 that she wanted to be treasurer to learn more about the CAC and CHA budgets.

"I nominated myself for treasurer to better understand the CAC and CHA budget," Young said.

Young said as treasurer she would keep track of how the money in the CAC budget is spent and give monthly budget reports at CAC and CHA executive meet-

## Corrections

Our apologies to the residents of the Dearborn Homes. Dearborn Homes and its new LAC president was mistakenly left out of the list of CHA LAC president winners that appeared in the Jan/Feb. 2002 issue. The new LAC president is Gail D. Singleton.

Apologies also to the residents of the Las Americas Racine Apts. The address in the photo caption on page 7 of the Jan/Feb 2002 issue was listed as 1611 W. Elm St. instead of 1611 S. Racine Ave. The photo of Robert Taylor resident David Wilson and Wentworth Gardens resident Evelyn Johnson that appeared on page 10 in the Jan./Feb. 2002 issue was mistakenly accredited to Mary C. Johns instead of Beauty Turner.

The correct phone number for First Defense Legal Aid in the Urban Youth Internation Journalism Program article title 'Should Youth Be Tried as Adults' that appears on page 13 in the Jan./Feb. 2002 issue is, 1-800-529-7374.

# Transforming CHA Lathrop Homes Private Management

by Bobby Watkins

I've been two years almost since private management began to run family and senior housing. So, as it is time for these companies to bid on their contracts again, I thought, "Why not talk with the residents as well as the managers and see what grades they give them. I also wanted to see how management rates themselves. So I went into the developments and spoke with both. They got some reports of praise as well as some criticism. I also felt management did a good job the way they answered the questions that were put to them that came from residents as well as myself - speaking on how they operate in the development and how they would like to continue to operate. Let's hear what everyone had to say.

## A Lathrop Homes Resident

"Personally, I feel that the US Dwellings - the management that operates in the development where I live, which is Lathrop, has done pretty good compared to the way it was when CHA ran things in the development. It still has a ways to go but some of the things such have gotten somewhat better.

"The managers that have come with



Ted Stewart, U.S. Dwelling housing manager for the Lathrop Homes.

Photo by Bobby Watkins

this company will listen to residents' complaints and have really, in most instances, tried to help. One thing that I know, they tried to work on the roach problem, but the company they hired is not doing such a good job. I see a lot of people from the community working with the maintenance, which is good because it's helping residents to get a job and you really have to have one now with all the government cuts. It also seems like more residents come to community meetings. If I had to rate them, I would give them a 7."

## Community volunteer

"I have been living in the Lathrop Homes for a period of 10 years and have seen many managers come and go through CHA. And then it seemed every time we got one that really worked for the better of the development, they were transferred.

"Then along came the change and private management took over. At first, I wasn't sure about it because I really wanted resident management. But since we weren't allowed for whatever reason, as we all know in everything, there is good and bad.

"They are still kind of new and I know they have to work within a budget but what I don't understand is the outrageous

prices that are charged for the big kitchen light bulbs that you can pick up at any store cheaper. Also, the security is a little better but when are

we going to see them walking the hallways? It is getting ready to be summer and hopefully we won't have a bad summer.

"Also, when you go to the office, it seems certain residents get better treatment than others. And as far as the grade, I will give them a 7.

## Tenant Patrol

Tenant Patroller #1: "Number one, personally, I feel that private management has done a great job. The work orders are being done a little quicker and the grounds are kept up. We don't see a lot of paper and the graffiti problem isn't as bad now.

"If only the police and management would work together about this hanging out in front of the building for those who don't even live in the development and are not visiting any one.

"The grade I would give them would be a 9. Keep up the good work for I know it is a challenge."

Tenant patroller #2: "Some things are good about private management but it is still to early to say. They have proven to be better. The manager here is a very nice guy. He sits and listens and tries to help if it is at all possible. He has given a lot of the residents jobs, mostly with maintenance, which is a start.

"The work order system needs to be upgraded because you don't get an order number when you call in to place your order. But we do know that they are reading and paying more attention to walk down reports and are trying to board up and replace lights in halls more quickly.

"I do wish that the management would work more closely with tenant patrol. When it comes to our court advocacy, they are not there or if the manager sends someone to court, they leave before it is over.

And also for them to work more closely with CAPS (the Community Alternative Policing Strategy) but in am going to work with

them the best I can and hope to make our development better and safer. I grade them a 9."



Lathrop Homes resident Tony Sutton gained employment as a maintenance worker for U.S. Dwelling.

Photo by Bobby Watkins

## A Lathrop Homes Resident

"I am not paying any rent cause I don't feel they do anything. I have been asking to be transferred out of this development and they won't listen.

"I don't have a really bad unit but the people hang in the unit next door and I live on the third floor and I think they are going to start a fire.

(Continued on Page 16)

# Management At Ogden Courts

by Cenabeth Cross

Ogden Courts from my point of view:

Without being a high-rise, Ogden Courts has many of the qualities of high-rises. But without knowing what the future holds, it's pretty good.

I moved into Ogden about 6 years ago. It's not a high-rise; it only has 7 floors. Mrs. Wright was the manager. From the first day, she seemed to dislike me. I would tell her off when she would try to treat me like I was a child. I found later that she treated all tenants that way. I believe that she finally transferred because the children would cut her tires and break her car windows.

One day after she had called my son's

ince the new managers have taken over we get less done than we did before.

S

house and my mother's for my rent, which wasn't due, I came to the complex and paid anyway. She told me that time if I hadn't showed up when I did, she would have had my furniture sitting in Douglas Park, which is across the street from the complex. I was sent to court for eviction. It was dismissed in court because the company owed me \$309 for overpayment. I couldn't get a refund; I had to live it out in rent.

grass on the front lawn but nothing else. When the fences were locked, the drug dealers used car jacks to pry them open at certain points so the business went on as usual.

Now the doors to the lobby have been taken off completely so the police have easy access. Since then, there has been shooting in the lobby, leaving bullet holes in the elevator

and on the walls. On Feb. 19, they started bringing in the dogs to sniff out drugs. This only makes the dealers go to the side streets for the short time the police are in the buildings. The police don't come every day.

The children have a basketball court but it looks like waves in water. The cement is so buckled that it is a dangerous place to play. Management has sent announcements saying that the children can't play ball or jump rope on the galleries. The latest, April 18, was to inform us that bean poppers are a dangerous hazard. If any child is caught with any, the parents will be fined \$100, non-negotiable.

The only place the children can play now is in the streets. The halls are full. After the dealers make their sale, the addicts go into the halls and fire up.

Since I don't know many people in the building, I go to the mailbox to get my mail and go back into my apartment. That's my day.

## Effect of the One-Strike Law

When the One Strike law began, Martha was evicted from her apartment. Her mother lived in the complex also, so Martha moved into the apartment with her mother and her six



These plastered holes in RJ reporter Cenabeth Cross' bathroom ceiling remain unpainted since falling 3 years ago.

Photo by Cenabeth Cross

children. Since Martha used drugs, whenever she had a baby, her mother had to adopt them to keep them out of foster homes.

Irene, Martha's mother, became ill. She had a bad case of diabetes and she was going blind. Management allowed Irene's son to move in to care for the children until they all were evicted. The last thing I heard about Irene is that she had been assigned an apartment in Henry Horner on the 13th floor.

(Continued on Page 9)

# Transforming CHA Productive Men In CHA

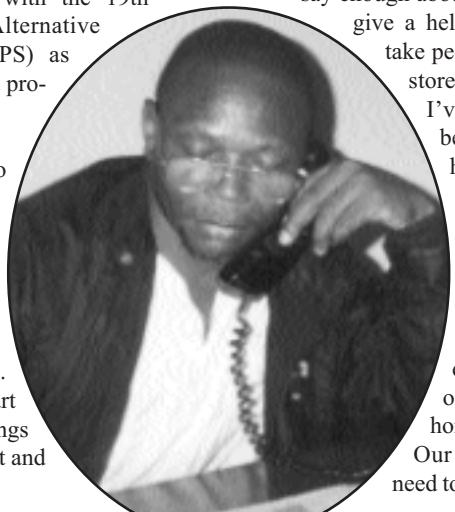
## by Bobby Watkins

**Robert Davidson**

Robert is the newly elected Local Advisory Council vice president in Lathrop Homes. Robert has been involved in the community for the past 5 years and has been a member of the tenant patrol in the 26th Ward. He also serves as the area president where he lives and is involved with the 19th District Community Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) as well as the summer food program.

Presently, he is assisting residents who have to move. He feels very strongly about the work he does in the community and hopes to be of service to relocating residents with his own moving business. Davidson feels he is part of the team to make things better in his development and says his cause is to fight to make things better and help to make this relocation go smoothly. Davidson said he wishes more residents would become more involved with resident-owned businesses.

"There are two things that we have in this country," he said. "And that is a service and a product and we need to take advantage of this."



**Robert Taylor resident Robert Davidson is vice president of the development's Local Advisory Council.**

Photo by Bobby Watkins

Davidson has a lot of things he would like to do in the development this summer. So let's give him the support he needs and come out and give him a hand to help to build a stronger community.

**Murray Kelly**

Murray Kelly is one of the many seniors that lives in public housing who I could never say enough about. He is always willing to give a helping hand if it is just to take people to the corner grocery store or the doctor's office. I've known Kelly since before he came to senior housing and he's always wearing a smile, even on his not so good days. At church, he always volunteers when there is no one else around to open up the doors or if there is someone who needs a ride home.

Our seniors especially need to know how much they are appreciated while we can tell them.

Kelly still is a part of the tenant patrol and also has served on the Local Advisory Council and

many other the things in the senior housing building where he lives in on the West Side. Thank you, Kelly. Keep up the good work. Seniors like you make us want to be a part of the solution.

**Gregory Collins**

Gregory Collins is a young resident of Altgeld Gardens who has been there for the last 7 years. He has been very active in the development. He works with youths, providing services which are really what is needed right now, not just in CHA but everywhere.

Collins goes into his own pocket to pay for a lot of the things he does, especially now that a lot of the youth programs have been cut from CHA.

Collins has spoken with some of the politicians in his area. But so far, he has received no support to create a basketball program and a couple of other things he would like to do for the young people in the development.

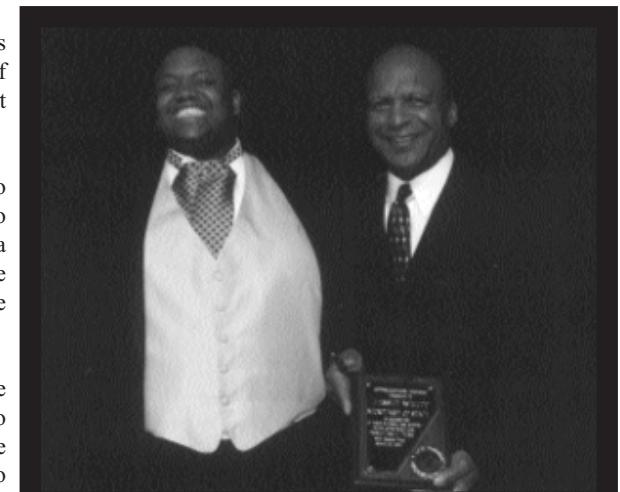
This is what we see a lot: we have a young man who could be doing anything else and wants to do something good but can't get a little help. Then, when the men don't do anything, they are called lazy bums and so on.

Here are just a few of the things in which this young man is involved: He is on the boards of People for Community Recovery, a park district advisory council, and the Ford Motor Good Neighbor Agreement. He also served as precinct captain.

Collins said there once was a GED program in the development but now there isn't. A lot of the young people that he works with

would like to get their GED. If they could have a place to go in the development, he would like to help make that happen. A lot of young people - as well as older folks - just don't have money for transportation to a GED program or another training program.

Keep up the good work, Greg.



