

In the Loop™

Compiled by Valerie F. Leonard

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December 6, 2005

Volume 1, Issue 12

Please Forward...

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome!

Welcome to *In the Loop*, an eclectic compilation of e-mail transmittals that I have received during the past week. From time to time, you will find announcements of events, grant opportunities, job postings, links to websites and articles of interest or notes of encouragement. I hope that you, or someone you know, would find the information to be of use. If you would like to unsubscribe, submit material, or make general comments, you may contact me at valeriefleonard@msn.com. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Valerie F. Leonard, Editor

EMPLOYMENT

I would like to thank Ms. Mariame Kaba of Steans Family Foundation, Ms. Sandra Glenn of Prevention Force, Mr. Hurley Green of the Chicago Independent Bulletin, Mr. Fred Mitchell of HICA, and Ms. Patricia Lard of Jakolbi's House for forwarding information about employment opportunities. Details will be posted on <http://www.valeriefleonard.com> by December 7, 2005.

GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The following message was forwarded to me by Ms. Mariame Kaba, Program Officer with the Steans Family Foundation.

United Way of Metropolitan Chicago African-American Initiative is accepting proposals for programs that will assist African American males in their transition to adulthood. The deadline is January 6, 2006. For further information visit www.uw-mc.org/docs/AAI_RFP.pdf, or contact Ms. Lorrie Lynn, Director of Assessment and Planning at UWMC at 312.906.2490.

SCHOLARSHIP

The following message was forwarded to me by Ms. Paula Robinson, Managing Director, Bronzeville Community Development Partnership:

Talbots Women's Scholarship Fund, a program of the Talbots Charitable Foundation, will award \$100,000 in scholarships to women determined to finally get that college degree. Five women will each be awarded \$10,000 scholarships, and 50 women will each be awarded \$1,000 scholarships. All applicants must be seeking an undergraduate degree from an accredited two- or four-year college or university, or vocational-technical school. Only applicants seeking a bachelor's degree from a four-year college or university are eligible to receive a \$10,000 award. Scholarship awards are based primarily on financial need and previous achievements for women who earned their high school diploma or GED at least 10 years ago. Applications are also available in all Talbots U.S. stores. The postmark deadline for applications is January 3, 2006, or until the first 1,000 eligible applications have been received, whichever is earlier. Scholarship recipients will be notified by the end of July 2006. The scholarship application is in Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format. If you do not have Adobe Acrobat, go to www.adobe.com to download it. For further information about the scholarship, go to <http://www.talbots.com>.

SOS for FAITH, INC.

As you may have heard from Walter Boyd of Protestants for the Common Good a few weeks ago, the offices of FAITH, Inc. were vandalized while Rev. Crawford was hospitalized. His vault, cash and valuable bank records were stolen, along with furniture and equipment. He is still in need of your support—financial or in-kind. You may contact him at 773-287-5723.



WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

Nonprofit Mission Impact: Performance Measurement and Financial Effectiveness

I received the following announcement as part of the Donors Forum's Forum Partners e-newsletter

The Donors Forum of Chicago will host an upcoming workshop-Nonprofit Mission Impact: Performance Measurement and Financial Effectiveness.

Thursday, December 8, 2005
8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Donors Forum Conference Room
208 South LaSalle Street
Suite 735, Conference Room
Chicago, IL
(312) 578-0175

\$65 per person; \$50 Members, Associate Members, Forum Partners. A board chair who registers with his/her organization's CEO can attend for free. How can you determine if your organization is effective? This workshop will give participants the tools to review their missions, develop long-range plans and monitor impacts. Learn how to analyze financial performance and measure program impacts for an overall understanding of effectiveness.

Topics:

- Role of board and staff in implementation of a strategic plan
- Performance measurement and outcomes
- Key financial performance indicators

Register at http://www.donorsforum.org/calendar/np_form.html

Capacity Building with the Monroe Foundation, Self Development of People Fund and Marquette Bank

I received the following announcements from Mr. Otis Monroe, President and CEO of the Monroe Foundation. You may contact Otis directly to get a copy of any documents referenced in his announcements.

PACT

PACT is accepting registrations for its 2006 workshops on grant writing and starting nonprofits. For further information contact me at omonroe@themonroefoundation.org

On Saturday, December 10, from 10a.m. to 1p.m., The Monroe Foundation is holding a 2006 Special Membership Orientation/Training Program Registration Day at Marquette Bank, 6316 South Western Avenue, First Floor, Conference Room. First-year not for profit and training membership registration fee is \$ 100! (**cash only**) SAVE \$ 400 off regular annual fee of \$ 500! Beginning in 2006, only members or participants' in the training projects of The Monroe Foundation will be eligible to participate in our Meeting With A Chicago Grant Maker Programs which includes: The Chicago Community Trust, US Bank Foundation, CHASE Bank Foundation, Bank of America Foundation during the first quarter. If you plan to attend, please email your confirmation to me at: omonroe@themonroefoundation.org

Self Development of People Fund

The Monroe Foundation is hosting Self Development of People Fund for supporting community empowerment projects involved poor/low-income people organizing and or developing projects that is governed and led by people who are seeking to change conditions in their lives and communities on Wednesday, January 4th.

