



CHICAGO
COALITION
FOR THE
HOMELESS
2013 REPORT



HOMELESS YOUTH

CCH is a leader on the city's homeless youth task force, begun in 2010. CCH advocates for priority recommendations of the task force, many of which were included in the city's new homeless plan, through which the city reallocated \$2 million to add 84 overnight youth beds and three drop-in programs. CCH co-lead a task force transit committee that spoke out at a January CTA Board meeting and via the media, seeking reduced-fare passes for youth providers to supply to homeless youth clients. But the CTA agreed only to supply passes for GED students, helping about 85 youth a year versus the several hundred we sought to help. CCH also served on a task force committee helping the city plan and evaluate its first citywide survey of street and homeless youth, done this fall.



CCH runs an activist group for street youth, now in its 9th year. Because the HELLO group's host site closed in December, CCH secured a new weekly meeting place at Lakeview's Wellington UCC Church. The youth attorney, youth policy specialist, and a writing outreach organizer staff the meetings. The group involves more than 100 youth a year, ages 18 through 23. Most are people of color, and about half the youth are LGBT.

ILLINOIS HOMELESS BILL OF RIGHTS

Illinois became the second state in the U.S. to adopt a measure that protects homeless people from discrimination. This new law protects a homeless person's right to keep a job, to vote, to have their privacy protected, as well as protecting access to public spaces, transit, and emergency medical care. After State Sen. Ira Silverstein introduced the bill in the spring session, CCH's policy specialist in Springfield, Jennifer Cushman, secured numerous legislative sponsors in the Senate and House. Citing our pivotal support, Gov. Pat Quinn asked to come to the CCH office to sign the bill into law on August 22. More states are expected to follow the lead set by Rhode Island, Illinois, and now a third state, Connecticut.



KEEP CHICAGO RENTING

CCH was among six lead groups that campaigned successfully this past year for the Keep Chicago Renting ordinance, through a coalition led by the Albany Park Neighborhood Council. OK'd by the City Council on June 5, the ordinance won with 45 votes after a 10-month campaign. CCH advocated at aldermanic meetings, press conferences, and city negotiations over the \$10,600 fee that lenders must pay each tenant if they force a rent-paying household to move. Effective in September, Keep Chicago Renting protects tenants who kept up rent payments yet faced eviction when their apartment building or rental house was bought after the owner's foreclosure.

LAND BANK

Our Sweet Home Chicago campaign advocated last year with Cook County Board leaders on their plans to launch a Cook County Land Bank. Last fall, Policy Director Julie Dworkin was named to the advisory board that researched how to form a land bank to restore all types of vacant, foreclosed and tax delinquent property. In meetings and negotiations with county leaders, our campaign pushed successfully to pilot a land bank countywide and not just the south suburbs, as first proposed. Sweet Home was asked to help county officials negotiate active participation by the city of Chicago, which holds title to 15,000+ vacant parcels.

Ms. Dworkin was named to the land bank Board of Directors in March. In 2014, the land bank will hire a director and finish writing policies and procedures for acquiring and disposing of property. Sweet Home partners spoke to the land bank board several times this year to relay concerns, and succeeded in getting the board to name affordable housing among its priorities. CCH designed a PowerPoint that explains the land bank and its potential, with Sweet Home partners on their way to showing it to 40 civic and religious groups. This enables the community to speak up if the land bank were to go off track, such as favoring all high-end redevelopment.

LEGAL AID

Three staff attorneys represented 289 clients. In FY13, 97% of the clients were homeless children and teens seeking access to public schools (212, 73%), or youth with other civil legal needs (68, 24%) who connect via the Youth Futures mobile legal aid clinic. CCH represented 71 students impacted by the June closure of 48 Chicago elementary schools.

MEN'S CUBICLE HOTELS



Last January, the Chicago Sun-Times reported that two aldermen had proposed an ordinance to close the city's last two cubicle hotels, housing 325 men in Uptown and the Loop. Residents told our organizers they wanted to fight back, because though modest, these up-to-code buildings were home to them. CCH mobilized a group that included the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, StreetWise, and Lakeview Action Coalition. CCH involved Sun-Times columnist Mark Brown, who wrote three columns about the men in February and March. We assisted as Mr. Brown went on to write a series looking at Uptown Ald. James Cappleman's efforts to kick out a Salvation Army food truck,

midnight sweeps of people sleeping under the Wilson Avenue viaduct, and the tactics used to oust single-room occupancy (SRO) tenants from buildings being converted to high-end studios. Shriver and CCH attorneys wrote the mayor's office to warn that adoption of the cubicle ordinance would jeopardize \$98 million in yearly federal funding that requires the city to affirmatively further fair housing. CCH also assisted StreetWise as we got 125 providers to sign on to do a press conference at which the city would be urged to stop its antagonism against people who are poor and homeless. Mayoral aides asked for a meeting in lieu of the press conference. At that April meeting, group leaders were assured that the cubicle ordinance was shelved by the mayor's office.



