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PROVIDING INFORMATION ON RESOURCES AND EVENTS THAT IMPROVE THE LIFESTYLE OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

## Chicago's Top Cop with 10th District Police Visits Westside of Chicago on St. Louis Ave and 21st Street



North Lawndale Community residents met, talked, and took photos with Chicago's top cop Acting Supt. Garry McCarthy at the intersection of St. Louis and 21 Street. (L to R: Mrs. Loreen Earls, Supt. Garry McCarthy, Gerald Earls, Mrs. Gussie Dye, 24th Ward Alderman Michael Chandler, Ms. Tawanna Calvin, and Ms. Barbara Harris.



North Lawndale Community residents saw Acting Police Supt. Garry McCarthy (in suit) address police officers from the 10th District police station, located at 3315 West Ogden Avenue. Also in attendance was 10th District Commander Berscott Ruiz and former 10th District Commander Beatrice Cuello, and CAPS Sergeant Jerry Negrete, Jr. during roll call at the intersection of St. Louis and 21 Street.

A meet and greet was held on Friday May 27 by Acting Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy and 10th District Police with community residents.

Supt. McCarthy came out and spent more than an hour getting to know community residents and fellow officers.

McCarthy threw a few Hail Mary footballs tosses to youth from the community, visited a garden and community center both belonging to Westlawn Gospel Church where Derrick Rollerson is the pastor in the 2100 block of St. Louis.

When asked what his typical day is like, McCarthy stated "I get up at 5:30. I go to the gym. I get to the office about 8:30am and go to meetings, stuff like that. I usually go out for 4 to 12 roll calls. Right now I have been sitting down with

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## Steans Family Foundation Sponsors Roundtable Discussion on Single Parenting



David Miller, Founder of "Raising Him Alone Foundation," facilitates a roundtable discussion at United Baptist Church, sponsored by the Steans Family Foundation as a panel takes questions from the audience about how to raise children in single-parent homes. (L to R: Wanda Taylor, Frazier Magnet School Parent of five; Marcus Thorne, Director of Mentoring for Young Men's Educational Network (YMEN); Dr. Mahalia Hines, Mother of "Common" and Chicago Public School Board Member; David Miller)



Patricia Ford, Education Program Director of the Steans Family Foundation, the sponsoring organization for Saturday's roundtable discussion on raising children in single-parent homes, introduces Pastor Wilson Daniels of United Baptist Church to moderator David Miller, Founder of "Raising Him Alone Foundation". (L to R: David Miller, Patricia Ford, Rev. Wilson Daniels)

"Raising Them Alone: A roundtable discussion" was held Saturday, May 21 at the United Baptist Church to engage North Lawndale's residents in conversation about single parenting issues in the community.

With the goal of encouraging parents to become more involved in their children's education, the Steans Family Foundation held the first in a series of workshops

dedicated to the issues faced by the community, such as single parenting, gang violence, and education. The event focused on the challenges of raising children in single-parent homes. David Miller, founder of "Raising Him Alone Foundation," facilitated the roundtable discussion. A Q & A session featuring panelists Dr. Mahalia Hines, a Chicago Public Schools board member, Wanda Taylor, a Frazier Magnet

School parent, and Marcus Thorne, the Director of Mentoring for the Young Men's Educational Network (YMEN) in North Lawndale.

The series is part of the Steans Family Parent Engagement Initiative through which the Steans Foundation continues its outreach to North Lawndale to support community interaction and dialogue. "The initiative is about increasing parental involvement in their children's

education and providing an outlet for parents to voice their concerns," Patricia Ford, the Education Program Director for the Steans Family Foundation, said. "We are excited about the level of interest demonstrated at by the community and we look forward to engaging even more parents and community leaders in upcoming workshops."

David Miller, former middle school educator and author of "Raising Him Alone: Things Black Women Can Do to Raise Boys to be Men", flew in from Baltimore to moderate and address North Lawndale parents. "This is a community conversation about raising children and at the end of the day, if we love our children and we want to win, we must do better," Miller said to the audience about the goals of the discussion.

Dr. Hines, mother of Grammy award-winning artist "Common," shared parenting strategies with the audience, addressing her experiences as both a mother and a former CPS principal. "The world sees my son [Common] as he is today, that doesn't necessarily mean that's how he was as a teenager or how he always was," Hines said. "I taught my son how to treat and respect women and I always modeled positive behavior when setting expectations for him."

Taylor and Thorne also gave the audience valuable advice on single

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 Winner of the 7th Congressional District 2004  
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 Presented By Congressman Danny K. Davis &  
 Residents of the 7th Congressional District

# NLCN 2011 Focus Health and Education

Ten Years has past since the New Millenium scare of the year 2000, a time of uncertainty. In 1999, we began by thanking God for making the newsletter possible. Much has happened since October of 1999 when we first published the North Lawndale Community News more than eleven years ago. Many have contributed, supported, volunteered, written, taken photos, done research, and/or completed our workshops. We have helped many and many have helped us. Health is essential to a good life. Education is necessary for the pursuit of happiness in an economy driven society.

