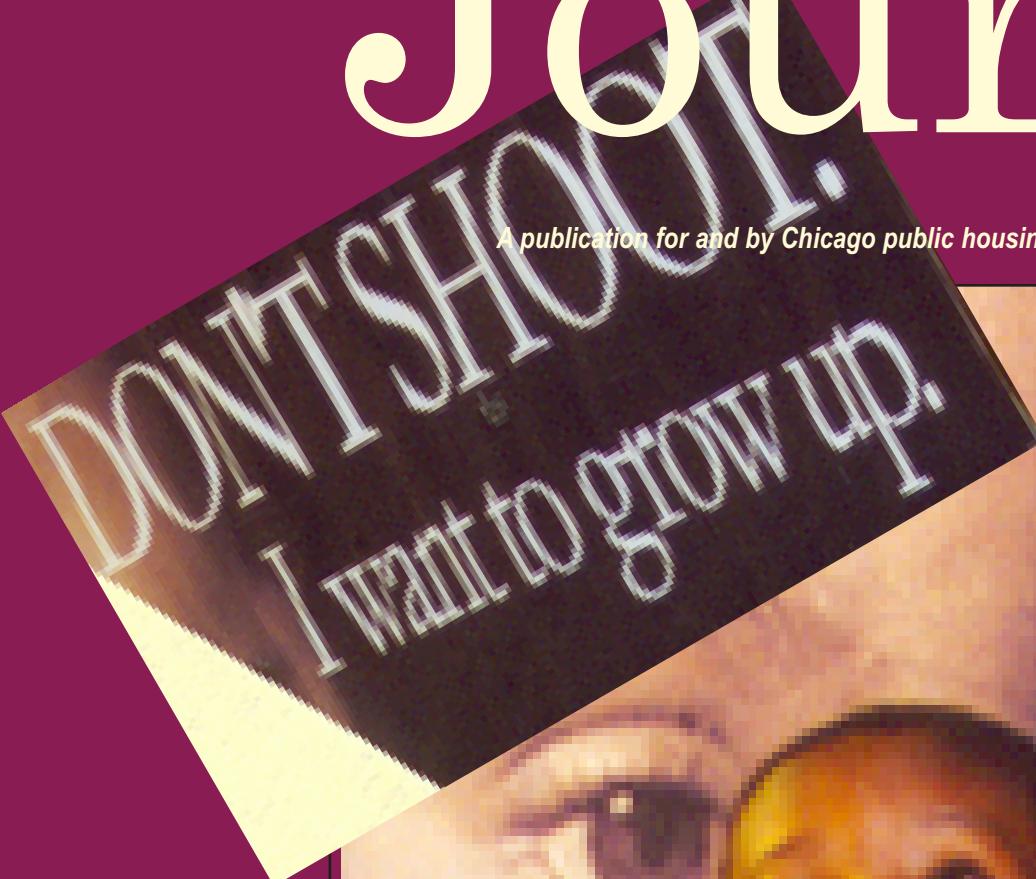


R E S I D E N T S ' JOURNAL

A publication for and by Chicago public housing residents August 2000 /Volume 4/ Number 6

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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.

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### by Ethan Michaeli



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*Residents' Journal* and the **Urban Youth International Journalism Program Section** Looking Different...by Latonya Wolfe Teen Self-Esteem....by Veronica Williams

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# Transforming CHA Demolishing Prairie Courts

by Andre Robinson

**W**hy demolish the Prairie Courts development?

Well, let's look at what we have. McCormick Place just built its new convention center and hotel. The Chicago White Sox baseball team has a new Comiskey Park. Lou Rawls has a theatre that will be built on the land where the old Regal Theatre once stood. Then there's the expansion of Illinois Institute of Technology, and right across from there is the new police headquarters and a new military high school on 35<sup>th</sup> Street and Giles Avenue. Add to it the new Jazz McDonalds and guess what you have? Bronzeville 2000.

With condos and townhouses priced in the six digits, there's no wonder that the

**because Prairie Courts is a city/state development, the property is ineligible for federal funding, which is why Prairie Courts is not a part of CHA's \$1.5 billion transformation plan.**

land in the vicinity 26<sup>th</sup> Street and Martin Luther King Drive has become a valuable piece of real estate.

Prairie Courts, a fixture on Chicago's near South Side, will soon become history and in its place will be South Park Plaza, a proposed 235-unit development. Construction on South Park Plaza would begin in November and be completed in about a year. Phase one would include two four-story mid rises at 26<sup>th</sup> and King Drive and 26<sup>th</sup> and Prairie, containing a total of 95 units. Phase two, which would begin in late 2001, would add 93 town homes. In addition, 47 two- and three-bedroom duplex units will be scattered throughout the site. Rents for non-subsidized units will range from \$700 to \$1,100 per month.

Prairie Courts was built in 1951 and originally provided 326 dwelling units contained in 13 buildings - 1 high-rise, 3

of choice rather than last resort."

Residents of Prairie Courts have known about the redevelopment plans since 1999. But details about relocation have been discussed only recently, said Local Advisory Council president Pastell Farrow.

"Some of our seniors have lived there for 30 or 40 years," Farrow said. "It's hard for them to readjust because that's where they've lived all of their lives."

Another resident named Joe is ready for the change. "These buildings are terrible. Whenever they say the word, I will be



**This building at 26th Street and Prairie Avenue is scheduled for demolition this November to make way for South Park Plaza.**

Photo by Andre Robinson

There are currently 98 families living in Prairie Courts and the Woodlawn Community Development Corporation will agree to 62 units under their agreement with CHA. So I guess the Woodlawn Community Development Corporation is hoping for many residents to be 'non-compliant' with their new leases or will most certainly be putting those Housing Choice Vouchers (the new name for Section 8 vouchers or certificates) to use.

Relocation/Replacement housing options for existing Prairie Courts residents include Housing Choice Vouchers for placement in new units on site, transfers to private sector housing, and transfers to other CHA and/or Woodlawn Community Development Corporation housing opportunities.

The Woodlawn Community Development Corporation, at their own cost, will be responsible for all relocation activities consistent with CHA standards and will provide a Family Self-Sufficiency Program to the affected CHA residents.

In addition, minority and women business owners will be involved and federal rules requiring the hiring of residents will be achieved within this project and are included in the development agreement.



**Residents of Prairie Courts hope this statue of Bronzeville's African American immigrants isn't waving goodbye to them.**

Photo by Andre Robinson

mid-rises and 9 row-house structures. Presently, 71 percent of the units are vacant. Just 96 units are occupied. CHA claims age, lack of capital funding and neglected maintenance have caused the building systems and site infrastructure to deteriorate.

In 1998, the high-rise building located at 2618 S. King Drive was closed due to life/safety hazards and code violations. Because Prairie Courts is a city/state development, the property is ineligible for federal funding, which is why Prairie Courts is not a part of CHA's \$1.5 billion transformation plan.

"The CHA does not have the money to fix the development," said Leon Finney Jr., who has managed Prairie Courts since 1994 as executive director of The Woodlawn Organization.

"What we want is a seamless community where there are no class or ethnic distinctions. This is going to be a community

ready to go. There are only two to three residents on each floor anyway, so they just might as well tear them down and start over."

But when RJ asked Joe if he thought he will be allowed to move back in when the new homes are completed, Joe replied, "There is a statue in the middle of 26<sup>th</sup> and King Drive of a man carrying a suitcase and waving. I just hope that he is not waving 'bye' to the residents of Prairie Courts."

The CHA, which is providing no dollars for the redevelopment, will provide a Warranty Deed for the existing 11 buildings to be demolished by the Woodlawn Community Development Corporation and provide a 60-year Land Lease with a Leasehold interest in the land at Prairie Courts. The CHA will receive 25 percent of all newly constructed units, approximately 62 units - 44 units in Phase I and 18 units in Phase II.

Now let's take our calculators out.

## An RJ Update: Resident Leaders Reject Lease

by Mary C. Johns

The three resident representatives on the 10-member Chicago Housing Authority Board of Commissioners opposed the majority vote for approval of the amended Residential Lease Agreement during an Aug. 15 CHA Board meeting at the senior building at 1611 S. Racine Ave. Central Advisory Council President Mamie Bone, Wentworth Gardens Resident Management Corporation President Hallie Amey and Ida B. Wells Local Advisory Council President Sandra Young were the only members to vote against the new lease.

Young said "things still need to be worked out"

with the new lease and that she didn't know how it came to be presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval. In the April 2000 edition of *Residents' Journal* in the article, "Is CHA Lease Compliant," I noted that the new lease will define what the term 'lease compliant' means. Only residents who are 'lease compliant' will be allowed to move back into renovated units, receive Housing Choice Vouchers or other benefits. At the time, the new lease was still in draft form, undergoing review and open to public comment. CHA did not know at the time how many residents would be considered 'lease compliant.' Agency officials have not yet announced how many residents are or are not lease compliant.

Stay tuned for further updates on this issue.



**"Casper Slide" inventor Willie Scott, aka Casper, celebrates with Prairie Courts youths during the Back to School Picnic at Dunbar Park.**

Photo by Andre Robinson

# Transforming CHA More Vouchers, Less Housing

by Mary C. Johns

**C**hicago Housing Authority residents being relocated from developments into the private market are facing landlords who discriminate against them and refuse to fix up units or fail to pay utility bills, according to housing advocates.

Residents using the Housing Choice Vouchers - formerly known as Section 8 vouchers or certificates - to move into the private market may be evicted and even left homeless because of the landlords' neglect of their properties. Housing advocates say there is a shortage of housing for very low-income families and that what units are available are rapidly disappearing.

In the next five years, approximately 6,000 families in CHA developments undergoing redevelopment will be searching for housing in an already tight housing market. The advocates say CHA residents being relocated will compete for housing for the poor with the 60,000 families on waiting lists for Housing Choice Vouchers and public housing. Advocates say the shortage of housing could increase homelessness.

## More Vouchers for Less Housing

**C**HA's Plan for Transformation depends on the private market to supply residents with housing. Many residents from Robert Taylor Homes, Ida B. Wells and Madden Park Homes may soon have to choose between staying in filthy, decrepit conditions or taking their chances in the open market.

CHA officials recently announced that residents relocated during the 1999 "Winterization" plan will soon have to relocate again. And residents of the Ida B. Wells and Madden Park developments currently undergoing redevelopment under a \$35 million Hope VI grant will soon have to relocate. Redevelopment projects also are underway at

rent to her due to a past eviction that wasn't Doe's fault, Grauer said.

Grauer said Doe's mother - the sole source of income for an apartment they shared - died. Without money to pay the rent, Doe and her children were evicted. Doe is currently moving from shelter to shelter.

And former Cabrini-Green resident Darlene Sandlin is having a hard time keeping a place because of being taken to court by landlords who refused to make repairs to the unit.

Grauer said Sandlin faces eviction a second time because her current landlord also took her to court since CHAC - the company that administers the Housing Choice Voucher - stopped paying the rent because the landlord did not pass the required Housing Quality Standards (HQS) inspection.

"They (CHAC) gave the landlord notice and the landlord said, 'Forget it. I'm not fixing it.' So Section 8 stopped paying," said Grauer.

"The landlord then filed an eviction notice against Sandlin in which the judge sided with the landlord and said, 'Well, if the landlord doesn't want to make the repairs, he doesn't have to but he should get money for the unit.' So he ordered her evicted."

Part of the 1996 court-ordered relocation agreement CHA had with Sandlin and other former residents of her closed Cabrini-Green high-rise building was that CHA would provide relocation and housing assistance for 42 months (3 1/2 years) after their move.

Grauer said because it's beyond the 42 months that CHA agreed to provide assistance, Sandlin has no way of moving.

"She can't afford the moving expenses (or) the security deposit which she has to come up with," said Grauer.

"She has no place to go. She's stuck."

"She's stuck with a Section 8 certificate that she's not going to be able to use."

Grauer said the clearest case of discrimination by a landlord towards a Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) recipient - although hard to

"Why should I have to fix the place up for people and 5 months after they get in there, the walls need painting again or the face bowl is torn off the wall," said the landlord.

One South Side landlord who does rent to Section 8 recipients said many landlords he knows feel the same way the landlord above does. Many landlords don't want the headache of the paperwork in the processing of payments from the Section 8 vouchers.

"The paperwork that you have to be bothered with, a lot of people don't want to be bothered with that. They want to keep life real simple," he said.



**This heap of rubble from the old Ida B. Wells Extensions, torn down in late 1999, portends the demolition of 10 CHA buildings in October.**

Photo by Arminta Clark Muhammad

minated their Section 8 contracts or dropped out of the program.

In the buildings where people now must pay market rates, rents sometimes rose 50 percent, according to the National People's Action in Chicago and Housing America's recent 24-page study, "A New Direction: How FHA Surpluses Can Solve America's Housing Crisis."

The study also revealed that a \$5 billion surplus from the Federal Housing Administration's (FHA) home insurance fund last year could fund over 4,000 new affordable housing units in Chicago with its share of roughly \$108 million, if it is invested in construction and preservation of affordable housing instead of returning the funds to the U.S. Treasury.

Gordon Mayer of the Chicago-based National Training and Information Center said he doesn't think landlords have to be forced into the Housing Choice Voucher program.

"You don't have to make it a law that they have to stay in," Mayer said.

"You just have to make sure that there's enough money out there so that it's in their interest to stay. And that's what this bill would do."

"We're saying, here's \$5 billion. You split that up all across the country and it makes it possible for a lot more apartments to get built, or to save a lot more of the apartments that might go to market rate apartments right now," said Mayer.

The study also recommended a bill be passed for "creation of a permanent National Housing Trust charged with ensuring FHA surpluses are legally earmarked for affordable housing."

U.S. Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) introduced the bill to the Senate the week of July 24. If passed, the bill would come out in the fall.

Sharon Lagenza, a staff attorney for the Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights who has knowledge of a few Section 8-related court cases, said mandatory landlord participation in the Section 8 program is a good idea.

"If landlords knew that they had to participate, it would give them one less reason to reject people, particularly low-income people," Lagenza said.

However, she thinks such a law would be hard to pass politically.

Lagenza said there are but a handful of court cases in which Section 8 recipients take landlords to court for discrimination. She strongly urged tenants who believe they have been discriminated against because of the Section 8 voucher to go to the Chicago Commission on Human Relations and file a complaint at (312) 744-4111.

**M**y client is stuck with a Section 8 certificate that she's not going to be able to use.

- Brenda Grauer, an attorney with the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago

ABLA Homes, Henry Horner Homes and Cabrini-Green.

Many of these families will receive Housing Choice Vouchers during the redevelopment and begin their search for housing among thousands of others also looking for affordable units.

The housing crisis has caused a stir among local suburban officials. The mayor of Harvey complained recently about a high number of CHA residents relocating into his city.

The housing crisis also has resulted in lawsuits from various sides. Housing Choice Voucher recipients and landlords are battling it out in court, sparking some to call for forcing landlords into accepting Housing Choice Vouchers.

## Section 8 Woes

**B**renda Grauer, an attorney with the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago, said instances of a person in the housing voucher program on "zero rent" and landlords' refusals to make repairs in their apartments sometimes lead to evictions.

