



November 17, 2022 News & Updates from the Chicago Rehab Network

UPDATES FROM CRN

Remembering Mattie Butler

We are deeply saddened to share the passing of long-time housing champion, CRN board member, and WECAN executive director Mattie Butler. Words cannot express or capture all that Ms. Mattie Butler accomplished, or more importantly, meant to the community development field. Our 20th anniversary commemorative CRN video begins with Mattie's voice explaining the motivation for her work: "We had no choice, we had no choice...our babies were burning up in faulty, unsafe properties found in Woodlawn and in most low income communities..." After highlighting the tireless work of advocates and community developers like Mattie, it concludes with Mattie's lilting voice singing *Amazing Grace*. "...this grace that brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home..."



Mattie was recognized as a warrior for justice. She taught us so much: she taught us how to stand up to power and challenge the status quo, she taught us to laugh at hypocrisy and disrupt despairing and racist narratives, she taught us how to go the extra mile, she taught us that gentrification is always preceded by disinvestment, she taught us to not forget the chocolate...the list of lessons learned by Mattie's presence and commitment to community goes on. When the residents of Grove Park housing were at risk of being displaced, they turned to Mattie for her leadership and assistance--a commitment that evolved over five years of dedicated attention and laid the foundation for inclusive revitalization of the 63rd and Cottage Grove affordable housing development led by POAH. That is Ms. Mattie Butler's story--a story that will live on in the future epitomized by the Mattie Butler Apartments. We know Woodlawn is a better, more equitable community because of her vision, her values, and her faith. Beyond Woodlawn, community development is better in neighborhoods across the city. Ms. Mattie Butler, our friend, our colleague, our board member: rest in peace, amazing lady. A life well-lived.

A viewing will be held on November 25 and services will be held on November 26. [Linked here](#) is further information about times and locations to pay your respects and gather in community in remembrance of Mattie.

Support Development Without Displacement this Giving Tuesday

The holidays are just around the corner, and with the festivities comes the annual day focused on giving back to our communities and the organizations that serve them. As we approach the end of the year, you'll be hearing more from us about all that CRN has accomplished in 2022--from bringing new investments to South Shore condo and co-op owners to equipping another cohort of students with affordable development skills to advocating for racial equity in housing appraisals and more. This year, we ask you to help build CRN's capacity as we build the capacity of Chicago's affordable housing



field. On November 29, please consider making a donation toward community empowerment and development without displacement! Or, click below to make a donation today.

[MAKE A DONATION](#)



Empowerment Series Continues in December with Sources of Development Financing

Be a leader for affordable housing in your community! Next up is Sources of Development Financing taught by Yittayih Zelalem, Co-Director of the Nathalie P. Voorhees Center. Developing affordable housing is a challenging process that requires the layering of financing to achieve the goal of affordability. This workshop will familiarize participants with the mechanics of securing development capital, debt and equity financing, grants and subsidies. The class will be broken into four days: Tuesday, December 6 9am-12pm; Thursday, December 8 9am-12pm; Tuesday, December 13 9am-12pm; and Thursday, December 15 9am-12pm. Click below to register for Sources of Development Financing or any of the other remaining comprehensive workshops.

[REGISTER](#)

Save the Date: Community Development & Empowerment Series Graduation in January

On Wednesday, January 18, we will hold a graduation for Community Development and Empowerment Series students. Join us to celebrate our graduates and 25 years of the Empowerment Series! Time and location to be announced soon. Does your organization want to sponsor the event and support future affordable development education? Fill out [this form](#) or contact [Terrhonda](#) with questions.

NEWS & RESOURCES

Illinois Court-Based Rental Assistance Program is Now Open

The Illinois Court-Based Rental Assistance Program (CBRAP) provides funding to Illinois tenants and landlords across the state (outside of Cook County) who have pending cases in eviction court. The program is only available to litigants in eviction court. Applicants may qualify for up to \$25,000 in emergency rental payments that can include up to 15 months of past-due rent and 3 months of future rent payments to prevent eviction. [Find out more about the program and apply.](#)



Illinois Homeowner Assistance Fund Accepting Applications

The Illinois Homeowner Assistance Fund (ILHAF) provides up to \$60,000 in mortgage assistance to

eligible homeowners — paid directly to the servicer, taxing body or other approved entity. Homeowners in need of assistance can find more information on program eligibility and apply at www.illinoishousinghelp.org/ilhaf. Created by the American Rescue Plan Act, ILHAF is designed to prevent mortgage delinquencies and defaults, foreclosures, loss of utilities or home energy services and displacement of homeowners experiencing financial hardship after January 21, 2020. Approximately \$309 million in emergency assistance will be available to Illinois homeowners (read the press release [here](#)).

Widespread Racial Bias in Home Appraisals

A recent New York Times article addresses racial bias in home appraisals, a key issue of CRN's advocacy for several years. The release of 47 million appraisal reports to the public following a directive from the Biden administration "present[s] evidence of a persistent, widespread practice in the home appraisal industry to give higher values to homes when the occupants are white, and devalue them if the owners are people of color." Read the article [here](#) and learn more about [CRN's Appraisal Equity Campaign](#).

DOH's 2nd Quarter Housing Report is Out

The Department of Housing's [quarterly report covering April through June of 2022](#) is out now. The report includes information on one new development for the quarter, as well as information about fund allocations, City housing programs, and more. Stay tuned for CRN's analysis of the report.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Sweet Home Uptown

Voice of the People is holding their Sweet Home Uptown celebration on February 2, 2023. This year, Voice of the People is celebrating and making history with a special focus on senior residents, organizational alumni, and allies. They'll showcase Voice of the People's Senior Services Initiative, spotlighting its positive impact on generations of families that have lived in Voice housing and affordable housing developments in Uptown. [Learn more and RSVP.](#)



Want to be featured in our newsletter? If you have an event, announcement, or resource to share, [let us know!](#)

About CRN

For 45 years, the Chicago Rehab Network has worked to train, coordinate, and empower community-based organizations developing affordable housing across Chicago and the region. CRN's advocacy has resulted in policies and resources including the Affordable Requirements Ordinance, the Tax Reactivation Program, the State of Illinois Housing Trust Fund, and the Illinois Affordable Housing Tax Credit. In addition to advocacy and training, CRN provides industry-wide thought leadership through regular policy updates, best practice case studies, and demographic and economic analysis related to housing needs and markets.



Support our Mission

With your help, we can build strong neighborhoods, strengthen capacity, and foster community leadership.

Find us on social media:



CRN thanks our generous supporters and event sponsors:



Energy Efficiency PROGRAM

Applegate & Thorne-Thomsen ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Cuore e Mani



POLK BROS FOUNDATION a foundation for chicago families