In 2001, our focus targeted the "Revival of the Family". In 2002, we targeted "Wholistic Wellness". In 2003, we targeted "Education and Training". In 2004, the North Lawndale Community News focused on helping our community acquire a better quality of life through higher levels of reading and responsible wealth creation. In 2005, it was Technology, Business Development, and Employment. In 2006, the primary focus for SHS/ NCLN was Health, Education, and Welfare. In 2007, the primary focus for SHS/ NCLN was People and Education. In 2008, the primary focus for was the Church, Financial Literacy, and Technology. In 2009, the primary focus for SHS/NLCN was HEALTH & THE ECONOMY. In 2010, our primary focus was to live and reflect on our previous years of focus, as we progress to a better quality of life.

So many things remain a high priority in our life. As we struggle to enjoy life, many have neglected the necessary choices that preserve and extend a healthy and abundant, spirit, mind, and body. So along with health, there is education (knowing) and the need to have the resources to act upon the knowledge for a better quality of life.

The North Lawndale newspaper was and is created to help fulfill the mission of Strategic Human Services. That mission is to provide information on resources and events that improved the lifestyle of individuals and families. This is our primary objective under that are all of the sub-objectives that help to reach the primary objective. There is a saying that if your're not sure where your're going, your're liable to end up someplace else- and not even know it.

Even though tough times are among us setting positive objectives and staying committed to them will be the focus of our news for this 2011 year.

## The North Lawndale Community News

The North Lawndale Community News is now published weekly by Strategic Human Services. Our purpose is to help inform our community on resources, events, and issues relevant to them and our neighboring communities. Our community includes those who live, work, worship in, and/or care about North Lawndale. Our focus is on positive, productive solutions, that will improve the lifestyle of our community members.

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Steans from front page



A North Lawndale parent (left) is greeted by volunteer Adrienne Venson (center) at the registration table for Saturday's roundtable discussion on single parenting held at the United Baptist Church and sponsored by the Steans Family Foundation. (Others present, R to L: Pam Price of Chicago Public Schools Parent Center; Volunteer Adrienne Venson, Avis Lavelle, President of A. Lavelle Consulting; Patricia Ford, Education Program Director of Steans Family Foundation)

parenting. Taylor, a mother of five who lost one child to gang violence, is very aware of the influence a community can have on its children. Thorne served as a voice to mothers of young men in the audience, offering input based on his work with YMEN.

The two-hour discussion went into overtime with parents and community members eager to continue the morning's conversation. Childcare services were provided and guests also received a complimentary copy of Miller's book.

Upcoming events sponsored by the Steans Family Foundation include a workshop in September titled "10 Tips for What to Do When

Stopped by Police" as well as November's workshop exploring the "Understanding the CPS Student Discipline Codes." For more information call (877) 441-3718.

The Steans family created the Foundation in 1986 in order to sponsor a class of sixth graders through the "I Have a Dream" program. The Steans Family Foundation assists the community through its focus on early childhood development, school-based education, and parent/caregiver advocacy and leadership. The Steans Family Foundation also offers special opportunity grants for individuals, groups and organizations in the North Lawndale community.

# RAISING HIM ALONE

Willie Cole

In 1985, there was a popular song out titled, *Sisters Are Doin' It for Themselves* (Aretha Franklin with the Eurythmics). Its lyrics celebrated the strength of women "standing on their own two feet and ringing on their own bells." However, it has not been easy for all women. On Saturday, May 21, 2011, dozens of women who have been doing one thing by themselves—raising boys—gathered in North Lawndale for some supportive advice on "Raising Him Alone." Three local parents led the forum's discussion; they included Wanda Taylor, a mother of five who lost a child to gang violence; Marcus Thorne, director of mentoring at YMEN, and Dr. Mahalia Hines, former CPS principal and new board member of the Chicago Board of Education. David Miller, co-founder of the Urban Leadership Institute, moderated the discussion.

When asked what it takes to raise the expectations of our children, Taylor said, "First, children need to know there are expectations." Taylor said she had her first child by the age of 18. "I had a great school experience but I didn't have street experience. I knew how to tell my kids to be good but I didn't know how to tell them "how" to be good."

Hines, who is also mother of music artist and actor Common, went even further. "We are in different times. Children don't just do what you tell them to do because you are the parent." As a principal and a parent, she said, "I modeled the behavior I wanted. When I wanted my son to read, I picked up a book. When I said television would hurt you, I turned the TV off." Hines said she also modeled how to dress and how to speak.