## New Generation Fancy Drill Team, Inc. 2nd Annual Awards Ceremony

**Harold Ickes resident James Crafton, CEO of the New Generation Fancy Drill Team, Inc. with honoree Sec. of State Jesse White during the agency's 2nd Anniversary on March 22.**

Photo by Mary C. Johns

## Ogden Courts

(Continued From Page 8)

Her grandson, who had brought me this information, told me I couldn't go to see her at the time because the elevators didn't work. I joined the paper to report on the gangs and the drive-by shootings that occur on a regular basis in Ogden Courts. Most of the gang-bangers lived in the Lawndale Complex just behind Ogden Courts. I wrote about the terrible conditions and Lawndale Complex was finally torn down.

Walking home from the bus stop used to be dangerous. You never knew when the shootings would occur. The real danger was when you were scrambling, trying to get into your apartment because the shooting already had started and you have no place else to go.

### New Management

Our buildings are now managed by East Lake Management. Our new manager's name is Yvette Jones. I met her three weeks ago when she brought my late notice to my door. On April 10 at 2 p.m., management officials came to ask me if I saw anything concerning the death of a three-year-old boy who had fallen out of a window. I told them that I hadn't seen anything but I allowed them to look at my two bedrooms. They wanted to see the last little bedroom to see what size it is.

As I was chasing the men to find out their names, I ran into Ms. Jones and the inspector at the apartment next to mine. I went back in to wait for them. They passed by me completely. I went back downstairs and caught them and insisted that they check my apartment as well. I showed them my bath-

room again. Inspectors from the main office had recorded the damage 6 months earlier, too.

My bath has been damaged for almost 2 years. Now the walls in the adjoining room are bubbling and peeling off. I've never had a paint job nor have I ever had new shades. I need shades as I am not fortunate enough to be able to afford curtains.

Since the new managers have taken over, we get less done than we did before. I had to stay in all weekend, dipping water from my stopped-up sink, because the faucet was leaking. I had to wash my dishes in the tub. Their janitors clean when they feel like it. Yesterday, the hall wasn't cleaned until 2:30 p.m. I believe that was for the inspector's benefit. Some days they don't clean at all, especially on the weekends. I would probably opt for scattered sites. I already know how to sweep and mop. I'd rather do it myself.

### Ogden Courts Years Ago

In order to tell the whole story, I went to Ruby Davis and asked her a few questions about the building's history. Davis has lived in Ogden Courts for 40 years.

Davis said the development was totally integrated when she moved in. The neighbors were white, Black and Latino. The janitors were mixed, too. This was before the Lawndale Complex was built.

Davis was married and her husband had just got out of the army. He was working as a mail carrier. Davis claimed there were no single parents in the building and they had keys to the doors in the lobby. She told me that the halls had radiators.

After the death of a 3-year-old boy, the

managers changed the windows, but she still has the same shades she has had for over 7 years.

In the past, Davis told me they were completely screened. Her husband had to have his discharge papers and all of her children had to have birth certificates.

An elementary school was built after Davis moved into Ogden Courts. After the Lawndale high-rises were built, Davis took her children out of the public school because of the fights the children would get into. She put them into Catholic school until she couldn't afford it any more.

Davis had lived on the South Side after she moved here from Memphis and says she had heard of the West Side. She didn't want to move to the West Side but was happy after she had moved into such a nice place.

Now that we're in the process of relocating, Davis worries about what's in the future in the way of housing for her and her children's children. Davis has daughters who live in different apartments in the same building.

To tell a story, you need different views, so I decided to ask Deon Davis for his. Deon is Ruby's grandson, 18 years old and still in school. He is in a GED class.

I wanted to get his opinion on how he sees living in Ogden Courts. He wrote down his opinion:

### Looking Out

If you looked out of a project window, what would you see? Many would say thugs, hoodrats, people who hang in their cars, hoodlums and bastards. But if you paid any

attention to what's out there, what you would probably notice is crime, drugs, fights, foul language and disrespect. But if you understood what was out that window, you would probably say love, friendship, togetherness and understanding.

Well, let me tell you what I see when I look out a project window. I see smiles, people playing, conversations and togetherness. I see smiles because people are happy to see each other. People are playing because everyone loves sports and conversations because they have just won the game or played well.

Unlike me, some people see the negative things outside. To go off that, they have to know the reasons for the negativity. For example, one day I was looking out the window and saw a man fighting with his girlfriend because she had cheated on him. While I was looking out, I saw a crowd form. I guess she liked the attention and she hit him. The crowd oooed and he started to beat her real bad.

The crowd didn't like that so everyone in the crowd jumped on the boyfriend. But while they were jumping him, she cried for them to stop.

I'm not saying any of it was right but that is how everyone looks out for each other. For instance, if they see a child that's not in school, they take them. Not everything you see out of the project window is negative. Some of it is just misunderstood.

# African American Male Youth Suicides

by Michael Ibrahim

**T**here is a crisis in America and while African American leaders search for answers, some community groups are finding solutions of their own. A recent study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and co-authored by University of Pennsylvania Professor Sean Joe found that suicides remain very high among the nation's youth, specifically in African American communities, where there is a significant amount of violence associated with suicides.

"Seventy percent of African American youth who commit suicide do so with guns," said Joe. The study co-authored by Joe "suggests that there is in fact a youth development crisis in the African American community."

The study concluded the age range for the suicides was 15-19.

Dr. Hugh Butts, a leading African American psychiatrist, agreed that the use of firearms sends a lethal message but added, "The added stress alone is crucial to the mental development as an African American teen in that age bracket."

"The Black adolescent is even more vulnerable than adolescents of other ethnic groups because, not only must they deal with issues confronting other adolescents, such as personality consolidation, peer pressure, the stress of dealing with adults, but they must deal with the cultural aspects of a society which imposes a great deal of stress on them."

Severe problems in urban areas are cause for concern for leaders and scholars speaking out in African American communities nationwide. Some alarming figures show that many problems exist among all ethnic groups. In 1998, white males accounted for 61 percent of all suicides among youths 10-19, and white males and white females together accounted for over 84 percent of all youth suicides, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The suicide rate has been increasing most rapidly, however, among African American young men ages 10 to 19 - more than doubling from 1981 to 1998. Among Hispanic students, young women were almost three times more likely than young men to have reported a suicide attempt.

"The most likely explanation for ethnic rate differences is variations in cultural factors that promote or inhibit suicide," states the Center for Disease Control and Prevention Web site.

## Interventions

**I**n one African American community on the South Side of Chicago, a group of Christian men are working with African American teen-agers to expand their knowledge of educational, political and economic issues.

"If they do have fathers, they see us as uncles, or as part and parcel of the family structure," said George Glenn, director of programming for Concerned Christian Men Inc.

"The reality of the situation is that most of the young men that we work with have no viable fathers in the home. It's an outrageous situation. In their elementary schools and high schools, there are no real male role models. It's really a female dominated society that these young men are trying to reach manhood in. We just saw that as being problematic. So what we did is, we made a commitment that we'll step in and provide leadership and direction as much as we can,"

As Glenn sees the situation, what is needed to resolve many of the problems some young people experience on a daily basis are perception, commitment and a consolidation of forces on many different fronts.

"What we've done is we've made a commitment that we will provide these young men with opportunities to grow," said Glenn.

Glenn seemed to have very definite ideas about many of the issues needing immediate attention. He doesn't hold just one part of society responsible. Rather, there is lot everybody could do to make these problems better.

"We need to get control over various forms of the media to reflect what is our accurate assessment of reality," Glenn continued. "If you don't have that man in the family, you have basically a dysfunctional family because the roles have changed. Mom is the one who can share dreams with the children. She's there rearing them and she's got a real connection with them. Now

because mothers are either working all the time or taking on the father role and the mother role, they spend less time sharing in the children's dreams.

"As a result, not getting that nurturing from a parent allows these kids to spin off on their own. This allows for gang members to take on a more family role in the lives of these children. You're having children rearing children, the blind leading the blind. What it has done is it's castrated an entire segment of men who are roaming the streets," said Glenn.

Glenn was critical of hard-nosed conservatives and their theories that people should pull themselves up by their boot-straps.

Though many conservatives consider it coddling to suggest that self-esteem or the lack thereof is a barrier to productivity, Glenn said, "Most of the European immigrants didn't face the situation where there was institutionalized racism. We know that there's institutional racism. We can see that in corporations. It's designed to keep them (minorities) as a sub-culture and if it kills the dreams you have, then that is a wipe out."

"I think that's why so many of us turn to drugs, because we have no more dreams. It's a very sad situation but I think given the kind of racism African Americans experience, if they (the powers that be) didn't have the scapegoat of the Africans in this country, it would've been someone else. We believe our young men are in crisis right now and we're stepping up to make that commitment to bridge the gap."

"How do people develop values? It's through the media primarily. Even word of mouth is not that effective because you can't talk to that many people."

"We believe our young men are in crisis right now and we're stepping up to make that commitment to bridge the gap," said Glenn.

Glenn's group, Concerned Christian Men Inc., hosts a Man-Boy Breakfast every third Saturday of the month. At this breakfast, young grammar school age boys are asked to meet with the Christian men's group to enjoy a lecture, Bible classes, food and sports in a casual atmosphere.

"The good thing about this breakfast concept is that we have all ages, literally from 6 to 90 years old represented. It's a way for young men to view the future, being with us. I think every speaker has such impact on them because they see the same thing. They see a young man out there who will one day be an attorney or a sportscaster. We need to get control over various forms of the media to reflect what is our accurate assessment of reality."

## Violence Prevention Study

**A** study conducted at Mt. Sinai Hospital in Chicago has shown that young victims of violence can change their high-risk behaviors. That's the encouraging news in the final report of "Within Our Reach," a two-year collaborative study between Mount Sinai Hospital in Chicago



George Glenn  
Photo by Michael Ibrahim

and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago. Dr. Leslie Zun, chairman of Mount Sinai's emergency medicine department, said, "Within Our Reach" developed "when our staff started seeing young victims of street violence on repeat visits. It was frustrating to just provide medical treatment and then send kids back on the street - with a recidivism rate of more than 35 percent. When kids have just been shot or stabbed, they're scared about the path of violence they've chosen. So we decided to strike when the glamour of gangs and street violence didn't seem so glamorous after all. "This is a totally new approach to violence prevention," he added. "But it seems to have great potential for reaching an extremely unreachable population who are very mobile, are rarely in school and have no primary care doctor."

"Within Our Reach" was developed by Zun and Jodi Rosen, a consultant to the Boys and Girls Clubs. They worked with some 188 youths ages 10-24 who came to Mount Sinai's emergency department with violent injuries, mainly gunshot and stab wounds. After being randomly divided between a treatment and a control group, case managers addressed specific needs of the treatment for six months. They focused on addressing, personal and family issues, helping establish a formal treatment plan, and making referrals to services at Mount Sinai, the Boys and Girls Clubs and other community-based providers. Those in the control group were given a list of services they could access on their own. It is significant that the treatment group reported fewer re-injuries than the control group.

"However," said Dr. Zun, "the study found no difference between the two groups for other targeted behaviors such as arrests and incarceration."

The study also showed that youth in the treatment group were much more likely to use health and social services than those in the control group. Some of the services most frequently used were education, job readiness, legal assistance, child care, substance abuse treatment, health care and social support. During the two years of the study, 48 participants were enrolled in job training-readiness classes, and 60 participants were linked to medical and health-related services.

What the study made clear was the effect, importance and significance of the right type of intervention. The study found that for those who want to provide health care or social services to victims of violence, there also should be an additional focus on education, employment, gang intervention and mental health assistance. The study also determined there was a very high cost to making a significant impact on the behavior of this high-risk population. The high cost came from using resources such as transportation, community-based centers, additional case managers and incentives.

Zun said "Within Our Reach" has become a resource as groups throughout the country planning similar violence-prevention programs incorporate these findings into their own plans. Substantial, previously unknown information about the characteristics of these youths, including schooling, gang involvement, friends and family, alcohol and drug use, violence exposure, delinquency patterns and weapon accessibility are now known.