RE-ENTRY PROJECT

Led by ex-offenders and advocates, CCH's Re-Entry Project proposed that the Chicago and Cook County housing authorities pilot programs to offer housing access for ex-offenders. The Housing Authority of Cook County is now in the process of implementing this pilot. Currently, ex-offenders are told to wait at least five years before returning home. The pilot would allow several reentry providers, including St. Leonard's Ministries, Safer Foundation, and Thresholds, to certify high-performing clients as qualifying – usually to rejoin family in public housing or Housing Choice units. Thirty to 50 ex-offenders would be helped in a two-year pilot. Directors at both authorities have expressed high-level support; working with involved providers, CCH is now seeking approval votes from the CHA committees and boards.

RESTORATIVE PROGRAMS FOR PROSTITUTION SURVIVORS

Prostitution Alternatives Round Table and its SAGE survivors' group led legislative and/or organizing advocacy for End Demand Illinois for four years, enacting four state laws in four years. The latest measure is a 2013 bill, signed by Gov. Quinn in August, that eliminated prostitution charged at the felony level. Legislators, including a downstate Republican

senator, have spoken publicly about being swayed by the testimony of our SAGE leader, Glenda Sykes. This year, PART and SAGE developed their own advocacy agenda focused on issues identified by survivor leaders. One of the leaders' concerns is advocating that Cook County open a misdemeanor court with resources for women to exit the sex trade, much like the WINGS felony court PART helped to open two years ago.



SCHOLARSHIPS

CCH awards \$2,000 renewable college scholarships to homeless students, with five new winners each year. In 10 years, 39 homeless Chicago students have received more than \$165,000 from private donors to attend 21 schools, including Concordia, Knox and Lake Forest colleges, DePaul, and the University of Illinois-Chicago.



SPEAKERS BUREAU & MEDIA

CCH builds community support for its advocacy via a Speakers Bureau and media outreach. In FY13, the Speakers Bureau's 15 homeless leaders reached an audience of 4,115 people at 85 venues. The Bureau organizes audiences that show interest in collaborating: Our core teams helped get six meetings with legislators last year. The Bureau mobilized 144 students from seven colleges/universities and seven Chicago high schools, plus eight members of a



Lakeview church. Staff and leaders were quoted in Chicago's mainstream media, including the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, and WBEZ. Managed by a former newspaper reporter, the website featured 96 blog articles written by staff and volunteers. CCH has 2,950 Facebook followers (up 51%) and 1,160 on Twitter (up 3.5 times) in a year. Recent posts can be seen on the home page of our website, www.chicagohomeless.org

STATE BUDGET

Having secured partial restoration of state spending cuts to shelters, homeless prevention grants and homeless youth programs, CCH pushed to maintain funding levels in the FY14 budget. CCH mobilized youth and shelter providers from Chicago and the nine cities in our Statewide Network to develop relationships with their legislators via one-on-one meetings and site visits. We began by meeting with 15 key legislators last summer/fall to thank them for voting down a proposed 52% (\$4.7 million) cutback to shelters. This spring, we brought 250 shelter residents and providers to Springfield to talk to legislators. We also work with several allies, including Heartland Alliance and Housing Action Illinois. State funding was maintained, with small increases (\$300,000) to shelter and (\$500,000) homeless youth funding. CCH worked with the Responsible Budget Coalition on the launch of A Better Illinois, a campaign that promotes switching to a graduated state income tax. CCH designed a short training that we and other advocates began showing this summer to community groups to explain the need.



STATEWIDE NETWORK



CCH organizes service providers from nine suburbs/ downstate cities to advocate on shared issues, including state funding. An organizer worked with 40 providers in Aurora, Bloomington, Elgin, Joliet, Peoria, Rockford, Springfield, Maywood and Waukegan.

