



**Emergency Fund**  
Helping people today for tomorrow

# Fall Newsletter

The Emergency Fund provides immediate financial assistance to help low income Chicago area individuals and families through a crisis or transition.

Fall 2009

## Roseland Christian Ministries

In August, our development team had the opportunity to visit Strong Tower – a women and children’s transitional shelter provided by our partner agency, Roseland Christian Ministries. There, our team found warmth, strength, personality, and a sincere effort to create a safe haven for these vulnerable families.

Up to 80 families are provided with shelter at a time, though there is nearly always a waiting list for more families seeking help. Mothers are provided with workshops and programs targeted to support self sufficiency, while children participate in fun and innovative activities – including Mad Scientist days on Thursdays.

We were moved by the sense of pride and belonging that exuded from this space and were able to see the direct impact of our donors’ dollars. Our Financial Assistance Program was at work with bus passes, identification, birth certificates, and other items needed to help these mothers move towards permanent housing and employment. We are proud of our work, but also know that we can do so much more with your help. To learn more about Roseland Christian Ministries, go to:

[www.roselandchristianministries.org](http://www.roselandchristianministries.org)



Anthony and Nylah, Strong Tower Residents



Family’s Bed, Strong Tower

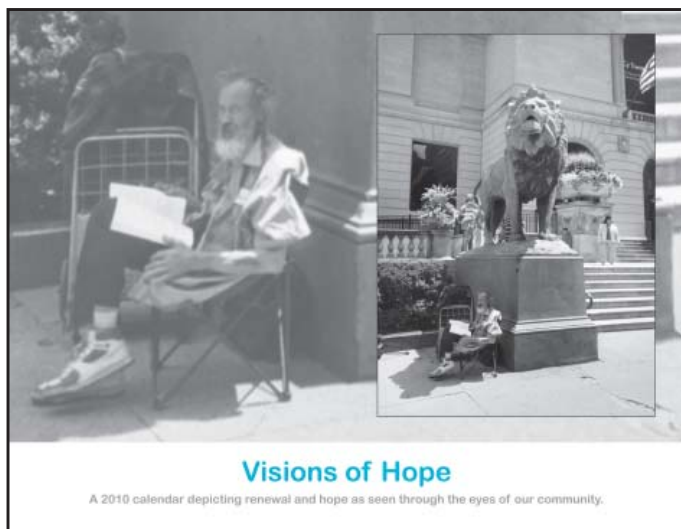
## Visions of Hope

This summer, the Emergency Fund distributed cameras to community members, and asked each person to take pictures of: *“Renewal - What gives you hope that our community’s spirit and sustainability will be renewed during these tough times?”*

We had a tremendous response and received many amazing photos. With the help of expert photographers and our online community - we selected the top 12 to make up our 2010 Calendar- **Visions of Hope.**

We are selling these limited edition calendars now for \$20 each. Be one of the first to purchase the calendar for yourself, or a gift for a loved one. Calendars are available in our office or on our website:

[www.emergencyfund.org](http://www.emergencyfund.org)



**Visions of Hope**

A 2010 calendar depicting renewal and hope as seen through the eyes of our community.

Visions of Hope Cover, Photographer: Che Adamou

## State Funds Cut by 78%

In 2008, the Emergency Fund received \$3.2 million from the State Homeless Prevention Fund (July 08-June 09). For this year (July 09-June 10), these funds have been cut by 78%, leaving approximately \$700,000 available to help individuals and families with homelessness prevention costs, including mortgage assistance.

In the last program year, \$700,000 did not cover the need seen over the span of three months. In fact, from August to October in 2008, we helped 678 households with \$897,271. These reduced funds will not be available until late December, leaving our community without public funding for homelessness prevention since July of this year.

## Corporate Partners Make a Difference!

The Emergency Fund is fortunate to have the support of several corporate partners – businesses that have demonstrated their commitment to investing in the people of Chicago. Our corporate partners have supported our work in a big way, and we are extremely grateful.

### Thank you to our 2009 Corporate Partners!

Action Electric Sales Co.  
Bank of America  
Charter One  
Chicago Association of Realtors  
Chicago White Sox Charities  
DLA Piper LLP (US)  
HSBC

MB Charitable Foundation  
Northern Trust  
Nuveen Investments  
Peoples Gas  
Pugh, Jones, Johnson, & Quandt, P.C.  
Target  
The PrivateBank

## Give the Gift of Hope

Through our new online gift catalog, you can make a symbolic purchase of a family's rent, heating bill, or other basic needs items. Each item represents a basic need that the Emergency Fund helps pay for through our Financial Assistance Program.

This catalog is also a unique way to give a gift for any celebration. After making a contribution, you will be redirected to a thank you page, where you can also download a letter to print and send to a loved one, acknowledging that you made a gift in their honor. To learn more, go to:

[www.emergencyfund.org](http://www.emergencyfund.org)

Identification = \$20



Stove = \$150



Rent = \$750



## American Recovery & Reinvestment Act

The City of Chicago designated the Emergency Fund as a sub grantee for a significant portion of the homelessness prevention dollars for Chicago, being provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The ARRA funds are a total of \$23 million over three years for financial assistance, with 80% of the funds to be distributed in the first 2 years. An estimated 4,000 people will be served in the first year.

While these dollars are a much needed resource for our community members, they are restricted to use for rent, security deposits, utility bills, and moving costs only. That is why flexible dollars – provided by our private donors – are so critical.

Flexible dollars are used to complement the restrictive government funding by covering the basic needs that are vital to stabilizing families. These needs include transportation passes to get to and from work or job training programs, work uniforms, state IDs to apply for jobs and/or secure housing, and more. The Emergency Fund is the only resource in Chicago for this type of immediate assistance. Using private funding in concert with government funding allows for the greatest overall impact in helping people become or remain self-sufficient.