Zun said the "Within Our Reach" study's results show how intervention can dramatically lower re-injury rates and ultimately prevent more violence among difficult-to-reach youths. He acknowledged, "Many of the targeted behaviors didn't change

## A NOTE FROM DR. DIANNE COLLINS

### ATTENTION

### ALTGELD HEALTH CENTER PATIENTS AND STAFF

It has been my sincere pleasure getting to know you and attending your medical needs. Each of you mean so much to me. Thank you for sharing your lives and yourselves.

Dianne Collins, M.D.

# Chlld of the Pack Saddle: Part IX

by John 'Popcorn'  
Sampson



I believe the Sonja Quarters was named in honor of one of the most illustrious, noteworthy and truly one of the most courageous women of any color or kind that our Lord God did ever create...Sojourner Truth...an abolitionist who lived from 1797 to 1883



## A 100th Year Birthday Celebration

CHA senior resident Mack G. Owens celebrates his 100th year with his 92-year-old girlfriend Otonie Griffin (left) and grandchildren and great-grandchildren at a birthday celebration given by private management officials from William Moorehead and Associates on April 25. Owens is one of the original Pullman Porters.

Photo by Mary C. Johns



# Perspectives



## Life as a Police Officer

by Iesha Anderson

I interviewed my father, Officer Toris Anderson Sr., about why he chose life as a police officer and the advantages and disadvantages of being a police officer.

Q: How old were you when you decided to become a policeman?

A: I was about 23 years old when I actually decided to become a policeman.

Q: What kind of training did you have to go through?

A: Well, I had to go through an array of intense physical training as well as a mental training. It was almost like military style training. But of course, I already had military training because I was in the military. So it wasn't as hard for me

as it was for other people.

Q: What inspired you to be a policeman?

A: Believe it or not, when I was a kid in school, a police officer would come in the classes and talk. I believe they called him Officer Friendly. Well, they would talk about very interesting things which truly inspired me. That was when I actually wanted to become a policeman.

Q: What are some of the good things and bad things about being a police officer?

Q: One thing I like about being a police officer is that there are some people who really appreciate you being there and protecting them. The bad things are all the killings, shootings, poor children and abused children I have to see.

Q: How do you feel about putting your life on the line?

A: You know, honestly, I really don't think about it. I try not to think about it. When I'm out there, I am just out there. I don't think about the danger until after the fact.

Q: What are some of the likes and dislikes you have about the job?

A: I like the fact that I have a sense of authority.

I don't like the fact that some of the decisions I have to make could mean my life or someone else's life. Those are decisions I would like to avoid.

Q: Do you think the Chicago Police Department hires enough Black people?

A: I don't think any police department hires enough Black people. My opinion is that they hire enough just to get over the hump.

Q: Do you feel like you have reached your life's goal?

A: No, I don't feel like I've reached my life's goal because I started so late. There are so many levels you can reach in life and I just don't want to get stuck at one.

Q: Have you ever had a scary event in your job?

A: Yes, I've had a couple of scary events. One which stuck in my head was when my partner and I did a traffic stop. When we pulled the guy over and asked for his license and registration, he said that he had to get it out of his wallet. He said his wallet was in between the seat. So he reached for the wallet but both me and my part-

ner had this funny feeling. Something wasn't right. So we drew out our weapons and told him to step out of the car and we searched the car. Under the seat was a Tech 9 (handgun). So we asked him if he was honestly going to use that weapon and he said that he thought about using it. But he thought he would get killed because I was on one side of the car and my partner was on the other. So at that moment, when my partner and I had that funny feeling, it was an inspiration from God to have that quick reaction.

Q: Do you think police are paid what they're worth?

A: Well, I know I am worth much, much more than what I get paid. I feel like I don't get half as much as I'm worth.

Q: How does your family feel about your job?

A: My family feels like I should have chosen another profession. But like I told them, you have to be and do what you feel like it is that you want to do. You have to please yourself first.

## Goals

by Twanda White

There are many people out there with many goals. But some people don't even have a clue about their goals. I know I have many goals and I intend to reach every last one of them. Goals should be one major important event in a person's life.

I asked my sister Yolanda White what her goals are.

"I have several goals," she said. "One goal is to pass on to the next grade without having to go to summer school. Another one of my goals is to start getting better grades in my classes, and stay out of trouble."

Someone told me it is good to put your goals on an index card and keep track of each goal, until you have accomplished it. If you just let a goal slip out of your life, you're not treating it as an

important goal.

I think everyone's goals are important. What your mind conceives, you can achieve. People may think it's hard keeping up with your goals but sometimes it's easy.

I asked Sharon Smith about her goals for the future.

She said her goal is to finish up high school and then succeed in life.

"I feel that anyone can be what they want to if they put their minds and heart to it," she said. "All it takes is hard work. If that goal is important, than anyone should be willing to put their minds and hearts toward it."

Sometimes your goals may even appear in your dreams. And even if your goals don't occur to you right now, they will later. A goal to me is like a wonderful gift from up above. And even if you don't accomplish your goals, it is always good to get up and try again.

Some of my goals are to pass on to the next grade without going to summer school, to finish up high school and college, and be a dermatologist when I grow up. I know I will succeed with these goals.

## A Teen Mom Succeeds

by Jamila Loggins

I attend Bronzeville High School. I slipped up and now I'm a high school mother. I was 14 when I got pregnant, and had my baby when I was 15. I live with my aunt and uncle. They help me every step of the way. Not every teen mother can say that they have someone to help out, especially when times get rough.

I chose this subject to help other teen mothers with their problems and to tell them about the things other teen mothers go through.

I was helped by Kathleen Hill, a friend of the family. She was 12 when she got pregnant and she had her first baby when she was 13. The times were

rough since she did not have any help. She made money however she could, with only a little help from the baby's father.

"There was a time I needed him and he was nowhere to be found," she said of the father. Since she moved around a lot, she really didn't have close girlfriends.

"The girls I hung out with, their parents would try to keep them away from me thinking I was a bad influence on them," she said.

Living in such an unstable and dysfunctional environment, she was worried about what kind of future she was going to have. Setting a good example for her baby, she continued to go to school. Finally, she left high school and got her GED.

"People downed me and told me that I wasn't going to be anything," she said.

"But you can do anything you want to do if you put your heart and soul into it."

And now, all these people who told her she was never going to make it have been proven wrong. Kathleen prayed to God every night asking for

strength and guidance, and the power to move on to better things and not always expect the worst in life. "Hoping things would get better, I wiped my tears and fears," she said.

"Expressing my feelings through prayers, I became stronger every day."

She now works as one of the best hair stylists in a J.C. Penny hair salon. Her dream was to be a hair stylist and she made it. Doing her best, she excelled, raising her baby the best way.

Being a teen mother isn't easy at all. For me, it got hard. But since I have family to help me, it's OK. It makes me wiser and aware of some of the things I may have to face on my own. Knowing how hard Kathleen had it with no help, I thank God for my family and the people that help me.

When times get rough and I don't have people to talk to, I write in my poem book. Although you may think writing doesn't help you out, it really does. It helps me release the anger and confused messages I might have.

## Urban Youth International Journalism Program

**Publisher**  
*Ethan Michaeli*

**Assistant Directors**  
*Satin Crable  
Kari Lydersen*

## Participants

*Crystal Bland, Shelaina Bradley, Latoya Bright, Tieara Brown, LaTrisha Burnett, Robert Davis, Mia Dunlap, Corey Gathings, Jovan Gathings, Anthony Glover, Iesha Griffin, Shanell Jackson, Joshua Jackson, Tyesha Keaton, Tiffany Larry, Kareem Lewis, Ivory Lloyd, Kea-una McGee, Desaray Moore, Therris Morris, David Preston, Antione Shaw, Felisha Swan, Termeakriss Travis, Ramondo Walker, Carla Wells, Joanna White, Kamel White, Monique Walton, Monica Williams, Veronica*

**Congratulations**  
**Urban Youth International**  
**Journalism Program**  
**Graduates!!!!**

Class of Spring 2002

Photo Courtesy of Art Duncan/Support A Child

## Life as a Lesbian

### by Oshana Johnson

I was born in Chicago on the South Side, graduated from the Robert S. Abbott School and attended Paul Lawrence Dunbar Vocational Career Academy.

I am 19 years old. I have two younger brothers and four younger sisters. I like hip hop and R&B, especially Nas, R. Kelly and Aaliyah. My favorite sport is basketball and my favorite comedian is Bernie Mack. I enjoy parties and chillin'.

And I am a lesbian. I came out when I was 17 years old but I have been a lesbian since I was about 12. My mother was very accepting but my grandmother still is not that accepting but she is coming along. I'm attracted to the same sex because I love women and I feel the same thing about a woman as a straight male feels about a woman.

I don't like ignorant people who think that we are freaks. But I do like the way we come together and show our pride. I don't consider this a phase because I know who I am, and I am comfortable with it.

I have an adult role model. He is a very positive person and when he sees me doing something negative, he stops me and steers me in the right direction.

The worst homophobia I've had was when I was 14. I was in school and this one boy teased me and called me all types of

names. I didn't let it get to me, though, because I'm comfortable with who I am. My friends are accepting so when I came out, they were cool with it. When people found out I was a lesbian, they reacted in many different ways. Some were negative but most were positive.

We do the same things everyone else does for fun. But there are a lot of troubles that we face being lesbians. People try to treat us differently because of our sexual preference. So I chose to interview two other lesbians to give people some examples of the different troubles we face and show them that we aren't different from anybody else.

Q: When did you come out?

Crystal: I came out when I was 15.

Lakendra: I came out both when I was in eighth and 12th grade.

Q: How did your parents react?

Crystal: They were accepting.

Lakendra: They are not here.

Q: Why are you attracted to the same sex as you?

Crystal: Because I love girls.

Lakendra: I don't know. I guess I was curious.

Q: What don't you like about being gay?

Crystal: The haters is what I don't like.

Lakendra: People call you a freak.

Q: What do you like about being gay?

Crystal: I love everything about being a lesbian.

Lakendra: It's fun. I feel comfortable with it.

Q: What is the worst experience that you have ever had while you were gay?

Crystal: When males are disrespectful.

Lakendra: When people first find out

they treat you differently.

Q: Did your friends treat you any differently?

Crystal: No, because all my friends are gay.

Lakendra: Yes, at first, but now it's cool.

Q: How did people react when they found out you were gay?

Crystal: Some were accepting. Some were not.

Lakendra: They were a little shocked but now they are cool with it.

Q: What do you do for fun?

Crystal: The same things that everyone else does.

Lakendra: Everything that straight people do.

Q: Do you consider this a phase?

Crystal: No, because I love girls and wouldn't have it any other way.

Lakendra: No, because I don't like boys.

Q: Do you have any adult gay role models?

Crystal: My cousin is like a big sister to me. She is always there and I can count on her.

Lakendra: No.

Q: Do you think that it is more difficult for males or females to be openly gay in our country today?

Crystal: I think that it is more difficult for males because when other males find out a male is gay, they tease and disrespect him.

Lakendra: Yes, because other males make fun of them.

Q: Do you think American society is

becoming more or less accepting and comfortable with people being gay?

Crystal: I think that they are becoming more accepting and more and more gay people are coming out.

Lakendra: No, I don't think it is.

I think it is more difficult for males because men are not accepting of that. I also think American society is becoming more and more accepting and comfortable with gays and lesbians. But I believe American society still has a lot of improving to do.

**A UYIJP Graduate sports his 'official' reporters t-shirt.**

Photo courtesy of Art Duncan/Support A Child

## Drugs Taking Over

### by Alona Gautreaux

They are winning the battle and we are losing it. Drugs are taking over in the year 2002.

We are facing a major drug issue among Blacks, whites and Hispanics. It is a problem among us all. It really is getting a hold of our younger generation.

Many children start to try drinking or illegal substances between age seven and 11. A prime example is when I was at a show and couldn't believe what I saw and overheard. One little boy was saying, "Folks, folks, folks, pass me the blunt."

Four of them were smoking like a couple of pros and the youngest was seven and the oldest was 12.

I asked if their mother knew they smoke and one responded 'no,' while the other said his dad and brother let him smoke with them. The fourth replied that his cousin does it.