Jane Doe, a mother of 5 currently in the Housing Choice Voucher program, remains homeless because landlords are not willing to

prove - is when a tenant is already living in the unit and then receives the Housing Choice Voucher.

She said the only real threat to a landlord is the City of Chicago's ordinance, which could force a landlord who refuses a Housing Choice Voucher to pay a \$500 fine.

## Landlords' Response

Despite the discrimination faced by many public housing tenants looking for housing in the private market, landlords interviewed said they would have a problem with forced participation in the program.

In 1987, the Massachusetts Supreme Court found in the Attorney General v. Brown case that states could require landlords to participate in the then-Section 8 program.

While some landlords said they should not wrongfully withhold housing just because of a person's social or economic status, others said they should have the right to rent to whoever they choose and don't consider it discrimination.

"What about me?" said an angry Southwest Side landlord who is not willing to rent to Section 8 recipients.

"What are my rights?

Glenn said the voucher program's landlord outreach efforts mainly consist of working with various groups, organizations and churches, hosting quarterly landlord workshops and issuing monthly landlord newsletters. She said the landlords are interested in the housing assistance program because of the assurance of a steady income supply.

"The landlords are interested because of a steady stream of income. Once a month, they know that they are going to get the majority of their rent," she said.

## Possible Housing Solutions?

**H**ousing critics and civil rights attorneys are discussing many solutions to curb the housing crisis. These advocates have discussed a Trust Fund for the \$5 billion surplus from the Federal Housing Administration's (FHA) home insurance fund last year as well as mandatory landlord participation in the Housing Choice Voucher program.

Nationally, low-income families have suffered a loss of available housing. A 1999 National Housing Trust study shows 100,000 Section 8 project-based units were lost from the nation's housing supply because landlords ter-

# Transforming CHA

## The CHA Relocation Contract

by Debbie Britton

The residents of CHA want to know what is going on with the Relocation Agreement.

The Relocation Agreement came about because the new CHA plan calls for rehabbing and demolition of almost all CHA units and the relocation of all current residents. In some developments, while CHA is rehabbing old apartments, residents will be moved to another part of their development. In developments where demolition is taking place, residents will be moved to another development while new units are supposed to be built in their old development.

Resident leaders fought to get the Relocation Agreement to protect residents' rights during CHA's five-year "transformation." For the residents, the Relocation Agreement spells out what it means to be 'lease compliant.' Only 'lease compliant' residents will be allowed to stay in CHA.

A draft of this agreement was made available to all CHA residents in March. The CHA Board of Commissioners passed the Relocation Agreement Aug. 15. Residents still are saying they want their questions answered.

Residents want to know, "Why didn't we hear anything about the relocation contract during the four months since the draft agreement was released?" "Have there been any revisions made to this contract?" "Once the contract is finalized and approved, when will it go into effect?" "Who relocates the residents? Where, when, and how?" "Who will be responsible for the moving costs?"

In the next few months, people from Robert Taylor Homes and other developments will be moved. CHA residents are asking each other these questions in the hope others have heard something that maybe they have missed. But no one has answers. Since the distribution of the preliminary contract, many residents feel they were not kept current on what's going on.

Many residents are angry and frustrated, feeling they are being kept in the dark. Residents want to know what is going on behind the scenes. Residents are claiming their right to know.

Residents are scared.

### Where Will We Go?

Before the contract was approved, Local Advisory Council presidents for all CHA developments were instructed not to comment on the negotiation process. But I was able to interview two LAC presidents anyway.

The LAC president for Wentworth Gardens sharply criticized both the Relocation Agreement and CHA's Plan for Transformation.

"The relocation, demolition, and everything else is a serious problem that we have. People are and will be homeless. Residents need to come and speak out," she said.

This LAC president said the debate

over the Relocation Contract kept CHA from filling up vacant apartments.

"CHA needs to rent apartments to people who need them. There are waiting lists. People need a place to live. Why are apartments on hold? Instead of closing apartments and tearing them down, fix them up and rent them out to people who are homeless."

She added, "Everyone will be affected by this change. Don't wait until it's too late to voice your opinions. Speak up now."

This LAC president specifically criticized the way residents will be assigned replacement units. If you are lease compliant – and only if you are lease compliant – your name will be placed in a lottery and those whose names are drawn will get to move back to their developments. The Relocation Agreement doesn't say what will happen to those whose names are not chosen:

"CHA cannot guarantee that all families displaced by redevelopment activity will be able to return to their site of origin."

The Wentworth Gardens LAC president also said of the lottery system: "The section in the contract regarding the lottery is unfair. There are too many people for a lottery. I hope HUD (the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) comes up with another idea for the situation.

"I will also say this, everything that is going on is really, really, sad."

Lathrop Homes LAC President Juanita Stevenson said a lot of residents' apartments need a lot of fixing up before other issues can be discussed.

"Our main focus should be safe, decent, and sanitary housing before we can consider anything else for all CHA residents," Stevenson said.

### Residents Speak Out

Interviewed before the contract was approved, Lathrop Homes resident Lakethia Patterson, a frequent volunteer at community events, was both aware and concerned with the Relocation Agreement.

"I had to read the Draft Contract in the management office. When the contracts were first available in March, they ran out of copies. If the contract is supposed to be available to every resident, why haven't extra copies been made for those residents who did not receive one?"

She added, "Because this contract is very important for the residents of CHA, every resident should have a copy on hand."

Patterson is concerned that many residents will be declared lease non-compliant, evicted and left homeless eventually by the new provisions in the Relocation Agreement.

Public Aid recipients, for example, could be found non-compliant simply because their monies are distributed at different times during the month. Patterson said many Public Aid recipients who receive their checks in the middle of the

month or at the end of the month will not be able to pay their rent on time and will be declared non-compliant.

"I feel the contract is biased. How will 'lease compliant' affect those residents who are Public Aid recipients?"

"How will Public Aid recipients be in compliance with their lease?"

In the Relocation Contract, residents who owe money to the utility companies could be declared lease non-compliant, Patterson said.

"There are things that happened in our past where one was not able to pay their bill or pay on time. Maybe one was not fortunate enough to repay the bill. Will this cause a resident to become homeless?"

Patterson has attended community meetings on the Relocation Agreement but feels nothing was accomplished.

"No one has answers," Patterson said. "No one wants to comment on the issues at hand. One would say the meetings are a waste of time. Bottom line is they will do what they want to do anyhow."

According to the Relocation Agreement, residents will get 120 days to find a new apartment when their unit is selected for rehab or demolition. But Patterson said 120 days is not enough time.

"Where are all the people going to go? A 120-day notice is not long enough to find an apartment for families with children. What about our children?"

James H. Douglas, a resident of Lathrop Elderly Apartments, said, "I believe this relocation process is a positive move. Residents should welcome change because nothing stays the same."

Douglas sent words of advise to all residents: "A wise man welcomes change but a fool never accepts change. My great-grandfather taught me to live by these words. I encourage you to do the same."

### Sad and Angry

Pamela Patten was a resident of Lathrop until she was evicted in March. Patten's case may be an example of what is to come.

"I was evicted due to lack of communication and because CHA claimed they never received two payments I made to clear up my past due balance."

Each day, Pamela sits in front of her former unit watching out that nothing is taken from the apartment where she once occupied.

"I am very sad and angry about this,"



Residents of these mixed-income Michigan Gardens apartments protest their living conditions this June. The buildings house many former CHA residents who relocated using Housing Choice (Section 8) vouchers. The Michigan Garden Apartments are scheduled to close this November.

Photo by Beauty Turner

Patten said. "Where was CHA when I needed them?"

"I still feel that I'm a resident of this development and I want to know where are all the people going to go?"

"Where are the residents of Lathrop going to be relocated? Why are residents being relocated when there are so many units available? There are many people who are on the waiting list for apartments in this development. Because of the availability of so many units, why can't people be placed?"

### Waiting List

Bridgett Banks has been on the Lathrop Homes' waiting list for approximately two years. She wanted to know:

"Why are people being overlooked? There are so many units available and so many people homeless. Why can't people be placed? I've lived in this community for 14 years and I've done community services for Lathrop Homes. Do we sit and just say quit?"

Lathrop resident Denise Zamudio said, "They want us to move to the suburbs. We would have no transportation to the doctor's office, grocery stores, etc. If we don't have a car, how will we survive?"

"Are we really going to be able to come back to our place of origin? Or are you people just pacifying us with mumbo jumbo?"

Vanessa Watson said, "Ignoring the fact that we are being kept in the dark does not change the fact that we have the right to be informed."

"My greatest fear is that one day movers will pull in front of my apartment and tell me that I am being relocated without warning. Why is everything so hush hush? Someone needs to let us know what the heck is going on."

# Transforming CHA

## Cabrini-Green Wins Battle

by Cecelia A. Clark

The press conference to announce the new agreement between Cabrini-Green residents and the city officials who want to redevelop the community was held Aug. 15 outside the new Jenner School, 1119 N. Cleveland Ave.

The crowd was addressed by Cabrini-Green Local Advisory Council President Cora Moore, who started a court challenge to CHA's redevelopment plans a few years ago.

Moore addressed the people in attendance: "Our strength comes from the Lord, who has guided and protected Cabrini Green."

"And now, our fight has come to an end," Moore said.

Cora continued to say that residents will have a say in how development will take place in Cabrini-Green.

"We will build 700 units for our residents. This is a major step up from 300 units first offered. So yes, this is a big victory," Moore said.

Moore explained that there will be approximately 1000 housing units built in the neighborhood for low-income families, which includes 270 affordable units.

"Overall, this will be a mixed income community," Moore said. "Residents will partner with private developers to build the new housing."

Julia Stasch, Mayor Richard M. Daley's chief of staff, talked about looking

forward to working with the residents and making sure they receive the help they need to move forward.

"I'm happy to say this long ordeal is finally over with residents becoming part developers," Stasch said.

"We're looking forward to working with each families to see that they receive the help they need. There is nothing this neighborhood will be lacking."

Richard Wheelock and Robert Whitfield, attorneys for the residents, expressed a sigh of relief. Wheelock, who has represented Cabrini-Green residents since the battle first began, said, "I'm glad it's over and now the LAC will be co-developers of the new public housing units that will be built on public housing land and land which the city has also provided."

Sharon Gist-Gilliam, chairperson of the CHA Board, said, "Step by step, Cabrini-Green residents are moving forward. New schools, parks and now new housing.

"The mayor wants this staff to carry his vision and we are thankful to Mrs. Moore for her hard work." Josephine Trotter, a relocated resident, was one of the residents displaced from 1158 N. Cleveland when the building was closed. She had this to say:

"This has been a longtime battle but we finally won."

Cabrini-Green Rowhouses Resident Management Corporation President Carol Steele said, "When the litigation first started, they offered 300 units for residents and

now they have 700 units."

The resident leaders said the number of units meant that virtually all families displaced from Cabrini Green buildings which are slated for demolition will have the right to return to a newly constructed unit in the neighborhood. But the deal still requires that the federal judge hearing the lawsuit and the attorneys involved in the Gautreaux case sign off on the agreement.

The Phase 1 Demolition will include 1158 N. Cleveland, 1150-1160 N. Sedgwick Ave. and 500-502 W. Oak St. The Phase 2 Demolition will include 1159-1161 N. Larrabee Ave., 1015-1017 N. Larrabee and 1121 N. Larrabee. Before phase 2 can take place, CHA will maintain the occupied apartments and common areas.

John Donahue, executive director of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, spoke on shelter for the homeless. 60,000 are on the area waiting lists for public housing while there are 80,000 homeless people and 20,000 homeless children, Donahue said.



**Josephine Trotter, a relocated Cabrini-Green resident, says a few words minutes before Cabrini-Green Local Advisory Council President Cora Moore (third from left) signed a redevelopment agreement with the City of Chicago.**

Photo by Cecelia Clark

Terry Peterson, the CEO of CHA, mentioned there would be reserve housing and public housing in the Cabrini-Green area. Also in attendance were Bertha Gilkey, a technical assistant who worked with the residents, and Jane Ramsey, executive director of the Jewish Council of Urban Affairs.

After years of marching, court battles, and broken promises, Cabrini-Green has prevailed. Many residents said they were relieved the LAC has won a longtime battle. But many of these same residents said they feel the war will go on.

## ABLA NEWS: Community Growth

by Karen Owens

Many negative forces in our urban environment interfere daily with the lives of our youths. However, there are many who - despite these odds - excel in the field of education.

They succeed with the help of parental involvement, devoted family members, a dedicated and committed teaching staff, a community of concerned residents and, most importantly, our youths. They deserve a high five for the many awards and achievements they so diligently earn.

Many schools service our youth. These students rightly deserve congratulations and I hope everyone will send me the names and accomplishments of their young people. My own daughter, Lindsey Owens, from John M. Smyth School, received high honors, the president's award for educational excellence. My daughter Laura Owens received high honors from

William Gladstone School. Yolanda Smith, the granddaughter of Local Advisory Council President Deverra Beverly, was accepted at Notre Dame University.

Congratulations also to all the scholars from grammar, high schools and those accepted at prestigious high schools, colleges and universities. They excelled in many areas of scholastic achievement, citizenship, perfect attendance and various other achievements. They are an inspiration to all. These young people also show non-believers that with proper guidance, love and faith, anything is possible.

### A New Beginning

Former Brooks Homes residents have started returning to the second half of the new Brooks Homes. One word that they use to describe the new units is "awesome." There was a look of satisfaction on the residents' faces as they crossed the threshold of their new units and moved in. The children playing in newly remodeled

play area seemed ecstatic as well.

An open house was held Aug. 5 of the model unit at Brooks Homes. The former ABLA has really come a long way. With input from the LAC and Brooks residents, many things were added such as larger bedrooms, a little different exterior, accessible units and Bar-B-Que grills on site for our outdoor cooking.

### Fun Times

Gray skies, rain, thunder and lightning and cool weather did nothing to dampen the spirit and good times of the ABLA Family Day Festival.

Held at Jane Addams Park at 15th Street and Loomis Avenue, the event drew residents from all of ABLA and nearby communities. Everyone seemed to enjoy the various activities for all ages, from the deliciously prepared meals to the entertainment and the other give-aways.

The event that all looked forward to was the free raffle. Lots of prizes were awarded, including bicycles, portable CD players,



**This site in the CHA ABLA Homes community will be the location for the movie "Hardball" starring Keanu Reeves. Residents of the ABLA Homes will appear as extras in the movie.**

Photo by Karen Owens

televisions, VCRs, school items, etc. As the lucky winners walked or rode away with their prizes, their smiles were enough sunshine for us all.

The event was made possible by the ABLA LAC and other volunteers and sponsors.

### Hollywood in ABLA

Hollywood is coming to ABLA. Filming will start soon for a new Paramount film "Hardball" starring the handsome actor Keanu Reeves. Residents will have the opportunity to be cast as extras in whatever capacity they are needed.

by Cenabeth  
Cross

**V**iolence seems to be everywhere I go.

I spent the July 4 weekend in Minneapolis, Minn., with relatives for a family reunion and only found more violence. Two people were shot on the night of July 4. One of them was a friend of my daughter-in-law's. The next day, the local ABC news announced that the two killings were not related. My daughter-in-law went to her friend's house the next day and found that her fears were confirmed.

