

goodcitynews:

MICHAEL T. IVERS BECOMES PRESIDENT OF GOODCITY ON MAY 7, 2001 • STARFISH STUDIOS BRINGS TOGETHER INNER CITY YOUTH AND PROFESSIONALS BY TEACHING CHILDREN FILMMAKING • ECOVIDA PROGRAM LEADER NERIS GONZALES RECEIVES THE WILD (WOMEN IN LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT) AWARD FROM HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL • KINSHIP CONNECTION FURTHER EXPANDS TO PROVIDE COUNSELING, TUTORING, EMERGENCY SUPPORT, AND RESPITE CARE FOR GRANDPARENTS • THIRTY NEW PARTICIPANTS JOIN THE NORTH OF HOWARD COMMUNITY IDA (INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT) PROGRAM, COORDINATED BY TWO WORKING MOMS



We value the city, servant leadership, the socially vulnerable, racial reconciliation, conflict resolution, economic empowerment, capacity building and taking risks.

Earlene Hines leads a support group meeting two mornings per month at Harold Washington Elementary for grandparents raising their grandchildren. The goal is to give emotional support and connect the caregivers with parenting resources they may need.



Quality early childhood education improves the life chances of children from economically disenfranchised families. The 40 members of Austin Child Care Providers Network are improving home day care for over 300 boys and girls on the West Side, while allowing their parents to work or attend school to improve their own job skills.



Community Programs

PARENTING GRANDCHILDREN IS A STRESSFUL VENTURE

Parenting can be a stressful venture for anyone. But caring long-term for one's grandchildren can really take its toll, no matter how wonderful the grandchildren may be. According to the 2000 Census, there are at least 97,000 children under the age of eighteen living in grandparent-headed households in the city of Chicago. People from all racial backgrounds and income levels are experiencing this phenomenon. According to the University

of Illinois Extension Service, sixty-six percent of grandparent caregivers are between the ages of forty-three and sixty-four, while only fifteen percent are sixty-five and older. Nineteen percent are under the age of forty-five.

Fifteen years ago, Earlene and her husband took custody of their two grandchildren ages five and seven. According to Earlene, the fifteen years that followed were the worst of times and the best of times.

"We didn't have the joy of being grandparents in the traditional sense, but we were given so much more. Parenting our grandchildren helped me to understand the challenges facing an increasing number of grandparents."

This led her to establish Kinship Connection, a one-stop service facility

for grandparents raising grandchildren, and begin a partnership with Goodcity to provide her with the organizational development training she and her Board of Advisors need to create a sustainable organization.

Kinship Connection's purpose is to provide counseling, tutoring, emergency support, and other support for grandparents. It is still in the development stages, but Earlene is presently facilitating support groups at Harold Washington School, Bradwell School and the Rhema Center and has recruited and trained three volunteer coordinators who are leading groups in various locations throughout the city.

Goodcity President Michael T. Ivers is pictured here with Board Chair Mary Nelson at a welcoming reception held at the Storehouse on a hot day (June 14, 2001), holding a toy bridge symbolizing the organization's vision for building bridges across people and organizations in Chicago's metropolitan area.



Working moms, Rhonda Jones and Sindy Pizzini, are local coordinators for the North of Howard Community IDA Program, which was established and is coordinated by Goodcity.



Community Economic Development **WORKING MOMS**

Working moms, Rhonda Jones and Sindy Pizzini, local coordinators for the North of Howard Community IDA (Individual Development Account) Program, which was established and is coordinated by Goodcity, are each saving to purchase their first home.

An additional 30 participants signed up in December for this program that combines financial literacy classes with matched savings as an incentive for economically disenfranchised people to save toward an appreciating asset like a first home, post secondary education or a small business. As employees of the project as well as participants, Rhonda and Sindy are the primary contacts for the 60 participants, most of whom are also saving to take advantage of up to

\$5,400 in match money toward a down payment on a home or condominium in the North of Howard community. Their enthusiasm and commitment has motivated both groups to save a combined total of \$9,715.20 by December 31, 2001.