I am holding the first of only two pre-proposal development meetings on Wednesday, December 7th, 1pm to 3pm at Marquette Bank, 6316 South Western Avenue, first floor conference room, to discuss how to develop potential projects to submit to the Fund next-year. I have attached the grant application for your review and to bring with you to the December 7th pre-proposal development meeting. If you plan to attend, please email me at omonroe@themonroefoundation.org

Predatory Lending

Marquette Bank, in partnership with Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) is seeking opportunities to conduct seminars on a refinancing program that focuses on helping homeowners who are loosing their homes as a result of predatory and subprime lenders, potentially keep their homes.

Marquette Bank is interested in working with your organization, church, faith-based organization on the Southside of Chicago to schedule these seminar and assistance sessions. All you need to do is:

- 1). Contact Thomas J. Bamford, vice president, community development at Marquette Bank at (773) 3165-9720 or email: tbamford@emarquettebank.com to discuss your organization/church/group scheduling a seminar at your site;
- 2) Recruit at least 15-20 participants', but the focus is on people who are at-risk of loosing their homes because of bad loans Marquette Bank will provide seminar staff from the bank, promotional materials listing your organizational name and contact and refreshments.

OTIS

FUNDRAISERS AND AWARDS

I received the following information from Ms. Nicole Jones of the Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation:

The Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation is hosting a fund raising event on Friday, December 9, 2005 at 8:00 p.m., "Stepping with A Vision" at St. Sabina Auditorium, 7801 South Throop. There will be free food and stepping lessons. We would greatly appreciate you coming out and supporting our organization with a gracious donation of \$20.00. The proceeds will go directly to our organization to assist in the mission of revitalizing the Auburn Gresham community. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at 773-483-3696. Tickets can be purchased today, contact us via e-mail or give us a call to attend one of Chicago's Hottest stepping events, "Stepping with A Vision." Remember, this event is being held to help change the quality of life for the Auburn Gresham Community.

Nicole Jones, NCP Director

Chicago-area Nonprofits Have a New Grant Opportunity This Fall!

Ms. Mariame Kaba of the Steans Family Foundation provided the following announcements:

Steans Family Foundation Spirit of Youth Development Awards

Nominations for the 2005 North Lawndale "Spirit of Youth Development Award" sponsored by Harris Bank are now being accepted. The deadline for submission is December 15th. Up to 5 awards of \$1,000 each will be made to local (North Lawndale-based) youth workers and volunteers. Honorees will be announced and celebrated at a February 2006 youth worker recognition luncheon in North Lawndale sponsored by the Steans Family Foundation. For further information, e-mail Mariame Kaba at MKaba@fic-sff.com

IT Resource Center Technology Leadership Award

Is your nonprofit a technology leader? Tell your story – win resources and recognition for your accomplishments! Apply for the IT Resource Center Technology Leadership Award, presented by Accenture. Winners will receive a cash grant from Accenture, IT Resource Center services, and a donation of Microsoft software. The application deadline is December 20, 2005. Complete details and the online application form are available at www.ITResourceCenter.org/TechLeadershipAward.

Mercedes Soto, Project Director, CTC Accelerator
IT Resource Center

HAC NEWS

The following is reprinted with permission from the Housing Assistance Council. The complete issue of HAC News is also available in PDF and HTML format at <http://www.ruralhome.org/infoNews.php>

November 16, 2005

Vol. 34, No. 23

USDA AND HUD APPROPRIATIONS PROGRESS. President Bush signed the 2006 USDA spending bill into law on November 10 (P.L. 109-97 and H.Rept. 109-255) (see HAC News, 11/2/05). - House and Senate conferees completed most negotiations on the Transportation-Treasury-HUD appropriations bill (H.R.3058) on November 10. The conference report was not available by press time, but the National Low Income Housing Coalition reported that CDBG funding was reduced to \$4.22 billion, HOME to \$1.775 billion, and the Public Housing Capital Fund to \$2.46 billion. Section 8 vouchers, the Public Housing Operating Fund, Homeless Assistance Grants, and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS received increases. Sections 202 and 811 were funded at the same levels as in 2005. See <http://www.nlihc.org/mtm/mtm10-44.html#2> or contact NLIHC, 202-662-1530. -The Senate version of the State -Justice-Commerce appropriations bill (H.R.2862) included \$3.5 billion for emergency Section 8 vouchers for hurricane victims, but the vouchers were dropped from a final conference committee version (H.Rept. 109-272), which passed the House on November 9 and is awaiting Senate action. - Bills are available at <http://thomas.loc.gov> and updates will be posted at <http://www.ruralhome.org>.