## **S**hooting up and down the street as if it's the wild, wild West is a breakdown of moral behavior.

-Danny K. Davis, U.S. Congressman

### **Guns Equal Power**

Back in Chicago, I went to Mount Sinai Hospital to get the story on a 30-year-old victim who was killed in a shooting July 12 as a large group of people stood on the 3400 block of West Franklin Boulevard. The victim was shot several times. Two other men were shot; one was shot in the calf and the other was shot in the wrist.

During the same day, a 35-year-old man was pronounced dead on arrival at Northwestern Hospital, and a 38-year-old female was pronounced dead on arrival at Cook County hospital. These two were residents of the CHA. These made 4 killings in the CHA in 24 hours. This is not the only recent killing in the CHA. Robert Taylor Homes and Stateway Gardens are only the two that stand out in terms of violence.

The violence on State Street has gotten worse since the buildings at Robert Taylor began to be shut down. A source who preferred to be known as "The Boys in the 'Hood'" told me the violence is due to gang members who are displaced and try to take over the area that is available. I would call that a war.

The culture of destruction is not ours. It is learned from wars, real or fancied as we witness daily on the tube or see in the movies. The children, and weak-minded adults, see that the gun equals power.

### **Watch Your Back**

On June 29, Kim Johnson, a reporter for WGN morning news and I were covering the story about a police officer who had been shot and taken to Mt. Sinai hospital. The hospital wasn't giving out any information. I went back across the street to the building where I live and Kim went on to Roseland to cover the murders of the women who were alleged street women, mainly drug users and prostitutes.

The last woman was found in the basement of an abandoned house. Her body was slightly decomposed. The building was on West 110th Street. I went out to the site later as I went to visit my son's house to warn my daughter-in-law

# **Stop the Violence**

of the murders and tell her to watch her back as she goes to work. They don't look at the news because they have cable television.

On June 30, the Rev. James Meeks of Operation PUSH took to the streets to march along with the women of the neighborhood to protest. The feeling is that regardless of what the women were, they were human beings and they had families who cared for them.

9:30 a.m. The purpose was to discuss the violence in our communities and come up with some solutions. The crowd consisted of well-known Black leaders, emerging Black leaders, and the ones who want to be Black leaders all came together.

As horrible as the killing of the child was, people at the conference said the killings of Robert Russ and Latanya Haggerty by the policemen were just as horrible. We must stop the emerging culture which has no respect for human life, especially from the ones who are paid to protect and serve.

At the summit, there were community leaders and concerned citizens of the community. One of the concerned citizens was a neighborhood mother who had her house shot into twice in 1997 during a gang war on the South Side.

When shootings such as the Powell case happen, Danny K. Davis (D-7<sup>th</sup>) said, "We consider all of the different fear syndromes that have developed and existed in our communities and many people are afraid of their own shadows, of gangs, of young adults, criminals, City Hall, scared of the mayor, the aldermen.

"They retreat back into their cocoons.



**Blood from a victim of one of the six murders on the State Street Corridor this summer is still visible on this car's door.**

Photo by George Johnson

together.

The date was set for July 22 at Chicago State University, the school I graduated from. The meeting started at

But when you allow that to happen, you allow evil to triumph all over the place. Somehow or another, we have to wake up people and tell them there is a difference

between death and dying. You can walk around dead before you die being too scared to vote. If you're not standing up for something, you'll lie down for anything," Davis said.

He went on to say: "Shooting up and down the street as if it's the wild, wild West is a breakdown of moral behavior with no sense of social concern, like being animalistic. We're back down to that."

There were many people at the summit, including the Rev. Paul Jakes and our own Beauty Turner.

### **Serving and Protecting?**

Speaking of the police and protection, that apparently is not what a member of a prominent Chicago political family got at a recent wedding in the Holiday Inn-William Tell Restaurant.

As Michael Chambers, 39, a water department foreman and brother of Cook County Comptroller John Chambers, tried to protect some of ladies in a riot of another wedding, he was killed by police officers who tried to restrain him after hitting him over the head with a vase. He was pronounced dead at La Grange Memorial Hospital at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 6.

### **Million Family March**

Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan recently announced on his radio show that the Million Family March is scheduled for Oct. 16.

"Under the philosophy of white supremacy," Farrakhan said, "we will never be equal. It will not die by itself so we must kill it with our minds. We must have something on our minds first."

Farrakhan believes we can police our own but first we must unite. We must register and hold our vote until we find the ones we will give them to, vote as a family but vote, Farrakhan said.

"Unity is more powerful than guns," he said.

Farrakhan warned that he will bring gang members with him to the Million Family March. He said there is no reason for anyone to be afraid of them.

"They are family. They are somebody's child," he said.

Farrakhan said we should embrace them. Instead of striking out and destroying, we have to learn to embrace each other, to love each other, to protect and support. Unite. You all can come.

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## by Thomas L. Merriweather

I am a 67-year-old senior citizen who also happens to be a person with a disability, a change of condition which occurred in spring 1993 when I was 60. At the time I became disabled as a result of out-out-control diabetes, I knew absolutely nothing of the rights of people with disabilities which were mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act, a federal law which became effective on July 26, 1990.

The tenth anniversary of ADA was observed by the State of Illinois at Chicago's Thompson Center on July 26. With activity relating to this federal law in existence for 10 years, I feel it is time to reflect on the benefits of this legislation and examine the successes and failures as they specifically relate to those of us who are people with disabilities.

On July 12, at Chicago's Navy Pier, I attended "Access Chicago," the annual exposition sponsored by the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities and which represented the City of Chicago's official 10th anniversary celebration of ADA. The exposition included exhibits by 133 organizations, including such entities as Access Living, the Ada S. McKinley Centers, the Arthritis Foundation, the Cook County Assessor's Office, Attorney General Jim Ryan's Disability Rights Bureau,

# Access Report

Chicago Alternative Police Strategy (CAPS), Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, Equip for Equality, Goodwill Industries, Harold Washington College, Illinois Office of Rehabilitation, Joni and Friends, Chicago Transit Authority, CHA and many other city, state, and federal agencies, health care centers and other organizations relating to people with disabilities.

Some other activities of Access Chicago involved such program elements as Frank Birdsall, an "Eventertainer" who was twice National Unicycle Champion in Trick Riding, the Wheelchair Wolves, which featured wheelchair basketball demonstrations by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign vs. The Chicago Wheelchair Bulls, the National Basketball Association Men's Division, a National Wheelchair Basketball Association Junior Division, and RIC Adaptive Aerobics (Occupational Therapy demonstrations).

I became an advocate for other seniors and people with disabilities with my first story for *RJ*, "Overcoming Barriers" in the second edition of our newspaper in January 1997. Since that time, I have covered the very sensitive area of transportation since it had been my first experience in some serious deficiencies in this important area involving those of us

with mobility impairments. Despite what were to have been some substantial improvements in the area, the service provided by CTA Paratransit Operations has become worse than before the alleged improvement.

During the period beginning on Tuesday, July 4, I began to experience some severe deficiencies in my use of Cook-DuPage Transportation (CDT), the carrier of CTA Paratransit Operations I use to transport me by specially equipped van from place to place. Earlier in the year, a new telephone queuing system was installed in order to facilitate the efficiency of calling in for the purpose of the scheduling of trips.

In the past, my practice had been to begin my telephoning procedure well before the service starting time of 6 a.m. or the alternate time of 8 a.m. I would begin my telephoning procedure at 5:45 a.m. or 7:45 a.m. and would usually receive a busy signal. I would depress the automatic redial and get the busy signal until a customer service representative finally came on the line to take my trip reservations for the following day. Usually, I waited about 20 minutes until the customer service representative would get on the line. If I called any later in the day, all available trips were usually booked.

At that time, CTA Paratransit

had 4 carriers under contract: Art's Transportation, CDT, SCR Transportation and Simtran. Because of some serious operating deficiencies, Simtran was dropped during the contract negotiating period. CTA has not succeeded in replacing this carrier.

Because of the reduction from four to three carriers, CDT has been allocated half of the total 4100 trips for each day. Their inefficient telephone queuing system means that I now must spend a minimum of 30 minutes on the telephone before I obtain my trip reservations.

With the new queuing system, I now begin my telephoning procedure at 5:55 a.m. With only a few exceptions, I have been on the phone with a continuous busy signal prior to the queuing system recording coming on the line. I then have to wait several minutes before a customer service rep comes on the line.

On Saturday, July 22, I received continuous busy signals from 5:55 a.m. to 7 a.m. and had to interrupt my procedures because of an activity I am involved in each morning. I attempted to try again about 7:30 a.m., received a busy signal again and decided to try again at 7:45 a.m. for the 8 a.m. calling time. I was advised by a supervisor that 2 customer service representatives had failed to report to work

but that no trips could be reserved prior to 8 a.m.

At 7:55 a.m., I began my calling procedure again and finally had my trips for Sunday, July 23 reserved at 8:35 a.m.

On two occasions since July 4, my trips were not properly entered into the computer and I missed an important meeting on July 5. The following week, I telephoned to cancel trips for Tuesday, July 11, after being notified that a meeting on that date had been cancelled. Once again, I was told my trips were not in the computer.

At Access Chicago, I was able to meet Elaine Roberts, the new General Manager of CTA Paratransit Operations, and we had a lengthy conversation. I had previously communicated with her on three occasions by letter and twice by telephone. We discussed the Paratransit problems and we agreed that the deplorable condition of streets and sidewalks need to be corrected to make the use of the fixed route busses more feasible.

This is a serious transportation problem in itself and Access Living and Equip for Equality have filed a lawsuit against CTA for continuous inequities in the provision of service for people with disabilities.

This action has specifically involved 9 people with disabilities for CTA's failure to comply with Title II of ADA and the Rehabilitation Act of 1972.

## by Jacqueline Thompson

Here's an uplifting, inspiring story from the Harold L. Ickes Homes.

Terrance Thomas Jr., who lives with his mother, Lorie Stevenson, and his grandmother, Alberta Stevenson, at 2250 South State St., and Jamaad A. Woods, who lives at 2450 South State with his grandmother, Anna Woods, were both valedictorians at their June 6 eighth grade graduation.

The co-valedictorians were both Daniel Hale Williams Elementary School students, attending the same school from kindergarten through eighth grade. Their school, located at 2710 South Dearborn, was not conveniently placed across the street but down in another housing development, Dearborn Homes almost a mile away. They walked there and back every day.

Both students scored identical points on academic tests. In reading, they rated three years above grade level. In math, they scored two years and eight months above grade level.

Because I never heard of two valedictorians at one graduation before, I asked them both the same questions.

**RJ:** Were you both competing to become valedictorians?

**TT and JW:** Yes!

# A Tale of Two Valedictorians

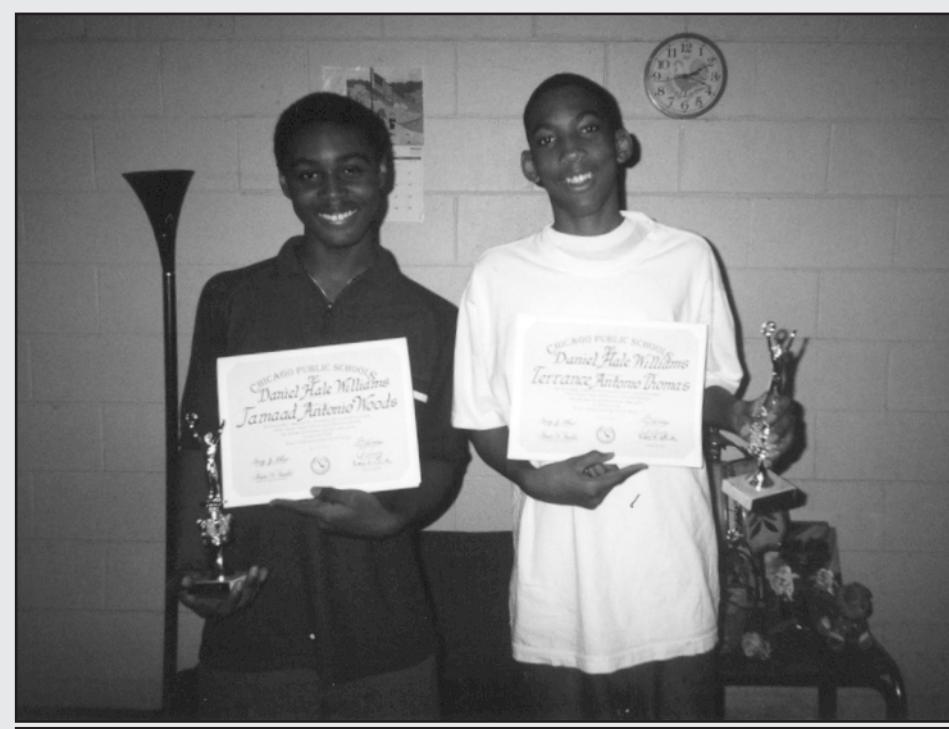
**RJ:** How did you do it?

**TT:** I paid close attention to my teacher's instructions, Mrs. Eartha Sherills.

**JW:** I watched her examples in teaching.

**RJ:** Can you add anything more?

**TT:** We always did our classroom



**Daniel Hale Williams Elementary School 8th grade co-Valedictorians Jamaad Woods and Terrance Thomas.**

Photo by Jacqueline Thompson

work and our homework.

**JW:** We always completed any class projects such as in science and reading.

**RJ:** Did you both work together on one project?

**JW:** No, but we both qualified to be part of the school team at an Academic Bowl.

**RJ:** How did you qualify?

**TT:** By taking a combined subject trivia test and passing it with good grades.

The students seem to have a handle on what's next in their future also. Terrance will continue his education at Kenwood Academy, getting the basics in computer programming, design and repair. Jamaad is enrolled in Jones Magnet School, where he will study commercial art, computer imagery and illustration artistry.

The accomplishments of these two students will shed new light on the reputation of neighborhood schools, students from public housing and blanket labeling of minority children.

The example they and their families have set forth can truly serve to inspire other students and families to catch hold of the possible potential of each and every child.

Daniel Hale Williams Elementary School, under the leadership of Principal Mr. Roy C. White, can truly be proud.

# Viva Puerto Rico!

by Julio Martinez

"Viva Puerto Rico!" shouted Puerto Ricans while attending the parade that was held this summer along Columbus Avenue. It was a pleasure to see the happy faces of everyone who attended this social event, which is held every year. We saw Mayor Richard M. Daley and Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White, among other high-ranking government officials.

Greetings to all the Puerto Ricans and others who are within "earshot." This was the first time we had seen a secretary of state make an appearance at the Puerto Rican Parade. We also saw the representative to the United States House of Representatives, the Puerto Rican Luis Gutierrez, who is doing a good job for the community.

We saw Puerto Ricans from all over Illinois and the Midwest. I talked with young Jannette Rodriguez, who lives in Detroit, Mich.

"Very happy," Rodriguez said. She told me that she felt proud to be in Chicago celebrating the Puerto Rican Parade. The young girl Haydee Vasquez, also from Detroit, was there happily celebrating her precious Puerto Rican Day.

I also talked with Puerto Ricans from the nice town of Bloomington, Ill. I greeted many individuals from Aurora to Elgin, who said that the parade was very nice this year.