A few women noted they were not

convinced that women needed a man to raise boys. Hines noted that boys learned some very important things from both mom and dad, "So ladies don't ever discount your role in raising boys. Women can teach their sons how to treat a woman, but that's only half of it. I can't tell him what it's like to be a man."

When asked how to get dads to come back home, Thorne, who is happily married, noted that sometimes women use children as weapons against the fathers. There are men who want to be involved but the women won't let them be involved. He cautioned mothers who say negative things about their dads in front of their children. "You undercut the esteem of the father and your child when you talk bad about your child's father."

"Sometimes we get so caught up in being by ourselves that we just say, forget him," said Taylor. "I had to learn to swallow my pride and say, 'Your presence is important to this child.' I tell young ladies that if he doesn't like you anymore, there are other men out there but allow the relationship with the child."

Miller shared that even communicating with men and boys is very different. When communicating with boys, "Be short, sweet and to the point," he said. "And go back with a question to make sure they understand."

One frustrated parent asked what it means when a boy says, "I'm a man!"

Thorne replied, "We want some space. We want you to give us some responsibility... I hope your response will be: Show me, demonstrate that to me—show me that I can trust you."

The Steans Family Foundation sponsored the event, held at United Baptist Church in North Lawndale.

## Matters of the Performing heART - "A healthy dose of LORD\_X\_ODUS"

by Renita V. Walker



If you have now or ever owned a car then I'm sure you are aware that it requires maintenance, and so it is with the body. You should not put in the body all kinds of unhealthy junk foods, cigarettes, alcohol, drugs. You should eat a balanced meal along with taking multivitamins and do some form of exercise. Now of course one might say it's my body and I can do what I want, well actually it's not your body.

For the people who believe in a higher power they know that their body belongs to the almighty God. It's known as his temple. There's a scripture in the bible that says "My People perish for the lack of knowledge" and they're not referring to whether or not you went to college.

I'd like to introduce you to a well known hip/hop artist, spoken word lyricist, songwriter, actor, model, marketing promoter, and Presidential Founder Independent Distributor Rep. for a company called SereniGy Global, in which the official company launch summit, recently commenced May 12th, 2011.

Rate this man of many hats goes by the stage name of, LORD\_X\_ODUS "The Wild Onion". He has competed in many competitions, such as, WGCI/Corona 6 Weeks Open Mic, Making The Next Hit

w/ TheNext.Tv, 14th Annual Hollywood World Championships Of Performing Arts, and won. He's traveled to quite a few cities sharing his gifts and talents.

He got started around February 2011, and why he got involved was to help increase his energy levels and endurance also he was able to get up early in the morning after long late night hours of strenuous work and exhausting activities. It also helped with feelings of lethargic stamina, due to all of the mass multitasking that he was conducting relating to the performing arts.

Lord Xodus became aware of, and involved with SereniGy by way of a phone call and three women named, Alisa Gillbert Thomas, Ursula Harris, and Gabby Tulbure. All three are, SereniGy Presidential Founder Distributors, via a cup and a personal testimony.

An ingredient called Ganoderma which is a miracle herb so to speak, has been a practice of Chinese, Asian medicine for over 5000 years, and is found in all of the SereniGy products. It also has some amazing health improving benefits.. Again, don't

See Xodus page 7

## WESTSIDE NAACP PRESIDENT SAYS BLACK FOLKS HAVE TO 'OPT IN' Redistricting Fight - Just Beginning

TRAVLES R. LANE

As he strives vigorously to impact the distressed state of the depressed communities within the advocacy aegis of his organization, Chicago Westside Branch NAACP President Karl A. Brinson has few illusions regarding the degree of the difficulties impacting the progress of his efforts. And he is determined to overcome them.



Karl A. Brinson

Responding to the U.S. congressional and state assembly redistricting plans recently approved by the Illinois Senate, Brinson said those proposed changes only represent "the beginning of the process" to apportion political power in the state based on the 2010 census count. Now that the congressional map, which saw Illinois lose a U.S. House seat, is public, the fight moves to the battleground to ensure Chicago's embattled minority communities do not "lose any ground at the end of the process" in the configuring of state and local electoral districts.

"At the end of the day, as long as we're not losing any ground, that's what our interest is," Brinson said in response to the senate vote on the congressional map. "That is our major issue, that we do not see this as the final say. And we will be out there lobbying for changes on our behalf.

"We always try and ask for more, if just to see what may be available. But our goal is to make sure that we do not lose those

seats, those officials we do have right now."

Brinson, 54, and employed in the Cook County planning department, explained that the congressional districts voted by the Illinois General Assembly, while not wholly unfavorable to African American interests, reflect more Democratic Party advantages than an effort to empower the black vote that is one of its staunchest supporters.