So how can we complain when we're not setting a prime example ourselves? We are sending out two different signals - one is saying don't and the other is saying you can do it like

me.

Some children try illegal substances through peer pressure and wanting to fit in and be considered one of the cool ones. We need to communicate better with our kids and teach them not to do this.

Here is the story of one woman, who asked that her name not be used, who made it and lost it because of drugs. She owned a restaurant and hair salon and had a level head. But then she decided she wanted to live the fast life. She was enjoying the money and things started going bad.

"I tried to sell drugs and got it in my system and everything started to slip down from there," she said. "I thought I could fight it out, but oh boy, was I wrong! I started neglecting some of my responsibilities and then, before I knew it, I didn't have any!"

She was born on Nov. 7, 1966, and is 34 years old. "I decided I wanted to do hair because I like to beautify things and I liked the output I got back," she said. "I also decided that I wanted to run and own my own restaurant because I liked when I was working at (a restaurant called) Coleman's. I wanted to put good food into the neighborhood." But then she said she "got a little money hungry" and was tempted by the "fast life" and started to sell drugs.

change what had happened to me."

He said that "two sons, 30 years and an understanding wife later makes me realize how blessed I am."

He also was able to overcome his situation by being inspired by all the people he met and by helping people once he became a "motivating force in society," working for the Chicago City Colleges as a project coordinator for the disabled. His job was to make all nine of the campuses accessible to disabled students.

"I also helped students who were disabled further their education in the position I held at my job," he said. "My position also allowed me to help write the city guidelines to pass certain laws to make the city and the Chicago Transit Authority more accessible to the disabled individual."

"I learned to deal with what I can change and accept the things that I had no control over or that I could not change," he said. "I believe I have become a much wiser and stronger individual. The accident gave me the abilities to not just further my

"The drugs got in my skin and my system wasn't strong enough to fight it off," she said. "Believe me, if I had a chance to change my mistake I would take it slower and try to avoid this tragedy that will make a big difference in my life or even destroy it."

She said that it felt like her life was depending on drugs just to survive, and to start her day off she needed this medication. She said she lied, cheated and stole from her family to get money for drugs.

"I hurt my children. I didn't treat them like a mother is supposed to," she said.

"The heroin really affected my relationship with my kids and family. I lost so many friends."

Then she started doing illegal things, like prostituting and stealing, because her family "wasn't going to give me money to kill myself."

Now she feels like it is time to reverse her course. "My kids aren't getting any younger and my children are having babies. I want to be there for my grandchildren," she said. "It was bad enough that my kids, family and friends had to see me like this. The world isn't getting any safer and times are getting harder."

education but educate the world and prove how productive disabled individuals can be to society as well as to each other." My father has traveled the world and met interesting people who treated him no differently because he was disabled, he said.

"Yet, some people felt the need to treat me differently, which is OK. When they do treat me differently, I take it as a form of respect." He noted that "I always say 'he who cries, cries alone.' What that means is the difference between them and me is some of them are walking around taking life for granted instead of being more productive with one another." I hope one day to accomplish all of these things and then some. In my eyes, my father has led a very interesting life and still does to this day. Hopefully, one day, I will be able to accomplish similar things.

## A Motivating Force in Society

### by Lamarr Walker

My father is a paraplegic and he inspires me in life. He always told me, "You only get out of life what you put into it." During an interview, he said that he got shot 30 years ago, which caused him to be paraplegic.

"For the first two years, I was angry at the world," he said.

"I was unable to walk and had no idea how I was going to make it in the world without the use of my legs. It took me about five years to adjust to my condition and cope with the fact that I will never walk again. At one time, I would have given anything to

## Accepting Differences in Religions

by Tiffany Young

Accepting differences is important in this world. It is important because it doesn't matter what characteristics you have; you should be treated fairly and you should be accepted based upon your personality. There are so many people judging people on how they look, dress, walk and talk. That shouldn't be the case.

I used to be a person who didn't accept certain people's differences. For instance, I used to judge people by their outsides instead of their insides.

A person can seem like they are all of that from their outside but if you try to get to know them, they can be cool to associate with.

I've learned that day by day. Also, since I know that we are all similar to one another, I've learned not to judge a person by

their outsides but to judge them by their insides. I interviewed Reverend Mary Miller, a Christian minister at Faith United Methodist Church. She has been preaching at that church for five years. I asked Rev. Miller a couple of questions about accepting differences in religions.

Q: Where did your religion originate?

Miller: My religion originated in Faith United Methodist Church.

Q: How long have you attended Faith United Methodist Church?

Miller: I have been ministering to this church for five years.

Q: The way you dress, does it affect anybody's responses to you?

Miller: No, I dress normal like other people.

Q: How do you feel about people with different religions?

Miller: I have no problem with people that have different religions; I think we all should serve the same God.

Q: Do you socialize with others in your religious circle?

Miller: Yes, I do.

Q: Does your religion affect your making friends?

Miller: Not necessarily. The relationships I have are stable.

Q: How did you get your religion?

Miller: I was brought up in the church.

Q: Why do you think religious differences cause separation among people?

Miller: We seem to think that ours is the best and we seem to think that everyone else's religion is inferior.

Q: What would be your advice on accepting different religions?

Miller: My advice would be for all of us to sit down and try to understand each other.

Q: What do you think is the common thread of different religions?

Miller: I think Jesus Christ is the common thread.

The aim of my article is to inform others that we are all equal. Too many people are competing with one another about their differences. No matter what religion, skin color or style we have, everybody should be accepted.

## The Jewish Life

by Juanita Manning

I'm interested in Judaism because my oldest brother had converted into Judaism and I want to know a little about the life and ways. Since my oldest brother lives in Tennessee and I could not get in touch with him, I interviewed my teacher, Mr. Keys. He also has converted to Judaism. Mr. Keys is an African American man. He said he got interested in Judaism at the age of 19 and converted from Christianity to Judaism when he was 24 years old.

My first question was what made him change his life and ways? He told me he used to be Christian but wanted to know more ways of religion. He also said that what he liked best about Judaism is living by the Bible and following its laws such as the Sabbath, the day of rest.

"I wouldn't change it for the world," he said of his religion.

He said he is so committed because he believes in the principles of the religion and he believes in his ancestors' faith. He told me his god is of the Bible and he is an all-knowing God who does not have a body or a color.

Those are similar beliefs for Christians. Christians and Jewish people have the same God but different understandings.

Mr. Keys said that before eating any meal or bread, it is customary to wash your hands because priests performing rituals in temples in Biblical times had to wash their hands. Orthodox Jewish people only eat in kosher restaurants. Kosher refers to what they should and should not eat. A kosher restaurant would not have cheese and meat in the same place. Kosher food includes vegetables, beef, lamb, goat, fish with scales on it and birds like turkey and chicken.

Mr. Keys also told me the names of clothes that must be worn to attend a Jewish ceremony, including the Tsitit and a Kippah, the head covering.

"The Jewish men wear it as a sign of respect for God," he said. "The Jewish women wear scarves, wigs and hats."

I asked Mr. Keys what sacrifices he made to convert to Judaism.

"Not celebrating certain holidays and not eating out at just any kind of restaurant," he said. He said his day of worship is from Friday at sundown to Saturday at sundown.

"That's the day of rest," he said.

I found Mr. Keys' Jewish way of life very interesting. After the interview, I felt enlightened and motivated. I feel that I may very well study the life of Jewish people in great depth in the near future.

## Publisher's Box

(Continued from Page 3)

Chicago beat out New York City and Los Angeles, both of which have nearly three times Chicago's population and their share of problems with crime and drugs. In fact, if you just look at the numbers, Chicago's homicide rate is twice the rate of people being killed on both sides of the Middle East conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

More than one-half of Chicago's murders were directly related to gangs or drugs. But Lurigio doesn't blame the current residents of CHA for the problem. Quite the opposite, Lurigio blames much of the violence in the developments to a failure of city officials and police officers to provide an effective security strategy.

"There's this terrible public perception that everyone who lives in public housing is awful," Lurigio said.

"Residents were some of the most invested, community-oriented neighbors I've ever met."

Lurigio worked with the city, community leaders and other academics to develop the Community Alternative Policing Strategy. He also testified against the CHA for numerous cases in which residents were victimized. The cases would take on a terrible pattern – a woman or girl tenant would be attacked in a pitch-dark hallway or stairwell or other undefended place. Often, the women and girls were raped or worse a short distance from other people in the buildings. The CHA's failure to do proper maintenance – not the residents' behavior in the building - made the CHA's hallways into scary places.

For his court testimony, Lurigio spent hours in the buildings documenting conditions which were frighteningly similar to those which allowed Girl X to be assaulted (See article, page 6). "Here's what all the cases were like: residents being horribly brutalized," Lurigio explained.

"I would get up on the stand and say that more likely than not, the tenant would not have been brutalized if CHA had done what was necessary to protect tenants.

"If CHA cared about the safety of the people living there and wanted to spend the money, they could make it significantly safer."

Lurigio certainly thinks a change in the city's priorities could make the developments better. But the real problem with security in CHA is the way our whole society handles our drug problem, he argues.

Instead of treating people with drug problems, we lock them in prisons, where their addiction problems often become worse. When the addicts return to their neighborhoods, they find the same economic deprivation that makes the drug economy look like an economic opportunity. The violence that results from the drug economy, meanwhile, aggravates the health crisis among the people who lose loved ones to prisons, hospitals and cemeteries.

Rather than fighting a war, Lurigio argues that we should be acting like doctors who are treating a disease.

"We need to reframe the problem. It's not about crime. It's about violence," he said.

"If it's really a public health problem, treat it that way."

Lurigio's point is more important than just the vocabulary of whether we call it a "war on drugs" or a "health care crisis." As Sept. 11 demonstrated, calling something a "war" creates a specific set of expectations among the population. War is a time when all the normal rules are suspended. People understand that in times of war, government might need to take drastic or draconian actions to defend society.

We've entrusted the primary task of implementing the war on drugs to police officers. Charged with winning battles against a tough enemy, the police officers attack with little regard for the people who live on or near the battlefields. Ask residents who live in the developments and you'll find plenty of complaints that their civil rights have been violated. Public housing tenants and others who live on the front line of the war on drugs know a lot about collateral damage.

The officers themselves understand the results of calling something a war. The officers who try to shut down drug operations know that they are commandos moving in hostile territory. The police are trying to remove the sons, brothers, nephews, fathers and husbands of the neighborhoods in which they are operating. The police know they are taking food out of the mouths of the families who depend on the income of the men they are arresting.

"If you consider what our prevailing strategy is, the police are a paramilitary organization," Lurigio said.

"We've thought that more force and more personnel can

solve any problem. And that hasn't worked.

"Don't think that the police are going to stop this because they're just not."

Whether it's the flu or cancer, doctors treat diseases by scientific research, correct diagnosis, targeted therapies and – most importantly – changing the unhealthy lifestyle that let the disease thrive in the first place. A patient's conditions improve if he takes some medicine and rests. If the patient exercises more and eats better, he or she greatly lowers their chance of a recurrence. Taking a public health approach to the drug problem would mean finding ways to treat addicts and people with long-term mental illness instead of sending them to prison. It would mean finding some way to take the money out of the drug economy, say by decriminalizing some drugs and making others available as part of a treatment program. It would also mean creating real alternatives for youths and adults in the form of jobs, recreation and education.

There are many people in our society who oppose treating our drug abuse problems as a disease. Some have been victims of crime and are full of anger and the desire for revenge. Others look at the residents of the neighborhoods that are on the front line of the drug war and blame them for the war zone conditions. Many political leaders and their strategists are now talking about using the techniques of the War on Drugs for the War on Terrorism.

But wars are supposed to be fought between two opposing armies. Wars end when one side defeats the other. Diseases that are misdiagnosed, mistreated or left untreated become stronger and more contagious.

This disease has already started to spread to communities far from the point of original infection. When the drug war began decades ago, who could have imagined that most American urban high schools would have metal detectors? The gangs that control the drug trade have now extended their reach even into rural areas.