Many of them shouted "Long Live Puerto Rico!" and "Up with Puerto Ricans!"

I had the good luck to talk with Rafael Rios, who is the president of the Puerto Rican House. The vice presidents are Rolando Correa and Susie Calderón.

Rios said that his primary goal is rebuilding the famous cultural center.

"We have the money for this," Rios said. "We have \$200,000 and from the earnings from this money, we will use \$50,000 to start the construction work. I want to say that we want to thank the representative to the chamber from the state of Illinois, Edgar Lopez.

"Besides my duties as president of the Puerto Rican House, I have my work of 28 years as executive director of a group of professional workers, who total 56 and include psychiatrists, doctors and nurses," Rios said.

"In 1972, a program called 'The Corner Clinic' was started, where we provide professional help to more than 700 individuals, including men and women, for drug treatment.

"But as President of the Puerto Rican House, we are bringing together the members of the Board of Directors."

Rios said that he and his vice presidents are volunteering to establish their organization.

"They are giving their services free of charge to meet the progress schedule we have laid out. We want to establish the 501c3 tax exemption, so, like schools and other organizations, we could apply for federal funds at the rehabilitation level for a program called Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs) and to be able to receive this money. We have to set up a board, which will include leaders from our community like attorney Edgar Delgado, currently a judge in this city, and several church pastors. We also will have a member of the bar association and the president of the Chamber of Commerce."



Participants in the Puerto Rican Parade 2000.

Photo by Julio Martinez

"This board is committed to protect this building for us, not to lose it, and the board of directors will be the authority of the Puerto Rican House at the property level and they will be responsible for the programs of this agency."

"The youngsters will participate in sports. We also have plans to set up a school for computer classes on the second floor."

Vice President Calderón told me that she would like Mr. Rios to be elected for two more years.

"This building has countless violations and we have to begin to correct them as soon as possible to avoid having problems with the reconstruction of the building. The rear wall will be moved to make the room larger."

# Viva Puerto Rico!

con Julio Martinez

"¡Viva Puerto Rico!" gritaban los puertorriqueños mientras asistían al desfile que se llevó a cabo este verano a lo largo de la Avenida Columbus. Fue un placer ver los rostros felices de todos los que asistieron al evento social que se celebra cada año. Vimos al Alcalde Richard M. Daley y al Secretario de Estado de Illinois, Jesse White, entre otros altos funcionarios de gobierno.

Saludos a todos los puertorriqueños y a otros que se encuentran cerca. Esta es la primera vez que hemos visto a un secretario de estado hacer una aparición en un Desfile Puertorriqueño. También vimos al representante de la Casa de Representantes de los Estados Unidos, el puertorriqueño Luis Gutiérrez, quien está realizando un excelente trabajo a favor de la comunidad.

Pudimos observar a los puertorriqueños de todo Illinois y del Medio-Oeste. Conversé con la joven Jannette Rodríguez quien vive en Detroit, Mich.

"Muy feliz", dijo Rodríguez. Me contó que se sentía orgullosa de estar en Chicago celebrando el Desfile Puertorriqueño. La joven Haydee Vásquez también de Detroit, estaba celebrando felizmente su precioso Día Puertorriqueño.

También conversé con puertorriqueños de la linda ciudad de Bloomington, Ill. Saludé a muchas personas

desde Aurora hasta Elgin, quienes me dijeron que el desfile estaba muy bonito este año. Muchos de ellos gritaron "¡Que Viva Puerto Rico!" y "¡Arriba los puertorriqueños!"

Tuve la buena suerte de platicar con Rafael Ríos quien es el presidente de la Casa Puertorriqueña. Los vicepresidentes son Rolando Correa y Susie Calderón.

Ríos mencionó que su meta principal era reconstruir el famoso centro cultural.

"Tenemos el dinero para esto" dijo Ríos. "Tenemos \$200,000 y de las ganancias de este dinero utilizaremos \$50,000 para comenzar los trabajos de construcción. Deseo decir que queremos dar las gracias al representante de la cámara del estado de Illinois, Edgar López.

"Además de mis obligaciones como presidente de la Casa Puertorriqueña, tengo mi trabajo de 28 años como director ejecutivo de un grupo de profesionales que hacen un total de 56 personas, incluyendo psiquiatras, médicos y enfermeras", dijo Ríos.

"En 1972, se inició un programa llamado "La Clínica de la Esquina" (The Corner Clinic) donde brindamos ayuda profesional a más de 700 personas, incluyendo hombres y mujeres, para el tratamiento de drogas.

"Pero como presidente de la Casa Puertorriqueña, estamos reuniendo a los miembros de la Junta Directiva".

Ríos expresó que él y sus vicepresidentes están trabajando voluntariamente para establecer su organización.

"Están prestando sus servicios en forma gratis para cumplir con el programa de avance que hemos fijado. Deseamos establecer la exención de impuestos 501c3, para que al igual que las escuelas y otras organizaciones, podamos solicitar fondos federales a nivel de rehabilitación para un programa llamado

Paquete de Becas para el Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBGs por sus siglas en inglés) y poder recibir este dinero. Tenemos que formar una junta directiva la cual incluirá a líderes de nuestra comunidad tales como el abo-



Participants in the Puerto Rican Parade 2000.

Photo by Julio Martinez

gado Edgar Delgado, actualmente un juez de esta ciudad y a varios pastores de iglesias. También contaremos con un miembro de la asociación de profesionales en derecho y con el presidente de la Cámara de Comercio".

"Esta junta está comprometida con la protección de este edificio para nosotros, para no perderlo, y la junta directiva será la autoridad de la Casa Puertorriqueña a nivel de propietario y sus miembros serán responsables de los programas de esta dependencia".

"Los jóvenes participarán en deportes. También tenemos planes para organizar una escuela para clases de computación en el segundo piso".

La Vicepresidenta Calderón me contó que le gustaría que el Sr. Ríos fuera elegido para dos años más.

"Este edificio tiene incontables violaciones y tenemos que comenzar a corregirlas lo más pronto posible para evitar problemas con la reconstrucción del edificio. La pared trasera será removida para ampliar el cuarto".

# Residents' Journal/We The People Media

## Support The Bronzeville Merchants Association

# The Saga of 47th Street

by John "Popcorn" Sampson

I'm sure that if most people, if not all people, sat down for a few quiet minutes of retrospection, they would experience a feeling of pleasure and joy the likes of which could only be found in the bygones of hindsight.

Believe me, brothers and sisters, life offers no greater joy, no gaiety so rapturous, no feeling so divine as the grand and glorious sensation that one finds on the dusty pages of recollection. To go back, back to the joyful times of one's most memorable moments, such as the time you hit your very first home run, or got your first date and your very first kiss, your first car for the first time.

All these, every single one of the above mentioned are inscribed in scarlet letters in the log of the gone but not forgotten days of our youth.

It is always a pleasure to take a stroll down memory lane. None of us ever grows too old to take a promenade along the rose-covered byway of yesterday and gaze with gaping eyes upon the dreams we dreamt when we were dreamers many years ago.

So now come on along with me and let me take you back to the bygone days of my youth and a time in my life

We can do some good looking out by seeing to it that the inhumane and the injustice of yesterday does not return tomorrow.

of which I've never forgotten. Nor shall I ever forget the wonderful loving care and concern that Black people had one for the other and the good old days when we were little brothers and little sisters.

The year of our Lord 1941 was a year of relocation for our home boys like frightened rats fleeing from the bowels of a sinking ship engulfed in the flames of a sinking ship. The brothers fled from Uncle Charlie's cotton patch, red-neck peck tatter farm, and tobacco chewing Tom's log camps, running like forty heading north!

These grandchildren of Shem, the children of an unquestionable ancient royal lineage that was ordained by almighty God Himself, launched their ship of faith, trust and hope into a sea of troubled waters. Many charted a course to the golden gates of California, following the tried



Echoing the spirit of Bronzeville, the Wentworth Gardens Juke-A-Thonz perform at this year's Bud Billiken Parade Aug. 12.

Photo by Andre Robinson

and the true course of the setting sun.

The bulk of these wingless blackbirds and ravens made their way north by way of a variation of earthbound vehicles that in essence - or all intents and purposes - emulated the slave vessels of antiquity that carted our forefathers from their home in Africa to the homelands of the Apache, and ultimately under the chains of a kind of life and a manner of man never to be forgotten.

However, my brothers and sisters, we cannot waste time or labor through the drudgery of beating a dead horse or wrestling with a buzzard over the stench of a bygone rotten deal. What reward could we hope to gain? We can do some good looking out by seeing to it that the inhumane and the injustice of yesterday does not return tomorrow.

But let us return to that page in Black history when jazz, boogie-woogie, rock-n-roll and the electrifying dances called the jitterbug and the linderhop were sweeping across the American scene like a foot-free typhoon sweeping over the turbulent waters of the China Sea. Back to a day and a time when we present-day grandfathers where walking that hip walk and talking that slick talk!

It was the era of the zoot-suit, Stacy Adams shoes, the three-rim Bossilene hat, the long chains and every brother was called Cat! The streets were called the stem, the police were called the man, to be informed was called hip, all females were called chicks, while money was called bread, and the no knots were called squares. And to be under arrest was to be cracked and jammed in the slam!

Now that you've had a lesson in Black History and your coat has been pulled to Black English by the professor, walk that hip walk, and talk that slick talk. Let us now return to the hay days of 47th Street and the legendary South Parkway to live again the joyful era that a happy people lived though their freedom had been denied.



This colorful Chicago Public Library Bus drives throughout the Chicagoland area encouraging all who see it to read.

Photo by John "Popcorn" Sampson

On the south side of 47th Street, moving from west to east from the southeast corner, we see a ladies' dress and hat shop, the name of which was in huge red letters, "Terrie's Dress and Hat Shop."

Oh, before we move along, let's not overlook Gerri's Palm Tavern. Back before the tragic day of the Pearl Harbor bombing, and far into the peace-time '50s and '60s, the Palm Tavern was a mecca for music makers and music lovers alike. And from every corner in the country, they came.

The Palm Tavern flung its doors open for John Q. Public in the early days of the '40s. Soon after its opening, the Palm became widely known for the popular musicians, comedians and singers that crossed its stage.

And in less time then it takes for a mother to regain her girlish figure that pregnancy robbed her of, the Palm Tavern had become the musical mecca of America. From every crack and crevice in the scenes of Black America, the people came from every city and town to be a part of the popular tavern.

The Palm Tavern during the hours of yesterday was the watering hole for scores of our most notable Black citizens of every persuasion. From Duke Ellington to Joe Louis, and from Louis Armstrong to Satchel Paige down to Big Mabelle and all the players and big-time gamesters not yet locked-up.

So there you have had a last a true taste of what used to be on the broad parade way of 47th Street and South Parkway.

I'll dedicate this column to Ibbi, from one octogenarian to a graduate octogenarian with great affection.

God be with you. I'm Popcorn.



Like our illustrious author John "Popcorn" Sampson, these seniors from the Judge Slater/Slater Annex both remember the good old days of Bronzeville and are making contributions to the future. City Department on Aging worker Pamela Nicholson (left) smiles with senior residents of Slater Homes during the building's open house July 11.

Photo by Mary C. Johns

# Vincennes' Valid Voices

by Beauty Turner

Let me tell you about Vincennes Plaza.

Vincennes Plaza is a subsidized housing development with 59 units on 47<sup>th</sup> Street and Vincennes Boulevard. Vincennes Plaza used to be a nursing home for the elderly before being transformed into subsidized units for low- and extremely low-income people. Non-working and working families as well as single parents reside at Vincennes Plaza. It is located on the stretch of the South Side known as Tobacco Road, soon to be called the South Loop, if developers get their way.

It's a beautifully landscaped, well-constructed red brick building with two reverse staircases that lead to a French-style balcony and long, elegant hallways. It's almost like something you would see in an Art Museum, with spacious living rooms, dining rooms and airy walk-in closets you could literally pitch a tent in. Each apartment has one and one half bathrooms and a big, green courtyard graces the center of the backyard area. This building is almost like something you would see as a tourist attraction on the soggy streets of London or view in a French movie.

Don't get me wrong. There are a few problems. There are a few leaky ceilings in some of the apartments, a few vast holes in the interior in one or two of the hallways, and a small rodent problem. But these problems are nothing that a good handy man or a little rehabbing couldn't fix.

On June 29, Vincennes Plaza residents marched on the office of Ald. Dorothy Tillman (3). Tillman, who appeared stunned by the emotionally heated marchers, told them their building was not going to be recertified by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban

Development and there was nothing she could do about it. Tillman told the marchers to talk to their owners, management or HUD but not to her.

Many organizations and activists believe Tillman and the City of Chicago are planning to make Vincennes Plaza building into a parking lot for the newly built Lou Rawls Cultural Center. They also claim that the city is pushing poor people out of the area for greed and not for a need. Looking out many of the residents' windows, you can clearly see the Lou Rawls Center being built in the background.

## The Residents Speak

The alderman has spoken. The organizations have spoken. But now, it is time to hear from the ones who these moves are affecting the most. I give you Vincennes' valid voices: the residents.

Luvengia Johnson, a mother of three and pregnant with possible twins, resident of Vincennes Plaza for a little over 5 years:

"My children and I have been homeless. We have been there and done that, been in overcrowded shelters with little or no elbow room in unsanitized bathrooms. I for one don't want that ever again. Vincennes Plaza has a few good points, such as the large rooms. But most of all, it is home to many single working mothers and a few handicapped elderly people."

"If it is money this building needs to stay open, they can easily make it, start a day care center, let the mothers who are not working come, start training them and let them work here at the building. That will bring in money, plus create jobs."

One young girl pulled my coat tail and said, "Miss, I love my home. I don't want to move. I'm going to miss my school and all my friends if I leave. I'm very sad."

I couldn't help but think to myself this baby shouldn't have to worry about where she will rest her head tomorrow. She should be somewhere playing with her dolls or out jumping rope.

Janice Chew, a resident for over 10 years, said, "This building is all right. With a little rehabbing, it can get better."

"The only problem that I see here is the light bill. It's too high. I'm paying over \$300 a month just for lights."

Cynthia Dillard added, "The apartments here are beautiful. They are large and wheelchair accessible. There are not many buildings in this city of Chicago that are accessible for the handicapped people. But this one is."

Joe Nunley said, "I reside here with my niece and to me, this building is wonderful. The city shouldn't tear this building down to build a parking lot. All they have to do is look around this neighborhood. There are many vacant lots. There's no excuse for them to tear down this building and displace all of these families, none whatsoever."

Alfonzo Cashew added, "I have lived here for over 12 years and I'm a bachelor. I have a studio with wide open space. It looks like to me this place could be a great condo. If it was mine, that's what I would make out of it. It would be a total waste to tear this place down."

"The only problem is some of the people. They might need to upgrade some of them, get rid of the drug selling. The government should



An ariel view of Vincennes Plaza.

Photo by Beauty Turner

make drugs legal, take the dope out of our children's hands, make it where you have to be at least 25 to buy dope. That might help save not only this building but also America."

As I was leaving the building, I noticed a young man sitting at the top of the stairs looking at some Pokemon cards. I asked him his name and what did he think of the Vincennes Plaza. He told me that his name was Steve and that he was 14. He added that he lived in this building since 1994.