BUDGET-CUTTING MEASURES AFFECT HUD PRESERVATION TOOL. HUD's Upfront Grants program for below-market sale and renovation of foreclosed FHA-insured multifamily properties would be cut temporarily by the House Budget Committee's budget reconciliation bill, H.R. 4241, and permanently under the Senate's version, S. 1932. Rural housing programs would not be affected by either bill, though the House would reduce some rural business incentives. At press time, the House had not yet voted on its bill and the budget reconciliation process's future was unclear because of substantial House-Senate differences. Both bills are at <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

VOUCHERS OFFERED FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. Public housing agencies and nonprofits that provide services to people with disabilities can apply by January 3 for HUD Mainstream Housing vouchers. See Federal Register, 11/2/05, pp. 66723-38 or <http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/fundsavail.cfm>. Contact George C .Hendrickson, HUD, 202- 708-0477, ext. 4064.

SMALL BUSINESS

CEC Seeks Applicants for Grant Award Program

The following information was included in the Chicagoland Entrepreneurial Center's November Beacon e-newsletter.

The Chicagoland Entrepreneurial Center (CEC), with financial support from the Illinois Department of Economic Opportunity (DCEO), administers a matching grant award program targeted at high-growth companies in the Chicagoland area. The program assists businesses with high-growth potential in obtaining professional services that will assist in the acquisition of capital, increase in revenue, or other accelerated support services.

Award funding must be used for the successful achievement of a significant business milestone. The maximum funding available for each individual award is \$5,000. Recipients are required to provide a cash match of 100 percent of the award amount.

If you or someone you know would be a good candidate for this program, contact [Jason Felger](#) via e-mail or at 312-494-6736 or [Scott Issen](#) via e-mail or at 312-494-6734.

The Village Store

Mr. Hurley Green III, Publisher of *The Bulletin*, provided the following link:

IS YOUR GROUP LOOKING FOR A WAY TO RAISE FUNDS? We put the FUN back into fund-raising! Visit the Village Store at www.villagestore.bz

The Cosmopolitan Chamber of Commerce

The Senator Emil Jones E-Commerce and Procurement Training Center is Chicago's first and only advanced e-business technology site, dedicated to enabling small and medium-sized businesses. The Chamber's e-Center provides a complete business training, assistance, and development environment for e-commerce and e-procurement. The e-Center's focus is to provide access to leading edge e-commerce and procurement technology. Small businesses can use the Chamber's e-Center to move rapidly from an e-business concept to design, and then finally to market, through a structured capacity-building process of assessment, training, and rollout. The e-Center can help small businesses close the competitive gap, minimize the investment in costly hardware, software, and technical expertise, reduce time-to-market and the risks of e-commerce, using turnkey business models and a shared technology platform. The Cosmopolitan Chamber of Commerce is located at 560 West Lake Street in Chicago. For further information, contact Richard Hernandez, Vice Chair of Technology richardhernandez@cchamber.org.

Grow Your Business at IDEA EXCHANGE!

The following information was provided by Mr. Andrew Morrison, CEO of Small Business Camp.

Hi, this is Andrew Morrison from Small Business Camp. I look forward to seeing you at Idea Exchange! Please share this invitation with any of your friends who own a business or who plan to start one.

IDEA EXCHANGE is an innovative business networking event that connects entrepreneurs together as we learn, share and prosper. Imagine a supportive environment of 'like-minded' business owners who hold each other accountable to their dreams. Idea Exchange will help you turn any passion into a profitable business. You could also WIN a copy of Microsoft Office.

Idea Exchange is your place to:

- * Learn how to double your sales in 90 days
- * Listen to an exclusive presentation on the Biz Tech Connect Online Learning Tool (www.biztechconnect.org) and hear how technology can help boost your bottom line.
- * Obtain practical advice that works
- * Solicit team members
- * Gain encouragement from other entrepreneurs
- * Get unstuck from an emotional rut
- * Stay focused on your goals
- * Attract investors
- * Gain media exposure
- * And much more

Date: Thursday, December 8th, 2005

Location: University Center
525 South State Street
Chicago, IL 60605
www.universitycenter.com

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Cost: FREE

Register at www.90dayplan.com/seminar

Note: I have personally met Mr. Morrison at Tavis Smiley's conference on branding this fall. I can honestly say that a 15 minute sidebar conversation with him has been life transforming and very beneficial to my business. I can hardly wait for this Thursday's conference.