Teenagers shooting each other used to be a phenomenon contained to urban African American and Latino neighborhoods. Now, the senseless school shootings at Columbine, Colorado, and a growing list of places prove that no area is immune.

Handling our drug abuse problem as a war is an ineffective strategy. Disease must be treated, not fought.

# Harold Ickes News

by Jacqueline Thompson

hings have changed dramatically here in Ickes. On one hand, they remain the same. But some things have gotten worse.

The most dramatic change has occurred all along the State Street Corridor, where public housing has had its imposing presence whittled down to flatlands of mystery. Who knows where all the families have gone? Who knows what will occupy the vacated land? Who knows when and if sufficient housing for low-income families will rise from the demolition of "a city within a city?"

Another real change coincided with the heating up of the Illinois state primary election. All of last year, a change seemed possible to the residents unhappily tolerating the overwhelming, constant onslaught of strangers. The new lighting systems shone bravely down on the hundreds of milling males and females who homelessly paced the front, back and inner catacombs of the public housing systems seeking sweet release.

During the third week of February, when the politicians' faces and platforms became more constant on television, fewer groups of seekers struggled down the paths in pain.

Fewer families' faces waited to transact.

Suddenly, riding down State Street as I did daily, there were no more swarms of loiterers claiming parking spaces, cluttering lobbies, overcrowding elevators and spitting where they pleased.

By the time primary day came, the scenes in front of, inside of, and in the surrounding places were sterile where they were once so infected. One can truthfully say the State Street Corridor is clean as a whistle. At last! Whew!

Nevertheless, the battle for safe, decent parking remains the same in this development for residents of 2310 - 2250- 2240 S. State St. and other buildings.

We risk our well being just coming from work trying to park in a dry place, away from deep mud pits, serious pools of water and unfair parking tickets.

My experience has been to be the only recipient of 2 parking tickets in a long line of cars parked so close to a fence that no one could even open the passenger side door. Many of my neighbors have paid, contested, and I'm sure ignored a slew of unfair tickets. I spoke to the new main manager, Mr. Williams, about the problem and he said, "I'm working on it. We will be taking care of that soon."

I also asked if he could supply me with a letter to explain our circumstances with the parking so that we wouldn't have to keep paying for tickets that are given out wrongfully. He said, "Tell me what you need and I'll get it for you."

Well, that's the last I've heard from management. I would hope this would be the end of the frustration surrounding the parking here.

However, it's been back to square one. The construction company has ripped up the pavement from State Street on 23rd Street moving west to Federal Street. You cannot



**For the past two years, residents of the Harold Ickes Homes have been experiencing difficulty parking their vehicles in this CHA parking lot located at 23rd and Dearborn streets.**

Photo by Jacqueline Thompson

drive near the building you live in, so you take your chances on State Street.

There was no warning. They left big holes in the ground where water has pooled. It's dangerous walking for children and seniors and impossible for a toddler. There are no barriers, no notices revealing a time for repairs, nothing. Disrespected again.

We do expect for the apartments to be renovated. But why do we have to suffer the depths of disrepair before the dawn of renewal?

Again, if you can believe it, the mailboxes in my building - as in many others - look horrible. A few of them don't even lock.

There is a space between two banks of boxes six inches wide and 12 inches deep used for garbage, debris and trash.

The door leading from the front hallway to the back exit is dangerously hanging on one hinge over the lower one, so the top of the door leans, lying in wait to fall on some unsuspecting victim. Management seems not to care. It's been hanging this way for a month.

The bright spot in all this was the day we delivered the latest edition of RJ. The children, boys and girls, enjoyed the job. They got paid, learned skills and gained pride in a job well done.

**Dept. of Health  
AD**

# The Renowned Vernon Jordan

by Lorenzia Shelby

efore he went to college, civil rights veteran and businessman Vernon B Jordan's mother told him to join the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC), according to his book, "Vernon Can Read." All the white people she had worked for made their children join ROTC, his mother reasoned. "There must be something to it," she told the young Jordan.

Jordan was a strong-willed, determined young man who persevered in his quest to succeed. He got a good education, was a successful activist and then became a business executive as well as a consultant and friend to President Bill Clinton. Though many Americans know Jordan from his involvement in the Monica Lewinsky scenario, most African Americans know about his record of accomplishment. On Feb. 15, 2002, Radio station WVON and weekly publication N'Digo presented their annual "Breakfast of Champions" featuring a dialogue with Jordan at the Hyatt Regency. The event was hosted by Melody Spann Copper, president of WVON, and Hermene Hartman, publisher of N'Digo, and sponsored by Northern Trust.

Hartman moderated the event. Jordan is one of the nation's most distinguished businessmen and civil rights activists. Jordan held the following positions: president and chief executive officer of the National Urban League, executive director of the United Negro College Fund, and Georgia field director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Jordan holds a number of corporate and other directorships, including 17 business and 12 presidential appointments, just to name a few. Jordan is a graduate of Depauw University of Greencastle, Indiana, and Howard University Law School in Washington, D.C. He holds honorary degrees from more than 50 colleges and universities in America.

The dialogue began when Jordan said, "When I think about the early part of my life and how it helped make me the man that I have become, how lucky I was to have been born and raised in a world of structures.

"There was the structure of my family, structure of the St. Paul Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, the Gate City day nursery, my schools and the Butter Street Colored YMCA but, above all else, I had my family."

Jordan was asked about his mother's

strong motivation and guidance. "My mother had no extensive formal education. What she did have going for her was natural intelligence and an almost superhuman drive and the fact that she was a very good cook. This combination made her the owner of one of the best catering businesses in Atlanta, Georgia."

Jordan spoke very highly of his mother. "The principal architect, general contractor and bricklayer for the whole enterprise was my mother, Mary Belle Jordan, with strong assistance from my father, Vernon E. Jordan Sr. Although my father was a constant and steady presence, there was no question who was in charge of my brother and me. It was my mother's plan that mattered.

"Her strategy for getting her Black sons through childhood in the

segregated South grew out of her approach to life in general: Do the best you can and hope and expect good outcomes from your efforts."

Vernon Jordan Jr. was born Aug. 15, 1935,

in Atlanta, Georgia.

"At the time of my birth, Georgia – unreconstructed, unrepentant Georgia – the state was 70 years, one Biblical lifetime, away from the end of the legalized slavery. That was just a blink of an eye in history terms and the fallout from that history was everywhere to be seen." Jordan talked about the times that his parents took him and his brother from the city to the country in the summer to visit their grandparents, Charlie and Anne Jordan, and their aunt, Jimme Lee. He talked about how they played games, climbed trees, and got into fights with their cousin Bobby and a white boy also named Bobby.

Jordan said, "In the summer of 1947, I came into my aunt Jimme Lee's house as usual and after greeting the adults, I was ready to go outside. My cousin Bobby was already there. I said immediately, 'Let's go get Bobby,' meaning the white boy. My aunt grabbed me by the arm, held it tightly, pulled me close and said, 'Listen, you must understand that he's no longer Bobby. He is 12 years old. He is Mr. Bobby now.'

"Her words stung me, making me think about the ways of that world in a way I had

never before. 'Mr. Bobby.' I was 12 years old too. Why wasn't I 'Mr. Jordan?' I said to my cousin, 'Forget about going to see Bobby. We won't do that anymore.' That was the death of our little interracial summer band."

In 1955, Jordan had completed his sophomore year in college when he was offered an opportunity to work as an intern with an insurance company in Atlanta. He was refused the position because he was "colored," to use the term people used in those days. He did get a job in the summer of 1955 with the help of his mother. He became a chauffeur for Robert Maddox.

Jordan said, "Robert Maddox was one of the leading figures in Atlanta's white elites for most of the early part of the 20th century.

Maddox had a wonderful library that soon became a place of refuge during the dead hours of the afternoon. Shakespeare, Thoreau, Emerson, it had everything."

Jordan's book, "Vernon Can Read," continues the story: "One afternoon, as I sat reading, Maddox walked in on me. 'What are you doing in the library, Vernon?' 'I'm reading, Mr. Maddox.' 'Reading? I've never had a n——r work for me who could read.' 'I can read. I go to college.'

"'You go to college over there at the colored school?' 'No, sir. I go to Depauw University in Greencastle, Indiana.' He pondered for a moment. 'White children go to that school?' 'Yes, sir.' Then the inevitable: 'Do white girls go to that school?' 'Yes, sir.' 'What are you supposed to be, a preacher or teacher?' 'I'm going to be a lawyer.' 'N——s aren't supposed to be lawyers.' 'I'm going to be a lawyer, Mr. Maddox.' Robert Maddox told everyone he came in contact with, 'Vernon can read.'"

"This story does not have a happy ending with the old man coming to see the error of his ways and taking on the role of mentor to the young man. I would find mentors in other places. The story is told and I am not sure it is true that in 1961, when I escorted Charlayne Hunter through the mobs at the University of Georgia to desegregate that institution, Maddox was watching the well-publicized event on tele-

vision. The nurse recognized me and said, 'Mr. Maddox, do you know who that colored lawyer is?' 'I don't believe so.' 'It's your chauffeur, Vernon.' Maddox looked hard at the screen and said, 'I always knew that n——r was up to no good.'"

Jordan was asked by the moderator why most Black businessmen seem to sell their businesses just when they begin to prosper.

"Robert Johnson sold his BET television station," Hartman said. "Do you feel they have an obligation to the Black communities not to sell?"

Jordan said, "Well, that's a funny question because I feel Black, red, green or white, none of you have the right to tell me what to do with my business because that is what an entrepreneur is, an entrepreneur. He or she decides to go into business. The first thing they do, they go and raise some capital. The people who are making the judgments whether they should sell or not were not around when the capital was being raised. I have always been careful about making judgments about other people's businesses. Robert Johnson appears to have been a very good businessman. I will leave that to his business judgment what to do with his business. When I went on my first corporate board, some of the brothers said, 'Vernon Jordan has sold out.' We have to decide who we are and what we want to be not based on some community standards but our own ideals. I don't know if Robert Johnson should have sold his business or not sold his business. If I had a 10 percent stake in it, then I would have something to say, not because I am Black."

The moderator asked Jordan why his book, "Vernon Can Read," stopped in 1981 before Jordan's relationship with President Bill Clinton.

He said, "My book stopped in 1981. That's where my non-profit life ended and my for-profit life began. The first reason is my life growing up through 1981 was the most exciting time of my life. The second reason it was time that we heard about the inside up and the upside down. The third reason, had there been no civil rights movement, there would have been no corporate board meetings. The fourth reason is that most white people in America have the mistaken notion I was born Jan. 20, 1993, and I had a whole successful, happy life before that. The final reason for doing it is that it was my book and I did damn well what I pleased."

## Lathrop Homes Private Management

### (Continued From Page 8)

The management did come out and board it up but they are right back in there and it makes you afraid to come in and out.

"I don't go over to management too much. I really thought it was the same. No grade.

Another resident would like to see something done about plumbing, for this situation has been ongoing.

#### Ted Stewart

Manager of Lathrop Homes

Most of the questions that were asked of Stewart are from the complaints that I got when I spoke with residents on how they would grade private management. Stewart was a very down to earth, laid back person and he seemed to have resident concerns as one of his first priorities. When asked, he said that he thought of Lathrop as a "partnership between residents,

LAC management and the surrounding communities and if everyone one worked together, this could really be great for everyone involved. But the main thing residents need to be a part of decision making, for this is where they live and sometimes it makes things better when you are a part. For you are not going to destroy or see anyone else destroy something you are a part of.

"We intend to work on the squatter situation. We are already doing some things and it's not as bad as they once were. And all paper received from tenant patrol is checked and signed by management and hall lights and board ups are looked into as soon as possible. And work orders are being taken care of in a timely fashion and numbers should be given at time work order is placed.

"Some residents have shown appreciation to management in a lot of ways. Some will always feel we are not doing enough but we will work with and do the best we can for everyone. And as long as our budget permits, we will have residents as employees and hope we can keep a working relationship with residents, LAC management and the surrounding community to rebuild a better and stronger Lathrop for the future.