"It's a real good building," Steve said. "Maybe a few minor problems, like the mice, but that could be taken care of."

Frederica Robinson, also a resident for over two years, added, "This is the first time that I have ever been on my own. I have always lived with my brothers. Living here gives me pride and a sense of freedom. This place is beautiful. I don't believe that we will ever find a place like this one, nowhere in the world but here. I wish they would keep this place."

## A Local Civil Rights Leader

by Beauty Turner

I recently conducted a personal interview with prominent civil rights leader the Rev. B. Herbert Martin, pastor of Progressive Community Church, 56 E. 48<sup>th</sup> St.

I met Martin in 1995, when we both were protesting the violence that was taking place in the Third Ward. He was leading the protest with a small baby casket with a sign that read "Stop the killing of our children." I knew then that I was in the company of greatness.

RJ: Rev. Martin, tell the readers of *Residents' Journal* a little bit about yourself.

Martin: I was born in Mound Bayou, Miss., the largest of all Black towns founded by ex-slaves in 1887. My folks were among the founders of this town.

I was 20 years old when I left there in 1963. I was a sharecropper in those days. I went to Little Rock, Ark., and attended a college called Philander Smith, where I did my undergraduate for 4 years.

Then I attended Payne Theological Seminary. I left there in 1967 and came to Chicago and became very active in the civil rights struggle along with Stokeley Carmichael and the Black Panther Party.

In 1968, I enrolled in Garrett Theological. Then I went to Northwestern in Evanston, Ill., where I received my Divinities Master's Degree.

In 1981, I came to the South Side Progressive Community Church and became very active in civil rights. I was the executive director of the NAACP and then I eventually became the president of the NAACP.

RJ: When you first became pastor of Progressive Community Church here on the South Side, how many members did you have?

Martin: When I first came to this church, it was 40 elderly members and a very few children back in those days. Now today we have 2,200 members.

We have established a variety of ministries and became stronger with outreach to the community, at least 6 percent residents of Robert Taylor Homes, and 40 percent others.

RJ: What are some of your greatest historical moments in being involved in civil rights?

Martin: One the greatest historical moments was during the election of 1983, when one of my members became the first Black mayors of the most political cities in the world – Chicago. That was the late, great honorable Mayor Harold Washington.

This church has been here for 78 years since 1922. We have survived the Great Depression. We have a long history in civil rights, such as starting and organizing an all-Black Meat Cutters Union. When the stock market stores were very active, we had outstanding members like A. Phillip Randolph.

Bronzeville used to be a very stable Black



Rev. B. Herbert Martin, pastor of Progressive Community Church, poses with his partner in front of the low-income units currently being built at the corner of 48th Street and Wabash Avenue.

Photo by Beauty Turner

middle class area.

In this area, we were famous for the blues and jazz. We had Theresa's Lounge and the Times Square musical entertainment back in the glory days. Our church was the first one to start the gospel choir in 1922 with Thomas Dorsey.

RJ: What kinds of programs do you have in the community now?

Martin: We participate in the community schools such as high schools like DuSable, Dunbar, Phillips and elementary schools like Coleman, Farren, Overton, Terrell and Beethoven.

We have started programs to curb the violence and give our children positive things to do such as summer camp, day care, leadership development programs and the children's ministry. We took a strong interest in public education since it's where a lot of us get our start.

We also started health care screening such as blood testing, testing for AIDS/HIV, immunizations for children's programs and day care for the young mothers in the Robert Taylor community to help out with the welfare to work program. Recently, we've been thinking seriously about starting a night care for the mothers

who have to work at night.

RJ: Right across from your church on Wabash, something is being built. Do you have anything to do with that project?

Martin: Yes, we do. That's low-income housing that's being built so that we can help out and lessen the load concerning the displacement of the people in our community.

With the construction of low-income housing, we can at least house 40 units. Just think if other churches in the community did the same thing instead of building big great sanctuaries. We wouldn't have a problem with housing the low-income families in our city.

RJ: Rev. Martin, what do you think about the displacement of low-income citizens in the city of Chicago?

Martin: No question, there's a new era in the city of Chicago. The city is going all out to transport pockets of poor people out of condensed areas. The policy makers have found poor people expendable, easy to dispose of.

I have tried to sound the alarm as a community leader by ringing the bell, alerting our community that there's a great change coming. But I have also tried to combat the impact by building at least some affordable low-income units for the displaced residents.

Just think if other churches do the same, provide affordable housing. It will help the people. Progressive Community Church has survived many transformations. We have been here for 78 years, through urban renewal and public housing. We plan on being here many more years. We will be a part of the new community and we will welcome the new neighbors.

# Clark Terry: A Jazz Evolution

by Arminta Clark Muhammad

Mop...Bop...Bebop...Jazz has been known and listed as crazy, fanatical music. And jazz legend Clark Terry, known for blowing a trumpet and a flugelhorn at the same time and playing a trumpet upside down, has influenced generations of jazz musicians.

Jazz is music that started in the South in the early part of the last century. Centered mainly around New Orleans, jazz started in the brothels around the French district, according to Dr. Burgess Gardner, a band leader and composer.

African American musicians improvised and created rhythmic jazz styles you could dance to known as Dixieland, Big Band and Swing. Later on, artists like Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie created Bebop. Bebop was the type of jazz you could sit down and listen to or get up and dance to.

Yes, jazz is an American art form created right here by African Americans. Many people today internationally from all ethnic groups enjoy listening to jazz and even try to play music created by legendary jazz artists like Charlie Parker, Louis Armstrong, John and Alice Coltrane, and Miles Davis, just to name a few. American movies, stage plays, musicals, television shows, radio programs and entertainment videos of all kinds now contain jazz music for our listening and viewing pleasure.

And jazz is still going strong today with legendary players like Clark Terry. Nicknamed "Mumbles," Terry is known for his distinct sound. Terry's best friend and mentor was trumpet master Louis "the Bird" Armstrong.

Terry will be 80 years old on Dec. 14 and he currently is celebrating his octogenarian birthday all of this year doing concerts in the United States. Terry now resides in Europe and has returned to the States for this special occasion.

Terry performed at Governor's

State University on July 1. The concert celebrated WBEE CD 1570AM/Real Jazz Radio's 45 years of sensational music. The concert highlighted the Burgess Gardner Orchestra as well as Etta Jones and Houston Percy. The audience witnessed the show and were razzled and dazzled by a spectacular performance.

Terry's friend Burgess Gardner assisted Terry onto the stage. Before he began his performance, Terry joked with the audience, displaying a sharp wit and charismatic charm.

And then the music began. The all-African American Burgess Gardner Orchestra started playing the "Happy Birthday Salute" to Clark Terry. Every one recognized the tune right away and started clapping their hands and patting their feet. The audience joined in and sang to Terry.

Radio personality Darlene "Misty" Dotson and William King, along with Charles R. Sherrell II, president of radio station WBEE CD 1570AM, presented Terry on stage with a birthday cake with one candle on it. Terry blew out the candle and said, "One for one more year. That's a blessing. So many have gone on and I am still here." Terry laughed and the audience applauded thunderously.

The lights dimmed and the orchestra started to play another tune the jazz-savvy audience recognized right away. It was the "C-Jam Blues." In this particular number, Terry played two instruments at the same time. They were the trumpet and flugelhorn. Terry blew both horns together with no hesitation.

Next came the tune "Squeeze Me." On this song, Terry sang in the scat style that earned him his nickname, "Mumbles," and played his trumpet.

Terry played "Come Sunday," a tune written by Duke Ellington and the last number, "Take the A Train," written by Billy Strayhorn. Terry received a standing ovation from the audience.

After the show, Terry sat in the

lobby and signed autographs, T-shirts and CDs and shook hands with friends and fans that attended the event. After autographs, Terry insisted on watching the performance of Houston Percy and Etta Jones, two artists that have been performing together for 33 years.

Interviewed after the show, Terry was born Dec. 14, 1920, and raised in St. Louis, Mo. His older sister was married to jazz musician Sy McField, a tuba player in St. Louis who was a member in the Dewy Jackson Band. Terry recalled that times were hard: "My parents sent me to live with my older sister and her husband. The Dewy Jackson Band was like a musical ambassador."

McField allowed Terry to go to the rehearsals with him. Terry recalled that although he was just a child, he liked the music. The rehearsal was usually at different members' homes. But there was one member in particular that was very kind to him, a Mr. Caldwell who owned a candy store and always kept his pockets filled with his two favorite candies, Mary Janes and caramel.

"Caldwell would say, 'Son, you're going to watch my horn' when they would take a break from their

rehearsal," Terry said.

Terry was magnetically drawn to Caldwell. One day, he picked up his horn and started to huff and puff on it. One day, Caldwell caught him and said, "Son, you're going to be a trumpet player."

Terry is now a true jazz master. Musicians look forward to working with a legend of his magnitude. But Terry said he went to the school of hard knocks.

"One gets education thrown by whatever means possible," said Terry.

Terry got his first gig from a bandleader named Willie Austin from St. Louis. Terry played with many giants over the years, people like Charlie Barnet, Charlie Ventura, and Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson. He joined Count Basie's Band in 1948. Terry joined the Duke Ellington Orchestra in 1951, where he stayed for eight years as featured trumpet soloist. "It was like entering a university," Terry said of Duke Ellington's band.

The Duke Ellington band had one of the most awesome trumpet sections in the nation: William "Cat" Anderson, Harold "Shorty" Baker and Ray "Little Dipper" Nance.

"Duke was truly an inspiration as well as a genius," Terry said.

For his lifetime of jazz, Terry has received 10 honorary doctorate degrees. Duke Ellington received 14 honorary doctorate degrees. Terry was the first African American to join the NBC-TV orchestra in 1960's "The Tonight Show."

"Racism kept other giants from 'The Tonight Show,'" said Terry. Five other great trumpet players should have preceded him for at least 10 years. Louis Armstrong, Rex Stewart, Jonah Jones, Charlie Shavers and Buck Clayton all should have been given the opportunity to play, Terry said.

Terry is passionate about today's jazz but feels young musicians are being cheated of the

music's true legacy.

"Jazz is still a beautiful music," Terry said. "A lot of kids are twisting it and torching it and misusing it.... (But) it's still one of the most beautiful things that could have ever happened in an American art form. And I am very very proud to be a part of it."

"I think a lot of the kids have shortcomings as far as understanding what jazz is all about and then they suddenly change the meaning of jazz and the media has try to change the meaning of jazz as well," Terry said.

"It still has to be like Duke Ellington said, 'It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing.'"

Terry approved of younger artist trumpeters like Nicholas Payton and Wynton Marsalis.

"Marsalis is not an upcoming artist; he's already there as far as being established. (There's also) Terrell Stanford. There are so many to name without insulting anyone. There is a young saxophone player in my band that is barely 30 years old."

Terry explained that jazz is much more appreciated in Europe than in the United States. "Europe has more of an appreciation for jazz because it is one of art forms that they did not contribute to. So they respect it highly and they are accustomed to supporting the art form and they are very much interested in learning about the art form of jazz,

whereas here in America, we are accustomed to much for too little and often brainwashed by the package deal and the bargains. That's about the size of it."

"All of the older players have great respect for learning about jazz. Jazz is serious music, filled with life, joy, happiness, peace, sincerity and hope."

Mwata Bowden, a member of the Burgess Gardner Orchestra who plays the baritone saxophone, said it was an honor to play with a legend like Terry.

"These are the type of cats a musician wants to play with."

"Terry is a symbol of the evolution of jazz music," Bowden said.



**Jazz Legend Clark Terry**  
Photo by Arminta Clark Muhammad

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# Teen Life

## Looking Different

by Latonya Wolfe

Models can't live without it. Even men wear it. Little girls play in it and cosmetic companies make a fortune selling it. But what does it really do for people?

As a ninth grade student, I see a lot of people my age and older wearing a lot of make-up. There are many different reasons why people wear make-up. But do people really need it?

I wrote this article to discover the reasons why people wear make up. I found out that people have different attitudes about wearing make-up. Some people wear make-up to look different.

Self Magazine photographer Francesco Scavullo, who forms the looks and outlooks of the magazine's three makeover contest winners, said, "I've seen how a new look can boost a woman's self image but you don't want to change a woman into someone else. You simply want to highlight her features."

## Teen Self Esteem

by Veronica Williams

Does a person who has more or better clothes than you intimidate you? Do you often compare yourselves to others? Do you like the way you look? These are some of the questions that I ask young people from my school as a part of a self-esteem test. The level of a person's self-esteem determines the answers to these questions.

What is meant by self-esteem? According to clinical psychologist Thomas Yarnell, self-esteem deals with how you feel about yourself. It includes such things as your self-confidence, self-respect, pride in yourself, your independence, and your self-reliance. "All the ways you feel about yourself and your abilities are wrapped up in the term self-esteem," Yarnell said.

Shara Wesley, a 15-year-old sophomore at Dunbar High School said, "Having self-esteem is believing in yourself, respecting yourself and being proud of yourself."

Monica Rogers, also a 15-year-old sophomore at Dunbar, said, "It just means having confidence."

It is very important for young people to focus on their self-esteem and to find

Using make-up does that for some people. Latoya Wolfe, a student at North Park University, said, "Make up allows you to become someone you're not."

Make up can form another face for a person or make that person's looks totally different. Almost all models wear make-up. It may take hours of sitting just to put make-up on the eyes or to put on lipstick. But is all the time and hours models spend worth it? Satin Crable, a 22-year-old former model with Lily Ho Talent Agency here in Chicago, said, "For most models, the answer would be yes. They believe that's what makes them beautiful and without make-up, they are flawed. It's a part of a model's jobs to wear make up. It is used often to compliment the outfit but basically it is used to get attention and reflect an attitude."

Some kids wear make-up to look older or look like someone else. Diana Richardson, a high school security guard, said she thinks "The only reason why kids wear make-up is to look older and get more attention."

Lia Rush, a 16-year-old student at Kenwood High School, said, "Some people in this school really need make-up because there are a lot of girls that you would mistake as a male. I also wear make-up to smooth my skin and look more approachable."

That might be the reason why some female teens wear make-up but what are the reason males wear make-

up? I interviewed Brandon Williams, also a student at Kenwood High School, and he said, "I think if a male wears a lot of make up, then they are really feminine or trying to be. I don't think that a male should wear make up if he's not on TV. I would wear make-up if I was on TV or just to smooth my skin. Nothing more."

Not every one I interviewed thought that you need make-up to look beautiful. Latoya said, "I like who I am so I don't wear make up. I also think that make-up allows you to become someone you aren't. The closest I will get to wearing make-up is lip gloss because the way make-up looks. And I don't have the time to keep putting it on when it wears off."

Satin Crable stopped wearing make-up when she was 18. "I started to feel a dependency on make-up. It was a struggle at first to quit. I found it very difficult to look in a mirror and not put make-up on. But I discovered my own natural beauty and with that, my own self-confidence. And that allowed me to stop wearing cosmetics."

If people decide to wear make-up, that is their own choice. I am sure cosmetic companies will continue making a fortune on it. But I will never wear any make-up because I feel it hides my real beauty.