Rhonda, the mother of six, five of whom are still in elementary school, reflects, "These classes are making me pay attention and care about my finances. My credit is who I am."

Sindy, the mother of one child, speaks Spanish and translates for the bilingual financial literacy sessions.

Sindy credits working at Money Work\$ and coordinating this project as major forces in helping her understand finance. "I didn't have a clue before this program, but I've realized unless you have your finances together, you can't get anything."

Goodcity thanks the Seabury Foundation's Deborah Holloway for her advocacy with banks and local organizations that resulted in the formation of this collaboration. The members are: The Northern Trust, Uptown National Bank, Devon Bank, Dominicks, Family Matters, Gale Community Leadership in Action, Good News Partners, Good News Community Church, Housing Opportunities for Women, Howard Area Community Center, Moneywork\$, Rogers Park Community Development, and Starfish Learning Center.



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COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

1. ECOVIDA
2. Greater Works Ministries
3. Lawndale Community Outreach Services
4. Clothing Her in Courage
5. Latino Union of Chicago
6. Recovery Plus II
7. Starfish Studios
8. Austin Child Care Providers Network
9. Kinship Connection
10. Bright Determined Children
11. Women of Nu
12. The Gap Youth Project
13. Austin Computers for Schools
14. Interfaith Youth Core
15. FOCUS Youth
16. Alliance for Community Peace

NEIGHBORHOOD

- Pilsen
- Roseland
- North Lawndale
- Uptown
- Back of the Yards
- Austin
- Rogers Park
- Austin
- South Shore
- West Garfield
- Austin
- Bronzeville
- Austin
- city-wide
- North Lawndale
- Cabrini-Green

Community Economic Development sites:
 Rogers Park, Cabrini-Green, Austin, Lawndale

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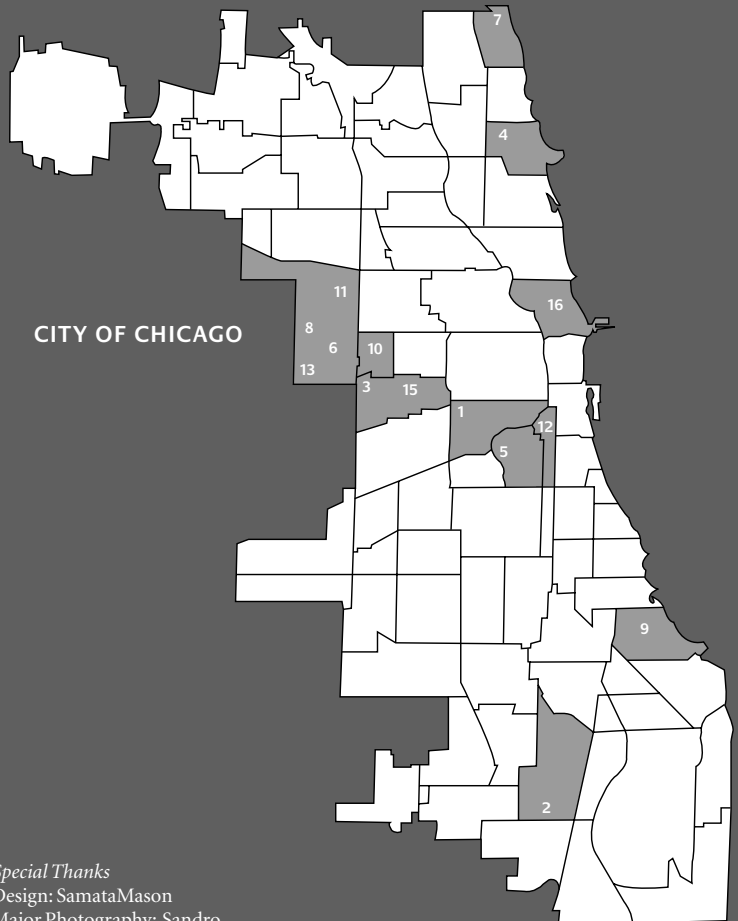
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