



news from the Emergency Fund

Emergency Fund

Helping people today for tomorrow

Summer 2011

Small Change Matters

Here at the Emergency Fund, we love to tell stories. We like to [share](#) how your donations make a difference. We often talk about big changes, but today we want to show you just how far small change can go.

Jennie* is a young, single mother. When Jennie lost her mode of transportation, she had no way to get to work. An Emergency Fund partner agency donated a car to Jennie, but she couldn't afford to get it up and running. All she needed was a little bit of help.

The Emergency Fund was able to help Jennie because people like you are invested in the idea that Small Change Matters. The pennies, nickels, and dimes so many of you have collected for our [Small Change Campaign](#) were more than enough to cover Jennie's expenses – she is back at work and supporting her family.

We are inspired every day by community members who have taken our [Small Change Campaign](#) to heart and begun collecting change in their homes and offices. We feel honored that so many of you are taking time out of your busy summers to help. Thank you.

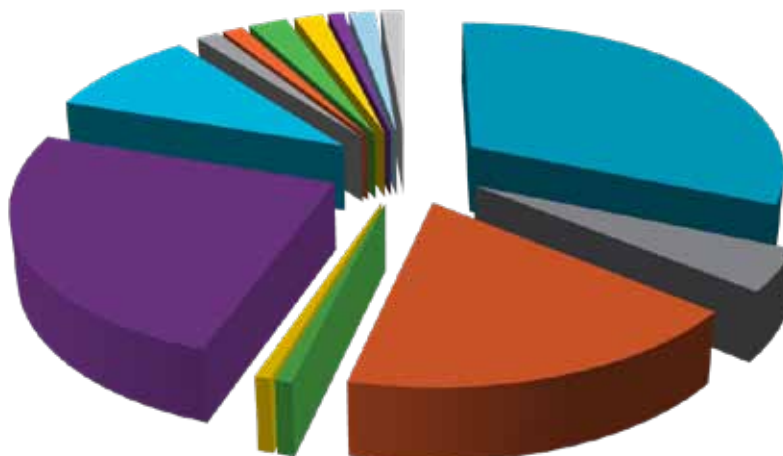


*name is changed

So far in 2011, the Emergency Fund has helped 1,784 individuals and families with \$386,011.20 through the Flexible Financial Fund

Flexible Financial Fund

January - May 2011



- Rent: \$121,103
- Security Deposit: \$17,232
- Utilities: \$69,272
- Mortgage: \$2,974
- Storage/Moving: \$2,696
- Home Items: \$96,242
- Transportation: \$36,051
- Child Items/Care: \$5,238
- Food: \$4,811
- Documents: \$8,956.45
- Medical Items: \$6,677
- Training Items: \$3,574
- Clothing: \$6,020
- Other: \$5,164

How Can I Get Involved?

Join the Small Change Campaign

Make your [small change](#) matter! Just choose a container and throw whatever spare change you collect throughout the day into it. When it's full, drop it by the Emergency Fund office (we would love to see you!) or bring it to our Paint the Town Blue gala in October.

Find us Online

Like the Emergency Fund on [Facebook](#) and friend us on [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

Wear the Symbol of Hope

Carry hope with you and show the world that you care by wearing our [Symbol of Hope](#) necklace or lapel pin.

Visit an Emergency Fund Partner

Join us as we learn more about our partner agencies, the work of our Fund Managers, and how Emergency Funds are used to help people in need. Watch the Emergency Fund [website](#) for more information.

Come to an Event

This year's Paint the Town Blue gala promises to be our best yet, so save the date for October 14th. This year the Emergency Fund is also hosting our first Day of Hope – look for more information in the Fall Newsletter!

Participate in a Conference Call with Nonie

Learn more about what the Emergency Fund has accomplished and how we are making a difference in Chicago under Nonie's leadership. Sign up for the [e-blast](#) or watch our [website](#) for more information.

Corporate Partners Care

The Emergency Fund is fortunate to have the support of several Corporate Partners who invest in our work to ensure the success and stability of our neighbors in need. Notably, the Emergency Fund received \$25,000 from the Chicago White Sox Community Fund, a fund of the McCormick Foundation, to support our Flexible Financial Fund Program. As stated on its [website](#), the Chicago White Sox Community Fund is committed to helping Chicagoans reach their full potential, with a focus on children and families at risk. The Chicago White Sox also show their support by donating items for auctions and raffles and distributing free game tickets to nonprofits and their employees.

So far this year, other Corporate Partners include Wintrust Financial Corporation, Pierce and Associates, The PrivateBank, Peoples Gas, The Northern Trust Company, and the Chicago Association of REALTORS.



Carrie and Elizabeth are excited to receive funding from the Chicago White Sox and attend a game!

Home At Last

“My mother was an RN, and my father worked for U.S. Steel in Gary,” Kevin recalls of growing up on Chicago’s West Side. The second boy in a family of four children, Kevin’s childhood came to an abrupt end when he was in high school.

“My father died when I was sixteen. After that my family split up. One sibling went to live with one relative, another with another...I started hanging out with the wrong crowd, making bad choices.”



Kevin poses for a quick photo in Inspiration Corporation's cafe.

Eventually, those choices led to Kevin’s incarceration. But while in prison, Kevin says, “I did a self-evaluation and realized that I wanted to make a change.” When he was released in 2009, Kevin became involved with [Inspiration Corporation](#).

Best known for its Inspiration Café, Inspiration Corporation’s many programs include comprehensive job training, housing support, and case management. “They have so much to offer,” Kevin says, and he took advantage of every opportunity. He learned how to present himself to employers, improved his resume and interview skills, and underwent career counseling.

Inspiration Corporation also helped Kevin find housing. The Emergency Fund paid Kevin’s security deposit and first month’s rent, and he moved back home to the West Side in April.

Kevin’s face lights up when he talks about his home. He smiles as he repeats the address saying, “See how it just rolls off the tongue?” He describes it as cozy, with wood floors. “I even try to cook,” he says with a self-effacing grin. When asked what his favorite thing about his new home is, Kevin enthusiastically responds, “It’s *mine*...[and that] motivates you. I accomplished this with a bit of help; other blessings may be in store for me if I stay on the right path.”

In his spare time, Kevin volunteers with [Chicago Coalition for the Homeless](#) to work against state budget cuts. “Those programs [that they want to cut] work,” he says. “People need to know that.” In the fall, Kevin plans to major in addiction studies at Malcolm X College. His ultimate goal is to be a counselor. “I can relate to what they’re going through,” Kevin says, “I’ve been through that, and I want to give back.”

“There’s no stopping me now.”