## Urban Youth International Journalism Program

### Editor-in-Chief

Ethan Michaeli

### Program Director

Andre McClerkin

### Participants

Jason Alexander, Jumote Amoakom, Aaron Belton, Kevin Bingham, Marcus Boswell, Aramis Collier, Duval Harden, Dakota Haynes, Carly Hedges, Ladonna Howell, Aaron Johnson, Kareem Lewis, Ivory Lloyd, Valentine Marshall, Crystal Medina, Rodney Moore, Therris Morris, Ramsey Pahrue, Valerie Redmond, Adriane Stigler, Felisha Swan, Kevin Trotter, Ramondo Walker, Tabanni Walls, Joanna White, Kamel White, Frank Williams,

ways to build a healthy self-esteem because a healthy self-esteem is the key to success. Many teen counselors believe that the more positive and healthy your self-esteem is, the better you will be at dealing with life.

Healthy self esteem can get you better grades, keep your relationships with other people long lasting, boost your confidence, help you become a good athlete, and help you to accomplish many things in life.

According to a Web site on teen mental health (Psychological Self-Help.com), building self-esteem is considered by many psychologists and educators to be one of the most important factors to the mental health, education and physical health of teen-agers.

An article entitled "Changing Your Self-Concept and Building Self Esteem" stated, "It is becoming clear that building self-esteem isn't just silencing the unreasonable internal critic, accepting your faults, and emphasizing your good traits. The healthy, confident, efficacious person assumes responsibility for his/her life."

An unhealthy self-esteem can lead to anger, depression, violence, crime, conflicts in school and poor grades among teenagers. Dr. Yarnell states, "Negative self-esteem is related to low self-confidence, insecurity, underachievement, anxiety, acting-out behavior, sleep problems and being a loner."

I was glad to see that some of those teens that I interviewed felt that they had a

healthy self-esteem. The majority of those interviewed felt comfortable with their level of self-esteem and did not feel the need to compare themselves with others or intimidated by others.

When I asked Shari if she was intimidated by others, and the way they dress or looked, she replied, "No. I am me and they are them."

If you do feel you have low self-esteem and you want to improve your self-esteem, here are a few suggestions from the experts:

Focus on the positive aspects of yourself and remind yourself often of your positive traits. Also, have values to live by and friends that will support and encourage you.

I believe that the key to a healthy self-esteem is knowing that you are more than just a body and you are just as special as anyone else is. It is believing that your every thought counts, you are beautiful, handsome, smart and intelligent. Most of all, it is knowing that you can make it in life if you only just believe.

From my interviews, I have realized that most of the drops in self-esteem come from a lack of believing in yourself and little love or no love of yourself at all.

But when there are problems, there are solutions because this sickness, as I like to call it, can be vanished from your system when you learn to love yourself, care for yourself and believe that no one is better than anyone else.

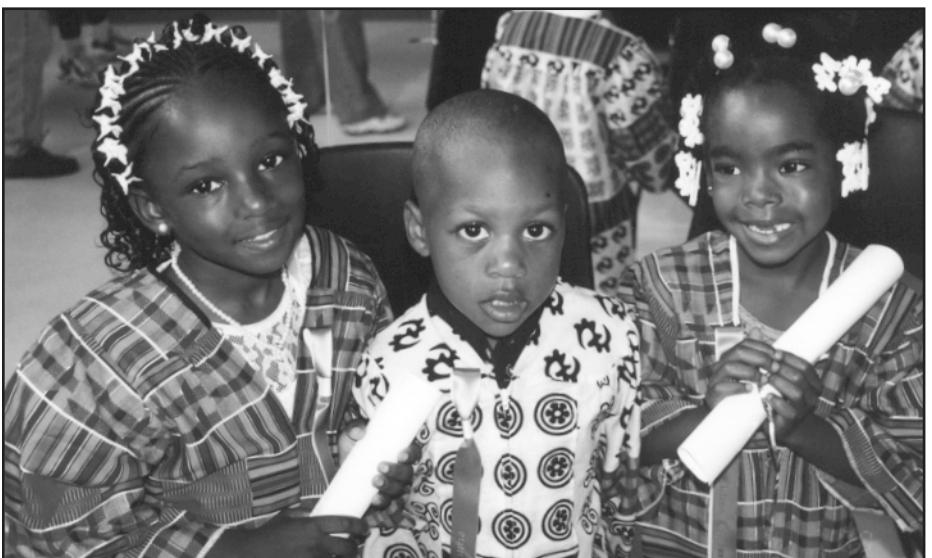
## Residents' Journal Expresses Our Condolences to Crystal Medina and her Family

# Congratulations and Keep Up the Good Work



The first Inner City Little League World Series champions, the CHA Ida B. Wells Blue Jays, with their managers and coaches (Photos clockwise from top left). Children graduate from the Stateway Gardens Center for New Horizons' 26th Annual Rites of Passage ceremony held July 28, 2000 at the Charles A. Hayes Family Investment. Stateway Gardens Local Advisory Council President and We The People Media board member Francine Washington (center) poses with Windows of Opportunity/CHA Scholarship 2000 Stateway Gardens college award recipients Vanessa Moore (from left), Michael Miles, Asagia Washington and Alicia Deberry. Deberry is a graduate of RJ's Urban Youth International Journalism Program.

Photos by Mary C. Johns



## Tracy's Health Corner

### Walk Your Way To Fitness

The sun's shining and there's a slight breeze from the lake. It's another great summer day in Chicago. Why not go for a walk?

Get motivated about exercising and getting fit.

If you're like me, you'll come up with every excuse in the book why you can't exercise: "I'm too tired", "I have no time", "I can't afford the equipment", or "the gym's too far away".

Well I have an answer that will combat all these excuses. Just walk your way to fitness.

It's easy, it's cheap, you can do it anywhere, and most importantly it's good for your health. Besides helping you fit back into your summer shorts, walking cuts your risk of heart disease and improves your mental fitness.

For best results you should walk 30 minutes a day, 6-7 days a week. And, the good news is, you can break-up your walking routine. Walking 3 times a day for 10 minute is just as good as a 30 minute session.

You can exercise while following your daily routine — walk to the

store, walk with your kids, walk to church, walk with your friends

To get the most out of your walk remember to stand tall (back straight), take short quick steps and swing those arms. For an extra burn of calories walk faster and walk uphill.

A few trips around the block and you'll be looking fine in no time. Not to mention being de-stressed and heart-healthy.

Keep track of your total fitness, and make sure to schedule a yearly physical with your doctor.

• • •

Hey y'all, don't forget August's Health Education Events. A few to note are:

- |      |                         |
|------|-------------------------|
| 8/1  | Homan Square            |
| 8/14 | Sheridan Medical Center |
| 8/12 | Bud Billiken Day Parade |
| 8/26 | Unity Day               |

To get the low-down on times and places along with a complete listing of this week's events give me a call at (312) 424-4482.

Until Next Time,

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*The above material is for informational purposes. It is not intended for diagnosis.*

Interested In ...

... This week's listing of Health Education Events? Call 1-312-424-4482

... Better health care choices for families on Medicaid? Call FREE 1-877-WE DO HELP ext. 203  
(1-877-933-6435 ext. 203)

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# CHA Youth Clubs to Close Again

by Arminta Clark Muhammad

A mother of several young children in the near South Side Ida B. Wells Homes said that she didn't let her children come outside unless they were going to the Boys and Girls Club in her development.

"My children are safe there and that's more important than anything. Not only that the children really enjoyed their activities; that was designed for the children that attended that club," the mother said.

But this mom and many others will not be able to count on the Boys and Girls Clubs any more. Several times, someone had rescued the clubs from closure. But there are no more rescues for four clubs in public housing developments to stay open.

Earlier this year, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago announced that four Extension Sites serving over 400 children and families in four Chicago Housing Authority developments would close due to a lack of funds.

Many parents, children and even the staff of these four Boys and Girls Clubs were surprised by the announcement. The four sites are in Ida B. Wells Homes at 3848 S. Langley, in Lawndale Gardens at 2533 S. California and in Dearborn Homes at 2710 S. Dearborn in the Williams Elementary School and in Wentworth Gardens at 3849 S. Wells. Many families depend on these sites for their children to attend after-school programs or during the summer.

CHA CEO Terry Peterson announced June 27 at a press

**M**any families depend on these sites for their children to attend after-school programs or during the summer.

conference held at the Wentworth Gardens site that the four sites would remain open this summer thanks to an agreement among CHA and City officials and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago.

Peterson stated, "This agreement will mean that the chil-

dren will have safe places to go this summer while we transition them into other programs."

Peterson said he would work with schools, parks and libraries to find similar after-school programs for the children starting in the fall.

To keep the clubs open full days during the summer, the Chicago Department of Human Services sped up payments that already had been promised to the Boys and Girls Clubs. The Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago said they would hire CHA residents and parents to work at the sites for the summer program.

But the clubs closed finally at the end of the summer.

Desiree Macintosh, site director of the Boys and Girls Club in Ida B. Wells said she has 25 years of experience in social services.

Macintosh said, "I grew up in this community and have a great rapport with the residents and teenagers in general."

A frequent visitor to the club found that Macintosh is looked at as a second mother to the children that attend the site.

Macintosh said her site was closed along with the other sites that have been designated for closure. They closed June 19, reopened July 3 and closed again Aug. 25 permanently.

Interviewed before the final closure, Macintosh said, "These sites were targeted due to lack of funds to maintain and sustain for the children living in the area. The club was reopened July 3, 2000 and will remain open until Aug. 25. After this date, we have two weeks to pack up and move out.

"The Boys and Girls Club provided a great access to the



**These children have to find somewhere else to play now that this Boys and Girls Club at the Ida B. Wells development has shut down.**

Photo by Arminta Clark Muhammad

school program allowed children to come to the center and receive help with their homework. For one hour and four days a week, they received assistance. If there was no homework, they came in, went to the library, selected a book to read on Monday and wrote a book report which was due on Friday. The club also offered arts and crafts classes.

In the PowerPoint program for community service, children participated in cleaning certain areas in the community, even if it just meant cleaning up around the club site. The children at this site also could participate in swimming, games like table tennis and field trips.

"We have a special program for girls called the Nubian Princess and Queen, where personal hygiene is taught, encouraging their self-esteem and how to manage conflict resolutions," Macintosh said.

Macintosh has been employed with the Boys and Girls Clubs for seven years. The community's parents and children are upset by this decision, she said.

Kimberly Jackson, 15, said the club is definitely needed in her community.

"Without this club in our community, it would leave the young people with nothing to do," said Jackson. "Personally, I was never registered at the Boys and Girls Club. But my friends have brothers and sisters that attend that club. If the club remains open, the children are given the opportunity to learn different activities and to stay away from gangs and violent activities. It also provided a safe haven for the children to have activities."

Cynthia Merritt, who resides in Wentworth Gardens, said she has three children ages 7, 8 and 10 that attend the Boys and Girls Club in her development. Merritt is sorry to see the club close.

"The children will miss the club," she said. "None of the parents were prepared for the closing of the club. If proper notice was given, then maybe the parents could make other arrangement before hand. It's really a shame and I feel sorry for our children because they're the ones in jeopardy."

Ron Osborne, president of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago, was unavailable for comment.



**This young Wentworth Gardens resident leaves the Boys and Girls Club for the last time.**

Photo by Arminta Clark Muhammad

community. And without the Boys and Girls Club, the children will be without a center that allow them to express their creativity in the arts."

Macintosh said she services children ages 6 to 12 five days a week. 50 children are registered in the club and 45 children attend on a daily basis. Even though there are several youth clubs in the vicinity, parents fear for the safety of their children, according to Macintosh.

"When this club closes, the children won't have a club to go to," Macintosh said.

"They fear the rivalry of gangs, which has made it impossible to attend the Madden Park Field House and the Abraham Lincoln Centre due to the gang situation there as well."

Macintosh explained that the Chicago Housing Authority did not close down the clubs - the Boys and Girls Clubs' main office decided not to put money into clubs located in public housing.

"We received no donations and there's no board of directors for clubs like these. So right now, the main issue is about the money. Even though most main Boys and Girls Clubs raise money for their clubs, it is very difficult for this club being in a low-income community. It is very difficult for most parents to pay the \$10 membership fee. And resources are needed to have a fund raiser, which we do not have."

Macintosh said the clubs' closure will cause children to lose out on programs that were designated for them. An after-



**The Taste of Chicago 2000 was jumping with the sounds of live entertainment featuring world renowned singers. Among them were the talented Pointer Sisters (from left), the legendary Al Green and Lady Diva herself, Patti LaBelle.**

Photos by Andre Robinson (from left), Arminta Clark Muhammad and Beauty Turner

# Lathrop News

## by Bobby Watkins

Living in Lathrop Homes for the past 10 years has been a very good experience for me. As vice president of the Local Advisory Council, I've had the opportunity to see various managers come and go from CHA. I've also received a lot of input while dealing with residents on various issues of CHA.

Backed up work orders being ignored, no plumbers in the development, not enough tools to do repairs or inadequate equipment to do repairs, or, the most recent problem before the

I've been able to get a broader view of these problems and have seen them from another side than many residents. CHA management wasn't all bad and it's still a little too soon to say just how good things are with private management. But we do have a good working relationship with Brenda Parker, our new manager.

The new manager from U.S. Dwellings Corporation and most of her staff have improved on getting most of the back work orders out and were graded very highly on taking care of all emergency orders. Also, rent collection in Lathrop is at 97 percent when it was down with CHA management.

One thing I would like to see U.S. Dwellings do is help some of the residents get employment through their company. They've worked very well with me, though, with the Earnfare program. Some residents, through the Boys and Girls Clubs' comprehensive Earnfare program, come back to the development and work. I would also like to see resident management work. But I have to say, right now, things are better now than with CHA management.

I have to say yes even though some residents differ from me. Their comments are below:

Calvin Gatewood:

"We had some good managers as well as

bad through CHA. I know all things seem good at the beginning but I would just like to say, with the problems U.S. Dwellings inherited, I think they've done a very good job. I know you need more than just a beautiful look outside but I would just like to say to them, 'Do as good a job inside as out and I think things will be great.'"

K Mc:

"I haven't had a lot of dealings with the new manager but I know they've got a lot of work. I see how nice the outside is but what about the inside? With the security, will we be more safe or will all of this just be talk like with CHA?"

D. White:

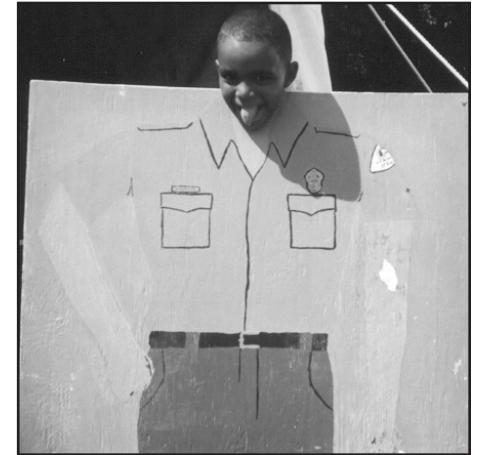
"With CHA, we never knew what the program was going to be from one day to the next. Some days, we had light. Some days, management would be there for you. Other times, they were not. I would just like to see a working relationship between the management and residents and also some jobs for the residents."

"I know you've only been here a short time, U.S. Dwellings, but there's a lot to be done and I hope you don't let us down."

