



news from the *Emergency Fund*

Winter 2012

A New Year's Letter From Nonie



We say it every year. "Can you believe it's 2012 already? Where did 2011 go?" When I sat down to write this letter, I took some time to reflect on the last year. I think three words can sum up 2011 – what a year!

At the Annual Meeting and Reception we had the opportunity to get to know our community better; I was thrilled to see so many of you there. We launched our Small Change Matters campaign, and our community got to work filling jars with pennies, nickels, dimes - and the occasional fifty. The Annual Gala was our largest event ever with a great energy in the room.

But the biggest "event" of 2011 was the Emergency Fund's consolidation with the Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness. This was a move close to my heart. We are now a full service organization, supporting homelessness prevention, support services, and housing assistance - the three pillars of

Chicago's Plan to End Homelessness – all in one organization. Whatever someone's need,

whether they are on the streets or at risk of losing their home, we will be there.



Of course, the Emergency Fund isn't going anywhere. The Emergency Fund is crucial for people facing an immediate problem, and this consolidation will help it grow in scope and effectiveness as part of the Chicago Alliance. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

The new Chicago Alliance offers many opportunities for you to impact our community, and we know that some programs are closer to your heart than others. In 2012, we want to get to know you so that we can help you get to know us. You can read the "Getting to Know You" article for more information, and watch for ways that we will reach out to you this year.



2012 will certainly be a year filled with unexpected challenges and opportunities, but there are three things that I can predict with absolute certainty: 1) It's going to be a transition year filled with excitement and growth.

2) At year's end we will be a stronger, more effective force for preventing and ending homelessness in our community. 3) Next January I will be saying "Can you believe it's 2013 already? Where did 2012 go?"

Warm Regards,

Nonie Brennan
Chief Executive Officer

Haven't seen our video yet?
Visit www.emergencyfund.org
to find out how you made Arthur say
"Chicago's got my back."

Janet, William, and Anne



Janet lived in a basement apartment with her three children. When the sprinkler in the unit above hers burst, the water settled in her apartment, causing extensive damage. Much of their belongings were destroyed. With her family's help Janet purchased new beds for her children, but she was sleeping on the floor. The Emergency Fund bought a bed for Janet. Now she sleeps soundly, and her children don't have to worry about their mother at night.



Described by a Fund Manager as "very resourceful," William makes a living as a Streetwise* vendor in Chicago. Last winter he came to us with a big problem – his shoes were falling apart, and he was working outside in the cold. William knew that he risked frostbite every day he went to work, but he didn't have an alternative. The Emergency Fund bought William a good pair of boots, keeping his feet safe and warm.



Anne was a full-time student. Student loans paid for tuition and books, and her part-time job covered most of her rent and utilities. But when her financial aid ran out, Anne needed help. Anne had been offered a teaching position upon graduation - only a month away - but the electric bill was due now. The Emergency Fund paid Anne's electric bill, helping her keep the lights on while she studied for her final exams.



*Streetwise is a non-profit organization that helps Chicago area men and women who are facing homelessness to achieve stability through supportive services and immediate access to gainful employment. Vendors earn money by selling the Streetwise magazine on the streets of Chicago.

Getting to Know You

Like many of you, we here at the Emergency Fund look forward to the beginning of the New Year as a time of reflection and rejuvenation. 2012 has been no exception—as you read in Nonie's letter, 2012 is going to be a big year for the Emergency Fund, and we want to keep you informed about our transition and all of our innovative programs to prevent and end homelessness.

As important as it is to help you get to know us, we also want to continue to get to know you! One of the many advantages of our consolidation with the Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness is that we will now be able to help our clients in more ways than one. Not only will we help people overcome a crisis or a transition, we are entering the world of advocacy and expanding our work with Chicago's Plan to End Homelessness, among other exciting ventures.

We are excited to deepen our relationship with you this year. Maybe you have a particular passion for ending youth or veteran homelessness. Perhaps you think immediate financial assistance is the best way to help people in need. Maybe you've always been interested in public policy. Whatever interests you, we want you to know what we are doing about it.

Later this year we will be sending you a questionnaire about your interests and philanthropic goals. Once you fill it out, we will be able to keep you up-to-date on the programs that you care about the most. Be sure to keep an eye out for it!

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