

Grass Roots Grass Roots

Publication of: The Monroe Foundation, 4106 West 99th Street, Suite 2, Oak Lawn, IL 60453-2277
773.315.9720, FAX 773.684.8651, www.themonroefoundation.org

January, 2010



"We Must Help
Each Other"

Creating Opportunities For Funding The Monroe Foundation Makes It Happen!



THE MONROE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Arvis Averette, Ph.D
Chairman of the Board

Otis C. Monroe, III
President, Executive Director

Virginia Hardric
Executive Vice President
Secretary/Treasurer

Peter T. Silvern, Attorney-at-Law
Law Offices of Peter T. Silvern
General Counsel

R. Tod Edwards
CEO, Internal Income, Inc.

Rev. Lewis Flowers
CEO, Westside Ministers Coalition

Shanaveon Pious, Ph.D
Entrepreneurs University Foundation

Jurellene Rigby
Executive Director
The Child Initiative

In Memoriam
Otis E. Allen, Founding Director

STAFF/CONSULTANTS

Regina Banks
Consultant/Trainer, Manager,
Special Projects

Nina A. Hall
Marketing/Communications
NYNContractors

In Memoriam
Wanda White-Gills, Advisor

CORPORATE ADVISORS/ SUPPORTERS

Helen Hammond-Redding, State Director
Citigroup Illinois

Darryl Hendricks, President
Citi, Illinois

Paul McCarthy, Chairman
Marquette Bank

Dennis D. Muhammad, CEO
Muhammad Development Corporation

Aurie Pennick, Executive Director
Field Foundation of Illinois

Deborah Harrington, President
Jeff Pinzino, Program Officer
Woods Fund of Chicago

George Wright, Midwest Director
Community Relations, Citi

The Monroe Foundation's "Meeting With A Chicago Grant Maker" Project opened 2010 with Consuella Brown, Program Director, The Woods Fund of Chicago, on January 14th at Marquette Bank. The project, which provides an opportunity for members of the Monroe Foundation P.A.C.T. Project (Partnership Assisting Community Transformation), an opportunity to meet "face to face" with grantmakers to discuss and "pitch" potential grant application or Letter of Inquiry (LOI) submittal prior to an upcoming deadline for submission to a funder.

The Woods Fund of Chicago is one of Chicago's few grant making foundations that actively seeks out opportunities to fund emerging grassroots efforts in the areas of community organizing, public policy and community organizing-intersecting public policy. Specifically, the Woods Fund is interested in supporting those organizations and initiatives that focus on enabling work and reducing poverty in Chicago's less advantaged communities. Focus areas for grant making by the Woods Fund include:

- Increasing opportunities for less advantaged individuals and communities
- Enabling less-advantaged people and communities to shape decisions that affect them
- Helping to engage residents in civic life
- Addressing the root causes of poverty
- Promoting more effective public policies
- Promoting employment opportunities

Participating in "pitching" projects at the meeting were: J. Minor Allen, organizer, the Black Leadership Developing Institute, focusing on civic engagement through the political process; Pat Abrams of the Renaissance Collaborative, focusing on effective public policies for grandparents raising their grandchildren;



Orrin Williams of Imagine Englewood if (IEI), focusing on community organizing intersecting public policy for parents on the Southside of Chicago advocating for increasing awareness and early testing for lead contamination in high impact communities in Chicago; and Yvette Moyo and



Ranoule Tatum of Real Men Cook Charities, focusing on advocacy campaign to increase support and treatment options for poor and uninsured men with early-stage prostate cancer.

The Monroe Foundation is a 2008 and

current 2010 grantee of the Woods Fund for community organizing-intersection public policy on community reinvestment issue organizing in Illinois.

After the "pitch" presentation, Ms. Brown provided valuable feedback to each of the participants, offering honest assessment as to which projects should consider moving forward with an LOI submittal (due



January 31, 2010), and others that should develop the concept more and/or continue to dialogue with her about submitting to the Woods Fund second cycle (July, 2010) as well as strategies for approaching other grant makers.

UPCOMING "GRANTS MAKER" SCHEDULE INCLUDES:

- The African American Legacy of the Chicago Community Trust
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois Foundation
- The Field Foundation of Illinois

To participate in the 2010 "Grant Maker Dialogue Project", you must be a member of the Monroe Foundation. To join, visit the foundation's website at www.themonroefoundation.org and click the "events" tap, or contact Regina A. Bank, projects and membership manager, at (773) 706-8915 or Otis C. Monroe, CEO, at (773) 315-9720.