## Thanks

The Lathrop Local Advisory Council would like to wish all our young students good luck and best wishes in the coming school year.

Also, thanks to every one who came out to help make our back to school Funday a success and thanks Pastor Ripple and his church family for their hard work and the book bags they gave



**Lathrop Homes Above Average competition ribbon winner Ryan Stephens having fun at the State Fair 2000 in Ethnic Village.**

**Photo by Bobby Watkins**

out to our young people.

The next generation 4H Club again attended the State Fair in Springfield and would like to thank the LAC, U.S. Dwellings, Friends of the Chicago River and Mary Crane for their help to make this a better trip. New membership for the 4H Club will begin in September.

We are looking forward to working with U.S. Dwellings and invite all residents please come out to the upcoming Town Hall meeting. Notice will be sent out and we would like to welcome Parker and her staff to Lathrop. We hope your great interest will be the residents.



**Sherika Smiley of the Lathrop Homes Next Generation 4-H Club is a winner of an Above Average ribbon at the State Fair.**

**Photo by Bobby Watkins.**

take over of private management in the developments, not enough manpower. These are problems common to every development that I have seen on daily basis at Lathrop.

# Korean

# Welfare to Work: People in Transition

## Health Care: The Clock Is Ticking

by Wateka Kleinpeter

**P**ortrait of a mother moving from welfare to work:

La Tonya, a 31 year-old woman with two children, has been employed for almost two years. She was fortunate enough to get a \$10 an hour job that included health care that she could purchase for herself and her children. The premiums were not very expensive because she works for a large company with many employees.

was enacted. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, also known as the Welfare Reform Act, was signed in 1996 by President Bill Clinton. It set a limit on the amount of time a welfare recipient can receive assistance.

The welfare system known as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) is due to end in 2001. Many people were required to go to work and many did. However, there are a lot of obstacles that are making a smooth transition from welfare to work impossible for many people. In the last

Unintended Consequences of Welfare Reform," 1.25 million low-income people lost their health care as a result of welfare reform from 1995-1997. Almost two-thirds of those people who lost their health care were children.

Welfare and Medicaid are two separate programs that were linked together for poor people. However, generally, when a person leaves welfare, the Medicaid benefits also end. Many people are still eligible for health benefits because they are working low-income jobs. But unless the caseworker realizes this and informs the recipient, he or she

Researchers and experts who have done studies about welfare reform say that the numbers of people on welfare have dropped. The number of welfare cases nationwide 51.5 percent from its peak in 1994 to 1999.

But how? Some researchers note that states view the drop in the number of welfare cases as successful welfare reform. However, the states do not say that some people got good jobs, some people got menial jobs and some just gave up.

Although welfare reform has resulted in reducing the number of caseloads, there is a growing concentration of welfare cases in large cities.

According to research recently done by the Brookings Institute on Urban and Metropolitan Policy, the large urban areas

such as Cook County in Illinois, Sacramento County in California and eight other counties in large urban areas have increased the concentration of welfare caseloads. Nearly 60 percent of welfare recipients now live in urban areas, up from 33 percent five years ago.

In Wayne County in Michigan, which contains Detroit, the number of welfare cases actually went up. Wayne County now has the largest number of cases of all of the ten counties with the largest welfare caseloads.

A spokesperson for the Brookings Institute, Katherine Allen, said that in these counties there is a large concentration of welfare caseloads, especially in areas that have a lot of public housing developments.

"The minimum wage jobs they find are not sufficient enough to allow people in low-income neighborhoods to move out," Allen said.

"They need better access to transportation, better schools, health care and continued training and advancement of their skills so they can progress and eventually move out."

In Illinois, of the 100,065 welfare cases in 1999, 73,190 or nearly three quarters of the cases, were in Cook County. In 1994, only 64.63 percent of Illinois' welfare cases were in Cook County.

Health care is still considered a big problem and the states are supposed to try to assist recipients in health care by first ensuring that they are informed of any continuing benefits they may receive and any programs that the state may provide.

In Illinois, there is the Kid Care program that will provide affordable health care for children and pregnant women.

Does welfare to work work? It all depends on who you talk to. The local states play the numbers game. They use the statistics competitively to boast of how many people are off welfare.

However, researchers agree that there are still more issues that need to be addressed. The researchers at the Brookings Institute agree that people leaving welfare and going to work need many other services.

The government seems so concerned with lowering welfare rolls that they are not considering a large population of people who will never be able to hold a job.

People with problems with literacy, people with mental illnesses, or serious problems with their or their children's health care may never be able to hold down a steady job that will make them self-sufficient. For these people, some type of assistance will always be needed.

**T**he minimum wage jobs public housing residents find are not sufficient enough to allow people in low-income neighborhoods to move out.

- The Brookings Institute's Katherine Allen

However, she has a child that requires a lot of medical attention. Her mother was her babysitter but has now become very sick and can no longer care for La Tonya's children.

La Tonya is in jeopardy of losing her job because she missed a lot of days or has been late going to the doctor with her mother. She has been given several verbal warnings and next she will be terminated.

La Tonya's fear is that her son will not be able to get adequate medical attention if she loses her job. La Tonya said she dreads applying for Medicaid because she has been trying to work and take care of her responsibilities without any assistance. Getting back on Medicaid would be taking a step backwards.

La Tonya is a typical example of what's happening to other women who have gone from welfare to work since welfare reform

four years, experts, welfare reform advocates, government employees and – most of all – welfare recipients have seen these problems.

Some of the same obstacles from the day the bill was signed are still valid issues that prevent the transition from welfare to work. Health care, adequate day care, alcohol/substance abuse, mental health, criminal backgrounds and transportation are important issues that still must be addressed.

Many of the people who are now working as the result of welfare reform are in minimum wage jobs that do not include health care. Those that do offer health care offer it at a high premium that the employees often cannot afford. Or the employee may get coverage after a period of time and their family members do not.

According to the Families USA Foundation's 1997 report, "Losing Health Insurance: The

leaves welfare without health care. Also, the new employee can apply for Medicaid on a separate grant as long as he or she meets income guidelines. Many people are now aware of their eligibility but say that the process and the all the other harassment is not worth it.

The Families USA study found that more than one-half of the children who lost their Medicaid benefits in 1997 were still eligible for the program under federal rules.

According to the Welfare Reform Act, local offices must assist recipients by informing them of continued benefits that they could receive for a limited period of time after gaining employment. Some of these services include help with child care, health care and referrals to various agencies. The various welfare to work agencies provide job readiness skills, resume writing, computer skills and literacy testing.

R E S I D E N T S '

## J o u r n a l

**Residents' Journal is distributed free to all Chicago public housing residents and participants in the Section 8 subsidized housing program. But if you are not a public housing resident, and would like to support Residents' Journal's plan to become a financially self-sufficient entity, or would like to subscribe, please fill out the attached subscription form and mail a check or money order to:**

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# Special Health Section

## Immunizations: Your Best Shot

by Barbara Shaw  
Clinical Director,  
Hayes Family  
Health Center

It is time to back to school again. And for many parents, back to school time means trying to find a health center or doctor's office where the kids can get the shots they are missing.

Immunizations have been helping children stay healthy for more than 50 years. They prevent some of the worst and most common illnesses that can hurt children, diseases such as Diphtheria, Pertussis

(Whooping Cough),

Tetanus (Lock Jaw), Polio, Measles, Mumps, Rubella (German Measles), Hemophilus Influenza Type B, Hepatitis B and Chickenpox. Many of these illnesses can be fatal without proper treatment.

Even though all of the above diseases can be prevented with vaccinations, a lot of children do not get their shots on time. Here are some reasons why people may not get their kids immunized.

"They don't need shots because the diseases aren't around anymore" - Not true. Even though many diseases don't spread the way they used to, the diseases have not disappeared.

"I don't think vaccines even work"

Not true again. Vaccines have worked very well for millions of children.

"My baby has a cold, so I didn't bring her in for her shots." - A child with a minor illness like a slight cold, very low fever, cough, ear infection or mild diarrhea can safely be immunized.

"Immunizations hurt." - They do hurt a little just at the beginning. Your baby may cry or few minutes. But the pain doesn't last long.

Immunizations for kids are important. Children need most of shots before they are 2. Other immunizations are given before children go to school.

### Not only for kids

When you take your kids in for their immunizations, you might think about whether you need immunizations, too. Like children, adults need certain immunizations at certain ages. Many adults need to be immunized because of medical problems they have, if they work in certain places or have certain living situations or lifestyles.

All adults should get an immunization against Tetanus (Lockjaw) every 10 years. Adults who are 65 and older should get the flu shot and a pneumococcal vaccine (a one-time vaccine that helps prevent pneumonia

and blood infections).

Some people are at higher risk for coming into contact with or getting sick from certain diseases. For example a person with asthma or any chronic health problem like diabetes or high blood pressure should get the flu shot every year.

The flu shot is also a good idea if you live with someone who may have problems if they get the flu. Also, people who have jobs in health care or nursing homes should get the flu shot.

People with alcohol abuse problems, those who are at risk for sexually transmitted diseases because they have multiple sexual partners, people who are in homosexual relationships, people who use injectable drugs, and public safety workers such as firefighters and police officers all need different types of vaccines.

If you wonder whether you might need a vaccine, ask your health care provider.

## Outdoor Safety

by Gale L. Kates,  
Chairperson  
Dept. of Pediatrics  
Provident Hospital  
of Cook County

Outdoor fun often brings bumps, scrapes and cuts. One out of four children sustains an injury requiring medical attention, according to the American College of Emergency Physicians. The most important thing to do when a child is hurt is to act fast. Prompt medical attention can often avoid complications such as infections.

### **Tips to Prevent/Stop Bleeding Emergencies:**

If your child gets a superficial cut or scrape, wash the area with face soap and water, apply an antibiotic ointment and bandage. The pressure from the bandage is usually enough to stop the bleeding. To treat a deeper wound that is bleeding, do the following:

- Apply firm direct pressure to cut with a sterile bandage or clean cloth. Exception: if an object such as glass or metal is embedded in the laceration, call 911 or take the child to the Emergency Room right away.

- Elevate the wound above your child's heart if the cut is on his arm or leg, and keep pressure on the laceration. Do not lift the wounded area if you think a bone may be broken. In this case, call 911 or take your child to the Emergency Room right away.

- Check whether bleeding has stopped after three or four minutes of direct pressure. If it has not, continue to press on the cut. If blood soaks through the bandage or cloth, do not remove it, just add another dressing on top of the soiled one. If at five minutes bleeding continues, call 911 or immediately take your child to the Emergency Room. Remember to continue the pressure and do not remove the bandages.

- Gently clean the wound with soap and water or antiseptic wipes once the bleeding stops. Apply an antibiotic ointment, bandage the cut with a sterile dressing, and change the dressing every day. Call your pediatrician to obtain follow-up

in one or two days. If redness, swelling, fever, pus or other signs of infection occur, take your child to your primary doctor or go to the Emergency Department.

Always Go to the Emergency Room if:

- The bleeding does not stop after five minutes of direct pressure.
- Your child was bitten by an animal or person.
- The cut is deep and gaping open.
- The cut has dirt or debris embedded in it.
- The injury was caused by a dirty object (such as broken glass on the ground).
- The cut has a deep puncture wound.
- Your child does not have sensation (feeling) in the wounded area.
- The cut is on the face, neck, head or palm side of the hand.
- The cut seems to be infected.

Most childhood injuries can be prevented. Always supervise children at play and inspect the play area for proper functioning equipment and a clean, protected area.

The National Program for Playground Safety (NPPS) has a free booklet,

"Inspection Guide for Parents: 10 steps to Safer Playgrounds for Your Children." Call 1-800-554-PLAY or log on to [www.uni.edu/playground](http://www.uni.edu/playground) to get it.

Here are some tips:

- Be certain the equipment is right for your child's age. If he can't climb on it without assistance, the equipment is too big for him.
- Check for broken glass, sharp metal, rough wood or other hazards.
- Teach your children never to go into the water without first telling an adult. Children must always be supervised when swimming or playing with water. Never leave infants and children unsupervised around any kind of water.

At Provident Hospital of Cook County, we can provide your child with emergency care, asthma management, well baby care and immunizations.

We also have pediatric specialists available for children with asthma, allergies, obesity, behavioral, sleep and learning problems, congenital heart disorders and other special pediatric needs.

For more information, call 312-572-2684. For appointments call 312-572-1543.

## SIDS: Reduce the Risk

by the Chicago  
Department of  
Health

Keep your baby safe from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome

There is nothing more tragic than the death of a baby. Far too many babies less than one year old die from SIDS – also known as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

In Chicago, SIDS deaths have decreased dramatically – except in the African American community. An African American baby is four times more likely to die of SIDS than a baby of another race.

No one knows what causes SIDS but we know what has been proven to keep your baby safer. Follow these tips:

**Put your baby on his/her back to go to sleep.** This is new. Your mother was told babies sleep on their tummies but now we know that fewer babies will die of SIDS if they sleep on their backs. Recently, there have been stories about babies who sleep on their backs having "flat heads." But this flat head problem is harmless and usually resolves itself within the first 6 to 12 months. Give your baby some "tummy time" while your baby is awake.

**Bedding.** Make sure your baby sleeps on a firm mattress or surface. Take away the fluffy blankets, stuffed animals, bumper guards and comforters if you use covers at all. Don't let your baby sleep on a pillow, couch, waterbed, sheepskin or other soft material.

**Temperature.** The room temperature should feel comfortable to you. Dress your baby as you are dressed.

**Smoking.** Do not smoke around your baby and don't let anyone else smoke around your baby.

**Separate Beds.** Don't let your baby sleep in the same bed with you or with others.

### Immunizations Save Lives

With the first day of school coming, many parents know it's time for getting the school physicals and childhood shots.

Shots, or immunizations, are a safe, effective way for parents to protect their children from deadly diseases like polio and whooping cough.

But it's not just school-aged children who need shots. In fact, children need certain shots before the age of two because very young children are at greater risk for

some diseases because their immune systems are still developing. Please check with a doctor about your child's shots and make sure he or she has had all of them to keep them safe and protected from disease.

The Chicago Department of Public Health offers free shots at its eight health clinics. This year, six Fast Track clinics opened; these clinics give fast, free and friendly shots. No appointment is needed. You come, you walk in and you get the immunizations your child needs without waiting.

Remember to ask a doctor for an immunization record card for your child if you don't yet have one.

This card will help you keep track of which shots your child has had and which ones he still needs. Always take the record card with you to the doctor so your child can get the right shots.

# Second Summer Jam Equals Triple

by Jacqueline Thompson

Let the record show that it was all about the children." Beginning with the weather, it was friendly to "kids" (as we like to call our young people). Not a rain cloud was in sight and the temperature was no higher than the mid-70s; there was no fear of sunburn lurking. A gentle breeze played easily as an emotional control.

I like to say summer for many children is its own reward. But at Harold Ickes Homes' Second Summer Jam 2000, it was a bonus-filled day - a class act to be applauded.