SWEET HOME CHICAGO

CCH manages this affordable housing campaign, partnering with nine community groups and a labor union. We confer with city Housing Commissioner Andy Mooney and his staff to implement low-income rental redevelopment measures that the Sweet Home Coalition got included in the city's 2011 TIF Vacant Building Purchase & Rehab Ordinance.

On July 25, 2012, the City Council approved the first \$1 million TIF allocation for rental redevelopments in the Ogden/Pulaski Tax Increment Financing District. The City Council

also approved several amendments co-authored by CCH. Among other things, these allow redevelopment of rental buildings that are not vacant (to avoid displacing tenants), allow rehab of buildings with commercial storefronts and housing above, and allow more than a 50% subsidy for some projects, including supportive housing. It also allows small buildings to be bundled together as one project, important because 76% of foreclosed apartments were in two- to four-unit buildings from 2009-11, per a study by the Lawyers Committee for Better Housing.

After securing these important changes, city implementation was moving slowly. Our coalition pushed for regular meetings, and since March has met monthly with Mr. Mooney or Deputy Commissioner Lawrence Grisham. The \$1 million from the Ogden/Pulaski TIF district was awarded this summer for two building projects that will restore 35 apartments, including a 26-unit building at 18th Street & South Komensky. Three more TIF districts were selected this summer on the South and West sides, with \$1 million per district to be approved in early 2014. Next year, Sweet Home will push to designate \$10 million in 10 TIF districts. Sweet Home partners testified for this at a July hearing on Chicago's pending five-year housing plan; Associate Policy Director Eithne McMenemy served on the housing plan steering committee.



Partnering on Sweet Home Chicago are Action NOW, Albany Park Neighborhood Council, Bickerdike Redevelopment Corp., Community Renewal Society/Protestants for the Common Good, Jane Addams Senior Caucus, Kenwood Oakland Community Organization (KOCO), Logan Square Neighborhood Association, ONE Northside, Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP) and SIEU Healthcare Illinois/Indiana.

WAGE CAMPAIGNS



CCH is a partner in the Raise Illinois campaign, now contributing efforts to raise the federal minimum wage. On another jobs front, Senior Organizer Dollie Brewer mobilizes shelter residents to rally in the "Fight for 15" campaign. Her leaders rally with service industry workers who strike, challenging employers to improve their stalled poverty wages.

FINANCES

4,130 individuals gave 35% of CCH's FY13 revenue. An FY13 audit released in November shows revenues of \$1.89 million were \$94,000 (4%) below expenses. CCH does not accept government funds. Our 4-star charity relies on support from foundations, business sponsors, donors, and several special events, including a spring Hopefest concert.

UPCOMING EVENTS

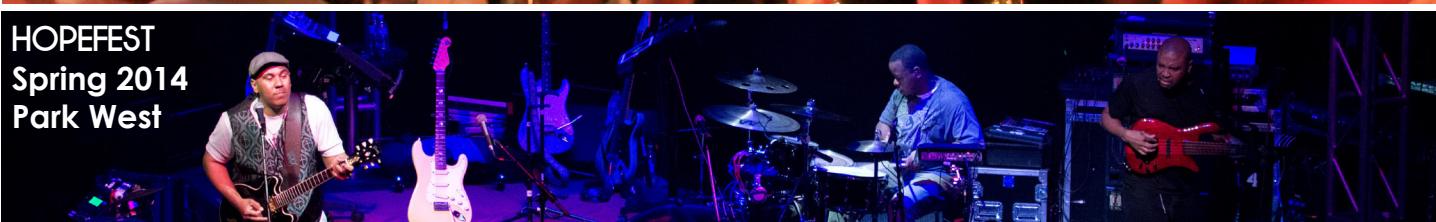
JUSTICE CIRCLE RECEPTION
February 13, 2014
Chicago Bar Association