"Also, management is open for suggestions from residents on how they can be served better."

#### West Haven Management

I have had the honor of working with both the operations manager and the development manager of Henry Horner Homes and West Haven. That made it a little easier to ask questions of them. Also, both have been residents of CHA and one currently is. I pretty much asked them the same questions that the residents of Lathrop Homes wanted asked of their managers.

One question: "How does it feel to manage where you live?"

The manager answered, "Well, it really is a good thing because you get a chance to look at everything from the residents' side and you also know what type of budget you have and what you can and can't do, even though you would very much like to. And also, you pretty much know what's going on in the development because you live there so you can address and relate as well."

"Because we have heard a lot of residents tell management, 'You're not here after 5p.m.' And you pretty much know the residents who

really want to work when it comes to talking about resident jobs. So there are a lot of advantages as well disadvantages.

"Residents have spoken pretty much in favor of PM 1 management. They have worked hard trying to have a good relationship with residents as well as hiring residents. As long as we are the management here, the residents will be our first priority."

#### A West Haven Resident

"Well, some things could be better but so far management has tried to work with the residents. The work order system could be improved. And they need to work at the problem of undesirables who don't live here but want to mess up things for the residents. Most of these people are not even visiting residents. Right now, I'll just say, let's see what is ahead for the residents. Let's all try and work together to keep our homes in the way they were when we moved into West Haven for it is truly a blessing to have something so nice, be it managed by CHA or private."

"We have all got to work together to make people who are always criticizing people of CHA. Let's let them know we like nice things too."

# Stop The Violence

by Cenabeth Cross

## Courtroom Drama

In the last issue, I wrote about the three youths who were incarcerated for the Lori Roscetti murder. Omar Saunders, Calvin Ollins and his cousin, Larry Ollins, spent 15 years in prison for a murder they didn't commit. A lawyer, Kathleen Zellner, had their cases reviewed and had DNA tests taken that proved that they were not the ones. They were released Dec. 6, 2001.

The irony of the case was that there was a fourth suspect, Marcellius Bradford. He had testified against the other three and got a shorter sentence.

The case was reinvestigated and Eddie Harris, 36, and Duane Roach, 46, were arrested. They had matching DNA. They both confessed and had their first day of trial on Feb. 8. They were indicted for murder with no bond. At a press conference, Omar Saunders said that he was glad the 1 percent of doubt was cleared up.

The same day, Feb. 8, attorneys tried to have the judge changed in the Louis Schmude trial. In this case, 3 sheriff's deputies were on trial for killing an inmate in lock-up in May 2000. Schmude was alleged to have insulted a woman officer, causing the woman and two other male officers to beat and kick him until he was dead. The courtroom was 400, Judge Ronald Himel's courtroom. The change of venue was denied. The trial started again on Feb. 14. The scene in the courtroom was loud and disturbing. The lawyers and lawmakers were at each others' throats. The officers were

and cards in the hall and in front of the building to show that we were upset with the way he had been hurt. The news people came around for days. That Saturday, the day after he fell, his aunt, Brenda Jefferson, was interviewed. She said even she had reported the window to the management but nothing was done, as is the case with all of us in the complex. Sunday, management went around every apartment to repair windows. They repaired Ruby Davis' window. She was angry because it took them 4 hours and they were throwing the broken glass down on the ground outside where the children were playing.

Johnny Cochran came by in a limousine to talk to the mother and I heard from my sources that he took her case. The boy died five days later, on March 19. DaMontae Tywand Kentrel Harris' funeral was held on Wednesday, March 27. Elder Ronald Mables officiated the service.

The first time I went to see his mother, Tina Mables, she was away taking care of the funeral arrangements. Tina is a working mother and is not home all day.

On Thursday, March 28, I went back and asked a couple of questions. I then asked her if it was OK to take her picture. She said yes, and her three remaining boys pushed and crowded around her to be in the picture too.

Friday, the real estate company started to move her out at 9 a.m. They did it in an orderly fashion and had her out in no time.

DaMontae's father, Christopher Harris, was in jail when the boy died. They told me he took his son's death very hard. Christopher's mother had died just a year ago. "I will miss his little footsteps running through the house," he reportedly told people.

A couple of weeks ago, Julius Johnson

conditions for reform. Our ultimate goal is to secure for the Stateway community the same quality of law enforcement that various other neighborhoods in the city enjoy."

Jamie has been working at Stateway for about 10 years. He seems dedicated to his job.

On March 19, 2001, in the afternoon, a police car jumped a curb and hit a teenager in front of Richmond's office. Richmond had begun to document the accident as a part of his duties for the Stateway Civil Rights Project. He also criticized the officers and demanded that they take the youth to the hospital. This caused them to handcuff and arrest him. They took his belongings and destroyed his notes. The complaint states that, on the way

to the police station, they mocked him and made racial slurs. The lawsuit quotes them saying: "Who the f--- do you think you are?" They allegedly called him a "f---g monkey" and a "f---g n---r."

One is said to have laughed at his efforts to document and criticize the police and told him, "You should call your man Jesse Jackson."

The lawsuit charges that the officers filed false reports, saying that Richmond was directing narcotics traffic at the time. It also alleges that they made up evidence to retaliate against him for documenting and criticizing the mistreatment of the teenager they hit with their car.

His advocates feel he was only exercising his First Amendment rights, just doing his job. Craig Futterman from Mandel Legal Aid said, "I've known Mr. Richmond for well over a year and I'll never forget the profound fear and powerlessness that overtook him despite his fortitude and strong character, as we went together to court to answer the false criminal charges.

"If you could walk a mile in his shoes and understand all he has been through and risen above, you would know how much he hurt by being falsely labeled a criminal, not to mention the 'n' word (he was called) by the police."

Richmond was taken to the second district police station, processed and taken to court. The criminal charges against him were later dismissed. The lawsuit charges that his constitutional rights were violated, which caused him mental and emotional distress.

But the real purpose of Richmond's suit is to stop the abusive police practices in the community, Futterman said. He added that CHA residents should have the same protection as every other citizen in Chicago. They want to be treated with dignity and respect.

I wrote about Futterman in an earlier edition of the Residents' Journal. He is also handling the case where the Stateway fieldhouse's yearly basketball tournament was raided by the police.

## Help to Stop the Violence

In my quest to find ways and people who can help me stop the violence, I was informed by Kirk and Louis of a couple of ways:

A friend of Galen Eric Richmond, my oldest son, invited me to a body building championship. His name is Kirk Stoll, 37. Kirk and another friend, Louis Childress, 38, came to Galen's house for an interview on March 22. They have set up a record company called Sir Sax Productions, a part of the Big Boy produc-



Tina Mables, mother of 3-year-old DaMontae Tywand Kentrel Harris, who fell to his death in early March from a window in the CHA Ogden Courts development, poses with her remaining three sons.

Photo by Cenabeth Cross

ut the real purpose of Richmond's suit is to stop the abusive police practices in the community.

- Craig Futterman from Mandel Legal Aid

acquitted.

## Death In Ogden Courts

Tragedy struck Ogden Courts again recently. This time, it wasn't the gangs.

A 3-year-old baby fell out of the window from the apartment just above mine. He fell into the tall bushes under the windows. He was taken to Mt. Sinai Hospital, where he was put on the critical list.

The people in the building put up balloons

was shot in the head. No one knows who did it. He was found just outside the lobby. His brothers, Peter and Darren, said they don't have any knowledge of what happened either. He was known as J.J. His funeral was held on Wednesday, April 24.

## More Police Violence at Stateway

On March 18th, the Edwin F. Mandel Legal Aid Clinic of the University of Chicago Law School filed a federal lawsuit against the

City of Chicago and six Chicago officers allegedly involved in a case of false arrest and police abuse. The lawsuit names as defendants James Ryle, Jerome Finnigan, Bret Rice, Christopher Hoffman, John McGovern, and Carl Suchockim.

The lawsuit states that on March 19, 2001, Kenya Richmond was falsely arrested and abused in a racial way by the defendants. Kenya Richmond is employed by the Neighborhood Conservation Corps (NCC), a community organization at the Stateway Gardens public housing development on South State Street.

Jamie Kalven, advisor to the Stateway Local Advisory Council (LAC), said, "In the tradition of human rights monitoring, we seek to document police misconduct in order to create the

B



Kirk Stoll (left) and Louis Childress, co-owners of Sir Sax Productions record company, provide Chicago young men an outlet through music to help alleviate violence in the city.

Photo by Cenabeth Cross

tion company. This is not to be confused with Bad Boys of WGCI. They have a CD coming out in May by their first discovery, called Manzet, his trade name. Louis is the one who came up with the idea to start the music company and he wants to keep the discoveries centered on the 'young bloods' of Chicago.

The young men all went to Gillespie Elementary School together. They all started working out together at Quads gym. At one time, Quads gym was located across the street from my house on 103rd Street. It has since moved to Calumet City.

Galen's friend, Childress has since become a corrections officer with the Sheriff's Department. If you have musical talent, contact them.

Childress feels that the police have been under a great deal of stress since many officers have been killed, such as Eric Lee and Michael Ceriale. Ceriale was killed Aug. 15, 1998, at the Robert Taylor Homes. When Ceriale was killed, I worked for a dentist who worked in Cook County Jail during the day and came to his own office in the afternoon. The police from Cook County Jail came to his office to have their teeth worked on. They would come in full gear, wearing their guns, and they would have on their bullet-proof vests. I would listen to them talk about how afraid they felt.

Childress feels they need some type of outlet and is hosting a Cook County Law Enforcement Bodybuilding Championship, for men and women, on Saturday, May 25, at the South Suburban Cultural Center, 15800 South State St.

"Everything we were doing before, we still do, but we'll be doing it behind the scenes," Childress said.

Stoll has one sister and two brothers who are police officers. His father, now retired, was a policeman. Stoll went on to be a contractor and bricklayer.

Kirk told me that he used to ride his bike to Childress' house every day. They would practice in his garage. Stoll plays the drums and Childress plays the saxophone. They would also lift weights. Childress had the kind that had cement bars on the end - heavy. Stoll went on to win competitions in body building. He has many trophies and titles. Stoll is also a Mason in the St. Paul Grand Lodge, has been for 15 years.

At the first part of the interview, they laughed at me when I asked Stoll if Childress was his mentor. That was when they told me what their ages were. After the interview, we sat around talking about the Schmude trial. Childress explained that he had a feeling that the officers would be acquitted. I simply told

# Espantosas facturas de electricidad

por Beauty Turner

uchos residentes de Robert Taylor se están viendo enfrentados de repente a facturas de electricidad extremadamente altas, ¡facturas que pueden llegar a los \$10,000 o más y que pueden acarrearles la pérdida de su derecho al arrendamiento y su derecho a cambiarse a otra vivienda!

La CHA está atravesando un Plan de Transformación valorado en \$1.6 mil millones que estipula que si un residente no cumple con su arrendamiento no podrá ser reubicado a otro edificio ni a una vivienda separada ni al mismo edificio ni tampoco recibir un Vale de elección de vivienda (conocido anteriormente como vale de la Sección 8). Se puede determinar que un inquilino no cumple con el arrendamiento si no ha pagado las facturas de los servicios públicos.

Lithia Henderson, una joven madre soltera con tres hijos, se quejó: "Mis facturas eléctricas están por las nubes. ¿Cómo esperan que yo pueda pagar esta factura de \$11,000 por la luz?" Esta madre de 24 años afirmó que no tiene ni idea de cómo se computó su factura.

"Soy una persona de bajos ingresos. Vivo en una vivienda pública, no en una mansión de lujo," se lamentó.

Otro joven residente se preguntaba: "¿Cómo calculan mis facturas? No he tenido un medidor en años. ¿Por qué dejaron de cobrarnos el servicio todo este tiempo? Y ahora, de repente, fue por culpa nuestra que ellos no cobraron el servicio ni lo suspendieron ni nos avisaron. No es justo. ¿No

tiene Commonwealth Edison la mayor parte de la culpa?"