It was not heralded beforehand like last year's event. The plans had quietly taken shape in the offices of the few CHA programs for residents left standing. Ald. Madeline Haithcock (2), chairman of the city's Special Events and Cultural Affairs Committee, worked closely with Gil Walker, assistant chief of family programs for CHA residents, and Dorian Figgers, director of children and youth programs for CHA residents. This team organized slam dunking contests, pony rides, train rides and a giant balloon jungle gym for the full gratification of the youngest residents.

The music showcased a parade of talented teen and young adult singing groups, made up of CHA residents or former residents. To encourage and enjoy these well trained, hard working acts, the teenage and young adult resident populations were thoroughly entertained by Phaze II- Looney Ben, Tiffany Hayes and Total Darkness, who were hosted by Spank Boogie and Tornado from radio station WGCI.

The best part of this scene was that it took place in the early afternoon instead of late

night, when danger lurks and emotions almost always overflow.

There were many groups of uniformed sports teams, representing soccer, baseball and other teams newly formed. They made an exciting picture of the different color combinations of green and black, red and white, gold and blue complete with matching socks and athletic shoes. The difference between this year's groups and last year's is that so many of them were younger. With an age range of 9 to 13, many more children were involved in regular sports activities and disciplines.

Even though the still beautiful, well-kept, accessible basketball court almost always takes center stage at Ickes outdoor events, the game of basketball was low key as the day's highlight. It was the music stage where the culmination of the regular Midnight Basketball and Biddy Basketball League tournaments staged their awards ceremonies.

The many teams have kept the players fully active throughout their season. Both the Biddy Basketball League and the Midnight Basketball League produced individual winners and awarded four young men with the MVP (most valuable player) awards. For the Biddy Basketball league all-star game, Anthony Williams was declared the awardee. For the league championship game, Dionte Martin. For the Midnight Basketball League All-Star game, Christopher Mitchell, and for championship game, Fred Nichols.

The LAC presidents of Harold L Ickes, Gloria Williams, and Dearborn Homes, Theresa Ricks, and their committees used their special talent for procuring food, gaily striped tents and outdoor comfort centers for seniors. The food consisted of grilled chopped steaks, hot dogs, chips, fresh fruit and a variety of fruit drinks. If

you wanted second helpings, they were available. The smallest residents had iced fruit pops.

With the weather being so favorable, more seniors attended the outdoor festivities and were truly pampered by being served in their own special comfort zone equipped with tables, chairs and food.

New CHA CEO Terry Peterson arrived on the scene just before Gil Walker announced the highlight of the day. His presence added to the vibrant character and camaraderie flowing through the milling crowd of excited residents.

Walker saved the best for last. In order for the huge group to experience the new showcase of the day, we all had to leave the stage area and enter the basketball arena.

Once inside, all the seated dignitaries and residents were totally surprised to see a brand new drill team step out on the court in perfect precision. The team consisted of 17 performers, all CHA residents, who were only part of the 50-member team, the New Generation Fancy Drill team and Performing Arts Ensemble.

Later, speaking to the director, James Crofton, I learned that the drill team members are all from public housing and many of them were from Harold Ickes.

After a rousing round of applause and encouraging cheers, we were still surprised again to see mats being dragged onto the court and an energetic group of young men came tumbling it seems from out of nowhere, and started the crowd into a loud chorus of approval. It was definitely thrilling to see the size and age range of performers run, jump and fly their way unto the center court.

The name of this group is the Chicago Boys Acrobatic Team, which has been teaching and training youth from public housing for the past two years. Their director is Tim Shaw, who



Young people from the Archer Courts Soccer Team pose during the annual Slam Jam held at the Harold L. Ickes Homes July 22.

Photo by Jacqueline Thompson

told me that all the new members from CHA were doing very well learning and staying involved in the team.

CHA CEO Peterson said he enjoyed the event.

"Just great," Peterson said, "Any time you get the kids and adults on an outing together, it's good."

"I want to go to all 22 developments and sit with the residents and LAC presidents and discuss the issues."

The most pleasurable part of the day spoke loudly to the culture of the residents. Our community has re-discovered unity in dancing, specifically the "Electric Boogie." The DJ that played the newest music, "The Casper," summoned all the connectedness of our ancestry when he called for all the grandmothers to come to center court and dance in tribal fashion. It seemed as though 100 grandmothers and



City of Chicago  
Richard M. Daley, Mayor



## Comprehensive Clinics

All telephone area codes are 312, except where indicated.

### Comprehensive Clinics

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

### Maternal/Child Clinics

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

### Public Health Clinic

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

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



## Key Public Health Telephone Numbers

All telephone area codes are 312, except where indicated

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



Dep. of Public Health  
Sheila Lyne, RSM Commissioner

# Letters to the Editor

## CHA Residents Recycle

**Dear Editor:**

I think people need to know that people in public housing are involved in recycling.

Recycling began with the familiar image of a van, very possibly covered with peace and love symbols, cruising through the streets, collecting recyclables from peoples' homes. This was recycling in the 1970s. It was a mindful, environmental, altruistic and very grassroots.

Today, recycling in Chicago has a different feel. The Public Relations image of the ambitious Blue Bag program with its declaration of "It's in the bag" is most prevalent in the minds of Chicagoans.

The problem is that even if "It's in the bag, it's not in public housing." Blue Bagging is not designed for multiple unit dwellings like those found in the Chicago Housing Authority. Consequently, there was a need for another system of recycling that would reach CHA residents eager to recycle and collect a little cash or credit along the way.

The CHA recycling program began in September 1995. Sponsored by the Resource Center, a non-profit recycling organization, the City Department of

Environment, CHA and Waste Management, the program's goal is to bring economic opportunity to individuals, support local businesses, reduce waste and litter at CHA complexes and contribute to the City's overall recycling goals.

Since its inception, the program has seen a steady increase in materials recycled and in 1998-1999, \$114,580 worth of vouchers were paid out to CHA resident recyclers. The Resource Center, which operates the trucks and provides the staff for the program, hires CHA residents and Americorps Vista workers.

The Resource Center has operated pick up routes in the Hyde Park and Beverly neighborhoods since the 1970s. Jonathan Earnst, the program director at the Resource Center, said, "The CHA Recycling program has seen a steady increase in the amount of materials collected and looks forward to more participation through public education and the expansion of their recycling territory."

The CHA recycling program works like this: CHA residents bring recyclable materials such as newspaper, bottles, plastic, aluminum and cardboard - often by way of shopping or laundry cart - to a

waiting recycling crew. The crew sorts and weighs the recyclables and then places them into compartments on the curb sorter recycling truck. The recycler is then paid for the materials they delivered with a voucher, which is redeemable at local stores.

Gathering the recyclable materials and transporting them is hard work. The loads packing the recyclers' shopping and laundry carts are heavy and the parking lot areas where the recycling truck is parked can be hard to navigate. It often takes two people to handle a cart, heaving it over the potholes and loose, jagged sidewalks that abound in and around CHA.

The amount of money recyclers receive for their materials varies widely and the overflowing yields on some carts don't amount to much. Some of the vouchers are worth just \$2 or \$3. But there are occasions when vouchers of \$20.00 have been allocated to very diligent household recyclers or others who may have scoured the neighborhood collecting recyclable materials. The average worth for one family's weekly recyclables in a residential program is about \$3.00

Cheryl Johnson, of People for Community Recovery, an environmental advocacy organization that's been campaigning for environmental change in Altgeld Gardens for years says she has seen "a very noticeable" reduction in litter and waste in as a result of CHA Recycling. She also emphasized the recycling program's role in the larger environmental movement. Johnson said the motivation for recycling - be it environmental or financial - isn't really important. "Landfill space is being saved regardless."

Mehrdad Azemumat of the Chicago Recycling Coalition said the CHA recycling program "is a model program that should be expanded to other low income areas and CHA scattered site housing."

Azemumat points out that the CHA program is "customized" for the neighborhoods it operates in. "There is a direct incentive to participate, the recycler gets money **for**, instead of paying money **to** recycle."

For more information about the CHA recycling program, call (773) 821-9230.

- Todd Thomas

## Homeless Kids Win Rights

**Dear Editor:**

When Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and homeless families reached a settlement agreement on July 27 in regards to the rights of homeless children in the schools, a long-awaited victory was won for Chicago's homeless children.

The framework for positive, accessible education has finally been established for homeless children and it's happening right here in Chicago.

There are many responsible for this victory. I want to commend Paul Vallas, CEO of Chicago Public Schools, his team and the numerous organizations and individuals who challenged the Board of Education to stop its legal battle against the kids and reach resolution. These organizations include the Interfaith Council for

the Homeless, the Partnership to End Homelessness, the Catholic Archdiocese, Jesse Jackson, state Sen. Barak Obama, state Sen. Miguel De Valle, U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez, the Better Government Association and the PTA.

I especially want to thank the dedicated homeless families for their courage and willingness to stand up for the rights of all homeless children. This settlement will serve as the foundation for all homeless children in Chicago to receive the best education possible so that they may become productive, successful adults.

The changes that come with the settlement will help more than 20,000 homeless kids annually get in, and stay in, school in Chicago. Under the agreement, homeless children must be allowed to enroll in and

attend school even if they lack records, transfers, physicals or immunizations. The schools must assist families with these records after the children are enrolled. Homeless children will also receive tutoring, receive transportation services to allow them to stay in the home school, and be assured that they are treated with the same dignity and respect afforded to other students.

The Chicago Public Schools has agreed to hire additional staff to ensure greater oversight and implementation of the homeless education problem. There will also be action taken to make sure teachers get the sensitivity training necessary to understand and empathize with the plight of homeless families. Most significantly, schools will be trained to sensitive-

ly identify who is homeless so that they can be offered services and given assistance. Families doubled-up in housing, in shelters, on the street, in transient motels and other impermanent settings are all considered homeless.

A huge victory has indeed been won for the children as a result of this settlement. I commend the efforts of everyone involved. A homeless child deserves the same chance at a rich education as any other child in the public school system and the necessary partnership between Chicago Public Schools and homeless families is finally in place to make this notion a reality.

- John Donahue  
Executive Director  
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

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

# Dear Resident

by Patricia Johnson-Gordon

Another summer has come and gone. And as usual, too many of our children are gone with it.

Unlike mothers in other communities, we hate to see the warm weather of summer come. In our community, a rise in temperature means a rise in noise, garbage, vehicular and pedestrian traffic, domestic and non-domestic disputes, theft, vandalism, violence, concern, blood pressure and - all too often - death and grief.

By the end of summer, we're looking forward to the cold weather and snow of winter. I am sure that some of us would not object to winter lasting all year long. The snow and ice cover our community's greatest ills and our quality of life improves for a short while.

Taking all of this into consideration, one can't help but come back to the same, seemingly unanswerable question that constantly comes up in many of our minds and conversations: "What's wrong with us?"

This question is not meant to suggest that we have problems that are exclusive (given or belonging) to us alone. By comparison, most communities and/or races indeed have many of the same problems. What prompts the question may be the unusually high percentage of the problems that we experience, our lackadaisical (showing lack of interest or spirit) attitude and the way that we deal with or mostly do not deal with these problems and each other.

While indeed the physical, geographical and economic configuration (construction and arrangement) of our communities must come into play with regard to the intensity of our problems, there is a certain amount of personal and community responsibility that must and will come to bear upon each of us. Everything has to do with everything and we all have to do with each other. We are all part of the same existential (the manner of being that is common to every mode of being; the totality of existent things) universe or, in our case, community.

I am always amazed at how we can come together as a community, even a city, to grieve for and bury a child and then go back to our separate communities and our separate lives. It would appear that tragedy is the most common denominator (shared characteristic) of our totality.

If we could share in America's prosperity as well as we share in America's tragedy, perhaps there would not be so much tragedy for our children. If we were as outraged at the way children live as we are at the way they die, perhaps more of our children would live. If we would give a dollar as quickly for the life of a child as we will for the death of a child, perhaps

fewer would die.

The commonality (a sharing of common features or characteristics) of the American totality is most important in pondering (to think deeply about) the above question with regard to the uncommonly high percentage of social ills that affect our community. We must also consider our uncommon history.

Historically, we have the uncommon burden of slavery, segregation and racism. We have been locked out, locked up and locked down. Locked out of communities, jobs and education. Locked up, denied our human rights, civil rights, any rights. Locked down in the poorest communities, poorest schools, poorest America.

We have the uncommon burden of fighting America, to the highest courts, for acceptance. Yet, we have not accepted ourselves. We also have uncommon physical features. We stand out. But we can also be outstanding. I do not believe that there is another race more varied in appearance or

cessful, not in dollars and cents but in deeds (actions) and life, there are certain things that must be done no matter who you are or where you live. There are paths that must be followed. Lines that must not be crossed. Behaviors that must be practiced that are common to all that lead to a common success: a community with few social ills.

All we have to do is glance at our

**T**here is a certain amount of personal and community responsibility that must and will come to bear upon each of us.

community in comparison to those with fewer social ills and the differences are immediately noticeable. As a community, our manner of dress, speech, attitude and music are outside of the lines. These mannerisms are fine for the people who make the clothes and the people who make the music because it makes them rich and money can compensate for and solve quite a few problems.

But as soon as they become wealthy, the first thing that they do is move out and step inside the lines of a community somewhere else. That's not to say that we should abandon what may have become a part of our culture but a culture does not sustain (keep in existence) a people.

People must sustain their culture. Perhaps that is why we have lost the culture of our ancestors, which is one of great respect for self, family and community. We must learn that there is a time and place for everything, even culture. Our children must learn that school and work are not places for the Hip Hop attitude and behavior displayed in some music and music videos.

Last but not least is our attitude towards each other. Because everything has to do with everything and we all have to do with each other, how we live together is crucial.

It is often commented on how other races have come to America and prospered while we have not. That's because they have worked together to support one another and their culture. I have often heard it said that each person of Jewish descent is responsible for one another. Who are you responsible for?

Service to family and community is how a community becomes strong. For as surely as we help someone else, in some way we help ourselves and our community. And perhaps, if we spend more helping one another instead of hurting one another in thought, speech and deed, our children will do the same and more of them will remain with us at summer's end.

**Just like traffic, we must stay inside the lines.**

Photo by Patricia Johnson-Gordon



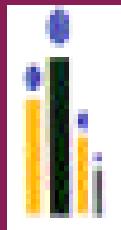
stature.

These differences have resulted in some being readily accepted, while others are spurned (to show contempt or disdain for by refusing or rejecting) - a behavior, unfortunately, that we practice among ourselves, some to the familial (common to a family) level. Historically, we sought to escape White America. Currently, we seek to escape Black America.

Even more important than the answer to the above question is a solution. And again, we must refer to the commonality of peoples and communities that have fewer social ills. Whether they be economic communities where the common denominator is wealth or ethnic communities where the common denominator is not race, even though everyone is of the same background, but maintaining their race's culture. There is something common to them all that is uncommon to us.

There must be certain things they do that we don't. But if one is to be suc-

Pat.



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Participants of the Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center "Teen Reach" after school program marching strong in the Bud Billiken parade. The youths utilized the center's 50 computer lab by learning how to create and design Web pages.

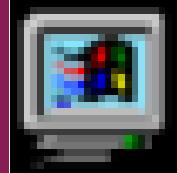


Renowned journalist Vernon Jarrett congratulates Community Specialist Carla Smith upon completion of the "Basic Principles of Community Leadership" training course, during a June 2000 "Rites of Passage" ceremony.

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