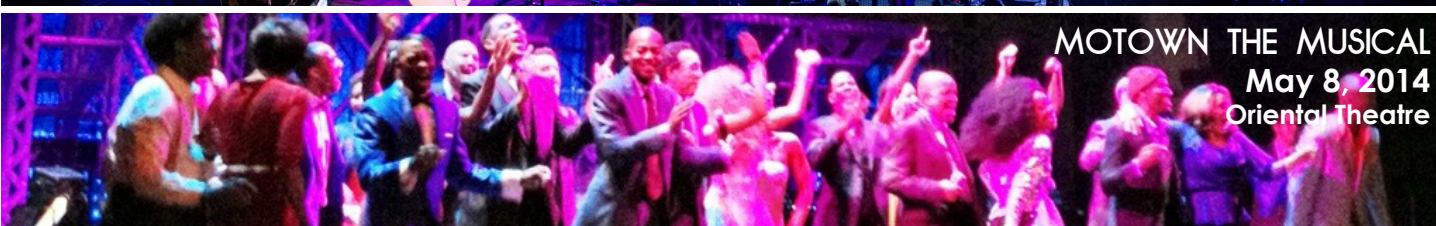
CHEERS FOR CHANGE
March 7, 2014
Delux Bar & Grill



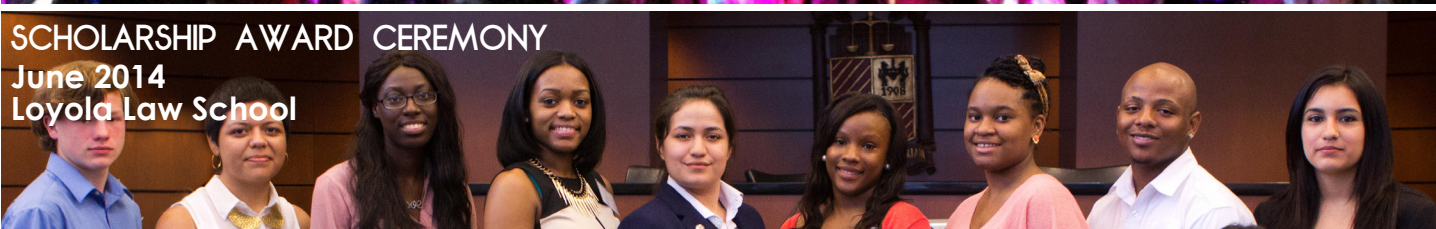
HOPEFEST
Spring 2014
Park West



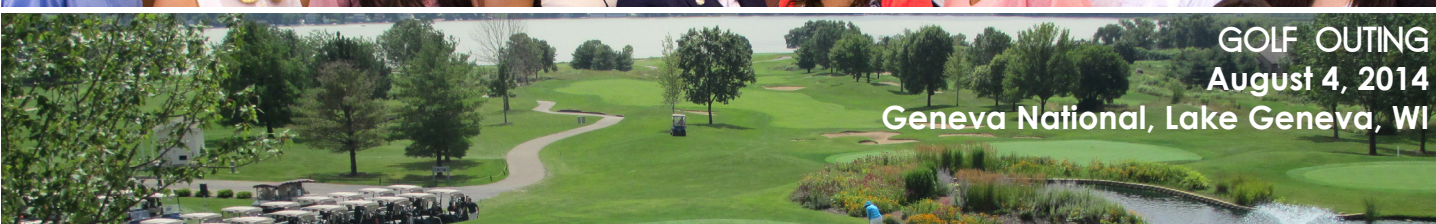
MOTOWN THE MUSICAL
May 8, 2014
Oriental Theatre



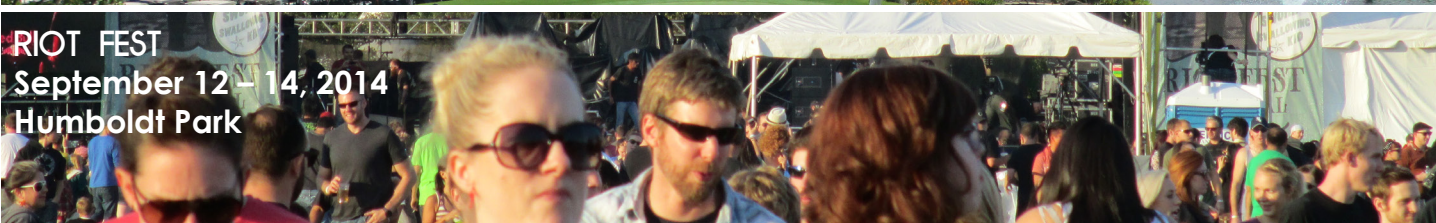
SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CEREMONY
June 2014
Loyola Law School



GOLF OUTING
August 4, 2014
Geneva National, Lake Geneva, WI



RIOT FEST
September 12 - 14, 2014
Humboldt Park



HOMELESS MEMORIAL SERVICE
December 2014
Old St. Patrick's Church



FOR MORE INFORMATION
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