"Mucha gente en el sector privado no podría salirse con la suya haciendo algo así," aseguró otro residente de Robert Taylor. Llamé a Derek Hill, el portavoz de CHA y le pregunté acerca de estas elevadas facturas. Se llevó una fuerte impresión y me dijo que iba a investigar. Hill suponía que la CHA pagaba las facturas de servicio eléctrico para el Robert Taylor.

Hill descubrió poco después que era verdad lo que yo le había dicho acerca de las facturas tan altas.

Él respondió: "Esto hay que investigarlo."

Después de hablar con Hill, decidí llamar a Commonwealth Edison y hablar con un ejecutivo de esa compañía.

Tuve una conversación con Tim Lindberg, jefe de comunicaciones de Commonwealth Edison.

Le pregunté: "¿Cuánto tarda Commonwealth Edison en enviar un aviso cuando el cliente se atrasa con el pago de su factura?" Él me respondió: "La Comisión de Comercio de Illinois exige un aviso a los 10 días y tres días después hacemos una llamada telefónica para ver lo que responde el cliente al aviso." Entonces le pregunté por qué los residentes de Robert Taylor tenían facturas de electricidad tan elevadas. Vaciló por un momento y después me dijo: "No puedo hacer una afirmación general sobre ese tema porque la explicación varía con cada cliente. Pero puedo decirle que si una persona en el sector privado o en viviendas públicas considera que sus facturas de electricidad son demasiado altas, no tiene

que hacer nada en un principio. Simplemente llamarnos. También tenemos programas para ayudar a los residentes de bajos ingresos como el Programa de asistencia energética para luz y calefacción (LHEAP)."

Hace poco Yo participé en un programa de televisión por cable con Todd Banks, quien es el gerente de asuntos externos de Commonwealth Edison. Banks demostró gran preocupación y se sorprendió al ver la factura de electricidad por la cantidad de \$10,934.40 de un residente en viviendas públicas para personas de bajos ingresos. Le pregunté qué pensaba él que podría haber hecho la joven en su apartamento para generar una factura tan alta. Banks me respondió: "No lo sé. Pero voy

a investigarlo."

Un día después de aquel programa de televisión por cable, un camión con empleados de Commonwealth Edison apareció frente a mi edificio en 4525 S. Federal St. y le cortaron el servicio eléctrico a cuatro familias. Una de las residentes que perdió su servicio eléctrico fue Katrina Nawls, una joven mujer quien tiene una bebé recién nacida en su apartamento.

Llamé a Banks para preguntarle por qué les habían cortado el servicio a esas familias. Banks respondió: "Todos ellos deben grandes facturas de electricidad. Tienen que llamarnos y acordar un plan de pago."



**CHA's 1st Annual Employee Leadership Awards**

**CHA resident Bobbie Bolden receives the Gold Award on April 16 from CHA Board Chairperson Sharon Gist Gilliam for her more than 10 years of employment and service to public housing tenants.**

Photo by Mary C. Johns

## CHINESE TRANSLATION

**RUSSIAN TRANSLATION**

**KOREAN TRANSLATION**

# ABLA News

by Karen Owens

uddy Waters, Tracy Chapman, B.B. King Maurice White, Al Jackson, Benny Benjamin, Yolanda Addams and Mahalia Jackson are just many of the African American entertainers past and present whose brand of entertainment was showcased in front of the standing-room-only crowd.

The audience consisted of many family, friends and other well-wishers who came out to the Duncan/ABLA YMCA during Black History Month to show support for ABLA youth who participated in the event.

The program, sponsored by the Merit School of Music and its partners, the Duncan YMCA and ABLA's Local Advisory Council, was entitled "Music Without Boundaries."

The program came from classes which were offered 4 days a week after school, allowing the youths to take instruction in guitar, percussion and choir. Some of those in attendance at the event were as young as six and had never played any type of musical instrument. But the youth showed great enthusiasm performing as well as any seasoned performer. Some of the selections touched on various types of music. One group of youth sang "Fallin'" by Grammy Award-winning artist Alicia Keys. The highlight of the evening was a rendition of "I Feel Good" by legendary R&B singer James Brown done by one of the students, which had the crowd clapping and cheering along.

After the magnificent performance, those in attendance were treated to pizza and soda. This also gave them a chance to talk with the guests and allowed the guests to congratulate the staff on what a wonderful job they had done. One student said he was happy to do something positive within the community and learn something as well.

### A Fond Farewell

One of the many units that make up part of ABLA known as the Grace Abbott high rise is coming down.

Demolition has begun at one of the 3 units scheduled to come down. The building 1510 W. 14th Place served as a home to many ABLA residents, some of whom still call ABLA home today. One former resident, while exiting a CTA bus, stood in shock and disbelief, saying he never thought he would live to see the day when the 15-story building would come down. A tear fell from his eye.

### ABLA Service Connector

On Wednesday, March 6, the West Side cluster of the ABLA Service Connector held a resource fair for ABLA residents.

Over 200 residents turned out for the fair, which was held at the Marcy-Newberry Center, center of the West Side Service Connector. Various social service agencies set up tables, held raffles, passed out brochures, and talked before the crowds and also to individual residents about programs that could be beneficial to them. Refreshments were served as well. Below are just some of the program participants: West Side

Future, the Inner Voice, RTA & CTA Free Bus Passes, United Health Care, Westside Employment Education Center, and STRIVE.

After opening remarks from LAC President Deverra Beverly and Ray Bentley of Marcy-Newberry Association/West Cluster Service Connector, residents were offered small group sessions on programs such as "Getting and Keeping a Job in the New Millennium," "Money Smart," and "Entrepreneurial

Opportunities."

A special point of the event was the opportunity to register for free eye exams and glasses for residents over 40 from the 32 Degrees/NCC with support from the Gilead Outreach and Referral Center. Many residents arrived early to take advantage of these many services.

One senior resident commented on the event:

"My hat goes off to ABLA's Service Connector and our LAC for providing us with this opportunity."

reduced fare permit card. The agency was on-site.

"The participants were very helpful in providing information necessary to residents. I am very pleased to live in a community such as ABLA that keeps its residents' well-being first. I hope that we have more resource fairs in the near future.

"My hat goes off to ABLA's Service Connector and our LAC for providing us with this opportunity."



## Want help with homework?

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago's POWER HOUR is just what you need! Free tutoring is available in math and reading for Club members ages 6 through 12. For more information, please call:

### Daniel A. Cotter Boys & Girls Club

2915 N. Leavitt  
Chicago, IL 60618  
773-348-1866

### George M. Eisenberg Boys & Girls Club

1207 W. Taylor St.  
Chicago, IL 60607  
312-226-6633

### Robert Taylor Boys & Girls Club

5120 S. Federal  
Chicago, IL 60609  
773-924-6160

ComEd  
A regulated utility



Brought to you by Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago - The Positive Force for Kids and ComEd - Supporting the Power of Education

Photo by Mary C. Johns

# Lathrop Homes News

by Bobby Watkins

On April 17, there was a march to stop the violence in Lathrop Homes. The march took off from the Cotter Boys and Girls Club.

In attendance were members of the Cotter Club as well as staff along with Local Advisory Council members as well as the CHA Service Connectors, members of the Tenant Patrol and staff of the DePaul University Urban Systems of Care, members of Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy and officers of the 19th District.

There could and should have been more residents of the community involved, especially since a young

man was killed in the community a couple of weeks before the march. There have been reports of gunfire being heard in the development and the summer hasn't even started yet. Let's hope this march is the beginning of many such events to help the residents and, most of all, our children to have a safe and violent-free summer in all developments, not just Lathrop Homes. Our children deserve to be in a safe environment. On April 19, the City of Chicago had its Clean Day and Roll Call in Lathrop Homes. The event brought people out from all over Chicago. Police officers were there in addition to officials from CHA, the City Department of Sewers, the Hamlin Park neighbors, the Illinois Department of Forestry, the Illinois

Department of Animal Control, US Dwellings Management, the Lathrop Local Advisory Council, City Department of Streets of Sanitation and the CAPS program as well as the new police commander of the public housing unit and state Senator-nominee Iris Martinez. Thanks to everyone who came out to this event.

Also, it is that time of year again. Friends of the River and the River Committee with the help of Joe Vega will have river rescue day along the river and will also clean along the Jimmy Thomas Nature Trail.

Anyone wanting to help, please contact Earl Battles at the LAC at 312-791-8740 for more information. All ages are welcome.

## Ickes' New Managers

(Continued from Page 5)

RJ: Suppose people don't get a lot of money. What then?

BT: We show you how to get whatever you make and make it work for you.

RJ: In what ways?

BT: We show you how not to let the government take too much from your check and how not to buy too much insurance.

RJ: What if they already have an insurance agent and too much insurance?

BT: I can point out that an insurance agent is not necessarily interested in money management.

RJ: Is there any more you do to educate individuals?

BT: I sit down with the people and talk about money, time, value...how to get your money to work for you.

RJ: In what ways?

BT: How not to spend money when they don't want to, need

to, or can't afford to.

Taylor said his service may be the key to dispelling many financial woes and planning for the future of the whole family. Other service providers were just as eager to welcome the residents and to assure them of the integrity of their services. LaRabida Children's Hospital passed out vital information about children's asthma, a sometimes fatal disease. Staff members spoke at length with concerned parents and invited them to seek the assistance of the hospital's medical staff and to visit the lakefront facility.

The newly developed South Side YMCA brought information on programming opportunities for all ages. Summer day camping for children, introduction to computer lessons for seniors, swimming and exercise for all adults. All these offerings are family oriented and can be utilized for nominal fees. Besides these good qualities, the site of the South Side YMCA, is localized and easy to get to.

The University of Chicago joined the bandwagon with their Pediatric Immunization Program (PIP). They offered information and invited to enroll small children.

A company call Strive presented an invitation to young fathers who did not live with their children to join a program called Successful Fathers.

The description of the four-week job readiness workshop could encourage many young men who are floundering outside of their families to seek a way to turn their lives around and make a difference in the lives of their children. I spoke to Shawn Slatton at one Strive location, 4910 S. King Drive. She was able to report a successful track record with 70 percent of clients who have gone through the steps to improve their life styles successfully per month. The parenting classes and support groups for fathers to talk about what it takes to be a responsible parent could be a real breakthrough for one of our community's now serious social issues.



**Ted Stewart (from left), officer manager of Lathrop Homes, police officer Kenneth Zator, Iris Martinez, state senatorial nominee, LAC Vice President Robert Davidson, LAC President Juanita Stephenson and Christine Oliver pose in Lathrop Homes recently.**

Photo by Bobby Watkins

Duncan YMCA Chernin Center for the Arts presents

# THE SHOEBOX SERIES

Theater for ages 3 to 8 and their families  
every Wednesday at 10am & Saturday at 11am

Featuring such exciting companies as  
**Chocolate Chips Children's Theater, Children's Theater Fantasy Orchard,  
The Mystery Shop, and Terrapin Theatre's Turtle Soup**

**A New Show Every Month through May! Catch them all!**

**November - The Little Turtle - A fun-filled musical that will have everyone tapping their feet and will help children understand the importance of acceptance.**

**December - The Mystery Shop's Fantastical Holiday Stories - Enjoy the holidays with song, dance and merriment. Everyone will get involved!**

Tickets just \$6.50. Group sales available, too. Call today, or drop by to visit!

**Duncan YMCA Chernin Center for the Arts  
1001 West Roosevelt Rd. • 312-738-5999**



**There's Always  
Something Exciting  
In a Child's Shoebox!**

# Letters to the Editor

## NC Scattered Sites

**Dear Editor:**

Residents of the North Central Scattered Sites need to get involved and attend the monthly Local Advisory Council meetings, where they will hear about the CHA Transformation Plan, Section 8 vouchers, relocation and other changes that may affect them as residents of CHA. Know your rights as a tenant.

The meetings are held every Wednesday at the LAC office at 1224 N. Campbell at 6 p.m. The monthly meetings dates for 2002 are

as follows:

April 24 May 22  
June 26 July 25,  
Aug. 22 Sept. 25  
Oct. 24 Nov. 27  
Dec. 18

Every Monday, with the exception of holidays, a Farmer's Market and the Chicago Greater Food Depository distribute free fruit and vegetables to North Central Scattered Site residents. The food is distributed at 1224 N. Campbell

from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and at 3301 W. Schubert, #E from noon to 2:30 p.m. Call (773) 395-8433 or 8423 for both locations' summer distribution hours.

**-Maria Fonseca**  
**LAC President**  
**North Central Scattered Sites**



**NW Scattered Site Local Advisory Council President Maria Fonseca (left) and Yvette, a scattered site resident volunteer, prepare fruits and vegetables for distribution to needy public housing residents scattered within the community.**

Photo by Bobby Watkins

## CHA Boys & Girls Clubs

**Dear Editor:**

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago is one of the largest youth-serving agencies in Chicago. We have over 19 sites citywide, including three in CHA developments:

Daniel A. Cotter (Lathrop), George M. Eisenberg (ABLA), and Robert Taylor (Taylor).

Many people think of Boys & Girls Clubs as just a place for kids to enjoy a swim and the gym. However, they will be pleased to know

we're so much more than that. Thanks to our network of resources, we help shape the future. We would like to invite CHA residents to attend our 4th Annual College Fair, which will take place on Wednesday, May 8, 2002.

Attendees will have an opportunity to talk with college recruiters, learn how to secure money and scholarships for college, hear what it takes to be a success college athlete, and get other important information.

The College Fair will be held at the James Jordan Boys & Girls Club, located at 2102 West Monroe, from 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Admission is free and the general public is invited. For additional information, please call Ayoka Samuels at 312-226-2323. Please come out and explore the world after high school. There are endless possibilities! Hope to see you on May 8th.

**-Deborah Levi**  
**Director of Communications**  
**Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago**

## Wisdom Beyond Our Years

### by Dr. Bill Miller Haymarket Center

It has been wisely said that maturity doesn't come with age. Maturity comes with acceptance of responsibility. This is a truth that makes all the difference to the chances of success for our clients at Haymarket Center.

Some of the key features of any addiction include the need to control all things and people to assure their good feeling. Another feature of addiction is the strong tendency to blame anyone and everyone for the problems and difficulties in life. The individual who has these thoughts and believes that this is the only way

to handle life wants all the power but none of the responsibility for their life. Regardless of his action, such an individual is sure it's not his fault. For whatever happens, he sees himself as the ultimate victim.

There are occasions that those of us who are not candidates for an addiction treatment program feel the same way. Addicts do not have a lock on his thought process and belief system. We too can fall into this trap if we are unwilling to own our decisions and actions. This is not as easy as it would sound. We live in a world that is usually looking to find fault and blame for anything that doesn't go the way it is expected to. It doesn't matter if the expectations were realistic or not. The result is that we are made to look and feel foolish if we refuse to blame others and instead take appropriate responsibility.

This explains the frequent, childlike behavior that we see all around us, of course. Maturity doesn't come with age. It comes with acceptance of responsibility.

When our clients begin to grasp this truth, suddenly they make great progress in making the changes necessary for real recovery to take place. It is truly amazing to see the significant growth in maturity that takes place when an immature addict stops living as a victim. When anyone accepts that their response to the difficulties and problems in life has been greatly influenced by the decisions they freely made, true

maturity begins to be evident in their life. The only hope we have at being positively different is to be responsible for life and accept the reality that others do not have the power in our life that we want to give them.

## Watch Residents' Journal Television

Monday nights beginning April 1 thru June 24 on Channel 21 (Cable Access Network CAN-TV). The staff of **Residents' Journal** will host a live call-in show from 7 p.m. - 7:25 p.m. Topics will include housing, welfare reform, security, Medicare and a range of other issues that we publish. We encourage all viewers but particularly Chicago public housing residents to tune in and call our hotline number at (312) 738-1060.

## Crystal Clear Views

In this issue, I would like to do things a little differently; I want to talk about my experience as a new young mother and share advice with other new moms like myself. Like in any other situation, there are ups and downs in motherhood. These past two months that I've shared with my daughter Jelyssa have been wonderful! I've accomplished many tasks in my life but none have been as hard or as rewarding as being a mother.

When I first brought her home, I thought the sleepless nights were never going to end. I found that having a daily bedtime routine helped her to sleep better through the night. Nobody will know your baby better than you so everyone should have his or her own individual routine. Some babies like to be rocked; others like to be sung to. In whatever you decide to do, make sure you're consistent.

In the beginning, when it came to feeding time, I was breastfeeding and formula feeding so she wasn't on any kind of schedule and she



**Crystal Medina**

always cried and wanted to eat. I suggest if you're formula feeding, keep your baby on a schedule. This will give you more time. Remember, breastfeeding is best and formula is just an alternative. It's a decision totally up to the mother.

When she cries, there are a couple of

things that work and the trick is just pay close attention to what your baby likes. My daughter likes to watch TV. She likes it when I rock and sing to her and she likes the peek-a-boo game.

I also suggest finding your baby a favorite object. It can be a blanket, toy, etc. Strangely enough, my baby has a special bottle nipple. These are just some suggestions and I hope you've found them helpful.

Motherhood is learning process.

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

**Patricia Johnson-Gordon**

Dear Resident,

As I sit in my apartment preparing to write my column for this edition of RJ, I can't help but find myself awestruck by the power of words spoken, written and implied. Especially as I hear them, indoors through the television and radio, next door from my neighbors' apartments and outdoors from people as they walk, pass or stand in the street.

Only the air that surrounds us is more invasive (involving entry into the body) than the spoken word. And in our community, more often than not, the words being propelled through the air are unpleasant, foul and profane as they have become a part of our everyday vernacular (vocabulary). Profane words used in our daily speech but not necessarily in a profane manner.

Words - children talking as they play, a friend, relative or neighbor calling to another from a window, someone yelling from or at a passing car, a frustrated man or woman yelling profanities at a child or a street full of people, for their entertainment, inciting others to settle their differences by fighting.

The worst, few words, just the sounds that one makes in response to the physical pain of being repeatedly hit, stomped and kicked. The most disturbing, the sound of a small child crying. Something I just heard, "I'm gonna' throw some alcohol on that b--- and set her a- on fire."

"Beneath the rule of men entirely great, the pen (the written word) is mightier than the sword" is a popular quotation from a play written by an 18th century British playwright. While a sharp instrument may pierce the body, words harsh can pierce the soul. In the Bible, the Word is said to be alive, exerting power and sharper than any two-edged sword. Words are powerful tools but they can also be a powerful

weapon. Words eloquently spoken have been of great benefit to humanity, while words harshly spoken have incited men to war. Our rights are given to us in the form of words but we must be able to understand and interpret those words in order to protect our rights. Whenever matters need to be settled, from the conflict in the Middle East to a dispute between two small children, it is by means of the spoken word that we reach agreement. The ability to understand words and how to use them increases our ability to understand and function in the world around us. Those

of us with limited words are most apt

to act out physically as we become frustrated and are unable to communicate by use of words. I have always understood the value of words. But only recently have I come to appreciate their immense power. In addition to our genetic make-up, words and their understanding can increase

be sorry. Be careful." You never know which words will be your last ones. When parting, always let your last words be pleasant ones. Certainly, our first experience is with spoken word. But in addition to speaking and writing words, we must also learn to hear and interpret words. When we were very young, we listened

**You never know which words will be your last ones.  
When parting, always let your last words be  
pleasant ones.**

**Y**

not only what we do but what we become. They describe us and our world. They can comfort, soothe and support or hurt, harm and destroy. They can build us up or tear us down. The words that we communicate to our children, especially when they are

intently in an effort to experience the world around us. As we grow older, we tend to focus on the words of interest to us. Only when we are cautioned or feel threatened do we become skilled listeners, hanging not only to every word but every sound as well.

Truly, we will speak only as well as we hear. Therefore, we must become skilled listeners, carefully choosing not only the words that we speak but the words that we allow ourselves to hear as well, for they too will become a part of who we are.

If we are fortunate, the written word is introduced to us through reading before we start school. But the most focused word instruction to this date are the words from the school spelling books learned, defined and tested on a weekly basis at the elementary school level. It is of no benefit to know a word if you don't know what it means. Not knowing the meaning of one word in a sentence or paragraph can prevent you from completely understanding what is being said. No home should be without a dictionary. Encourage children to look-up words that they do not know. As a family activity, select one word a week and use the word in conversation during the week. Also, look up words that you may hear others use in conversation, on the radio and television. It is a great way to increase your children's vocabulary as well as your own.

Words are also an art form, painted (even on our clothing), spoken in poetry, prose and rap or sang in song giving us pleasure. And after having given all this thought to word, I could not help but ponder the question, "What one word could possibly make a difference as we attempt to get along with one another in our homes, communities and world?"

"Love" is the first word that came to mind. But after further thought, the one word would have to be "Respect." "Respect," as defined by New World Dictionary, is "to show consideration for; avoid intruding upon or interfering with." But that's another column. To be continued...

Respectfully,  
Pat



**NBC channel 5 news anchorman Art Norman (seated left) and Chicago Defender newspaper columnist Vernon Jarrett (standing) are two of the city's best known word smiths. (expert on the use of words).**

Photo by Patricia Johnson-Gordon

young, will shape their minds (the way they think), their hearts (the way they feel) and their spirits (the way they behave) regarding themselves, others and the world around them.

**o home should be without a dictionary...As a family activity, select one word a week and use the word in conversation during the week.**

**N**

Words can hit as hard as a fist, especially when speaking to a child. Think of the words "ugly," "stupid," "dumb," "fat" or "ignorant." Words can damage close relationships when spoken in anger. Think of "Shut-up." "Don't touch me." "Get away from me." "Don't talk to me." "I can't stand you." The words "I'm sorry" cannot erase damage done. They only indicate remorse for having done the damage. The words we use should be chosen carefully, resisting the urge to use words to the injury of others. My motto is, "Don't

Respectfully,  
Pat

**Attention: ALL CHICAGO PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS**



**FREE!!!**



## **COMPUTER CLASSES**

**SIGN UP NOW ...FIRST COME FIRST SERVE. HOURS M-F 9A-12P; 1P-4P; 6P-9P**

### **Technology Learning Center**

**4859 S. Wabash Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60615-1008**

**Phone: 773-285-0200**

**Fax: 773-285-1150**

**TO REGISTER CALL:**

**773-285-0200**

**Web Site:**

**www.thefic.org**

**RESIDENTS OF  
EMPOWERMENT  
ZONE CALL FOR  
MORE INFORMATION**



Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center CEO Zenobia Johnson-Black with New York Congressman Charles Rangle (15th district), and Illinois Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. (2nd district) during a tour of the FIC in March 2002.

Hayes Center photo by Owen Lawson III

### **GED PREPARATION CLASSES**

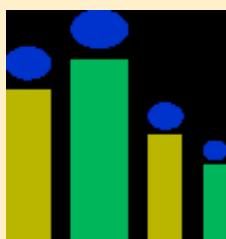
### **“HOW TO WORKSHOPS”**

### **CISCO CLASSES**

### **MICROSOFT OFFICE USER SPECIALIST**

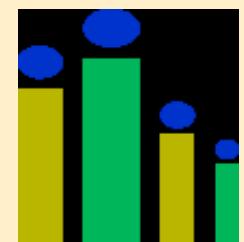
### **MICROSOFT WORD, EXCEL, POWER- POINT, AND ACCESS**

### **INTERNET ACCESS AND FREE MAIL**



**“Developing  
Human Capital”**

**CHARLES A. HAYES  
FAMILY INVESTMENT CENTER  
4859 South Wabash Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60615  
(773) 285-0200**



**“Developing  
Human Capital”**

**Zenobia Johnson-Black, President & CEO**



Residents' Journal/March-April p.24

**www.wethepeoplemedia.org**