The Westside NAACP however, is most concerned with "protecting our part within the party," he said.

"We're not talking about interests that just favor the Democratic Party. We're talking about a people interest as opposed to a party interest, based on African Americans being able to elect more people, not based on party, but based on registered voters and eligible voters."

To that end the soft-spoken native Westsider and St Patrick High School graduate who holds a Master's degree in Political Science from Northeastern Illinois University, says the Westside NAACP will be girding for the upcoming redistricting fights yet to be waged in the county commissioner and city aldermanic apportionments. The organization will be focusing on workshops, seminars, voter registration drives and various other advocacy activities in an effort

See Opt In page 7

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# North Lawndale Youth Journalists Cover Crane Technical High School's Senior Prom

Contributing Youth Journalists: Alveta Moore, Natae Reese, Ricky Fisher, Robert Williams and Jakhalia Borner



Crane Prom Queen and Pricipal Smith



Crane Prom Queen and King

Five young high school students at Crane Technical high school through the North Lawndale Community Newspaper's Youth Journalism class sponsored by the McCormick Foundation have collaborated their

talents in order to get the good news out about Crane's senior prom. The group of Young Journalist are youth from the Westside of Chicago who feel that it is important to have their voices heard and to help solve the problems of today by giving resolutions to tomorrows youth by speaking up about issues. Each youth has a human interest that they are focusing on through the program based on experience. And by writing about these issues and speaking up about them--they believe that they are able to fix the society in which they live in. Ninth grader Alveta Moore believes that raising awareness about capitalism is important to her community, while 12th

grader Ricky Fisher believes that speaking up about homophobia will help other young people to understand what he goes through as a young man who has been treated unfairly because he has chosen a different lifestyle. Ninth grader Natae Reese believes that speaking up about domestic violence will raise an awareness to help young people who are victims of such a behavior to seek help, while Ninth grader Jakhalia Borner just wants to speak up about issues that plague her community based on seeing one of her young friends being killed right before her eyes by police officers.

It has been too often that the youth are forced to deal with the issues in their community without having their voices heard, and the North Lawndale Community Newspaper has stepped forward in order to allow for this to be so. This weeks article will focus on Crane's senior prom as the youth have participated, and in order to spread the good news. It is a very special time for one of the Youth Journalist, 12th grader Robert Williams who has attended the prom because he will be graduating in just a few days. As the youth interviewed each other about the prom, they would like to enlighten the audience in order to allow every young high school student to understand the importance of attending your 12th grade prom.

In an interview with Youth Journalist Robert Williams, colleague Youth Journalist Natae Reese asked Robert Williams what did he think about the prom? Roberts response was: The prom is very important because it's a time where the seniors get together in a nice setting in order to enjoy themselves. Robert feels that the highlight of the prom was being able to get dressed up very nicely and sophisticatedly.

Youth Journalist Alveta Moore, says "Although I am only in the ninth grade, the prom is one of the most important parts of high school, it's because it is the first step into womanhood, it also gives the seniors the opportunity to get together and enjoy themselves for the last time."

Senior and Youth Journalist Ricky

Fisher would have loved to go to the prom but because he has chosen a different lifestyle he was not able to attend the way that he would have liked to, so instead he and

Jakhalia decided to cover the prom at Alhambra by taking pictures and doing interviews. Ricky said that he enjoyed himself anyway.

Jakhalia felt more comfortable taking pictures opposed to doing the interviews, however, she believes that after being onset a few more times, she will feel alot more comfortable with the interview process and will then be able to better help out her community through journalism.

According to Principal Robert Smith, this years prom was very special for many different reasons. The group of children that have attended the 2011 prom are the first group of children that he worked with at Crane four years ago as he made his entrance into Crane as a Principal. Mr. Smith said "I had some very good times with this group of kids and I am very proud to see that they are here for their prom enjoying themselves and graduating--this group of kids are very special." Mr. Smith also explained the importance of introducing Crane's youth to different venues and cultures every year during prom time. For the last five years Cantrice Wilson and Ayodeji Griffin have been the prom sponsors and have done a great job with world theme's in order to introduce Crane's student to different cultures. This years cultural twist was Mediterranean Royalty at the Alhambra Palace Restaurant. The palace, the food, and the attire all fit the script as Ms. Wilson and Ms. Griffin does it again for Crane's seniors. As this year comes to an end--Crane's 2012 seniors anxiously anticipate next years prom theme.

The youth and staff of the NLCN Youth Journalism class would like to send a special thanks to Assistant Principal Christopher Robbins for allowing the Youth Journalist of the North Lawndale Community News Journalism Class to cover the prom. And Congrats to Prom Queen Jori Hood and Prom King Kemon Williams and all who were apart of the royal courtship.

For more information about the NLCN Youth Journalism Class please conact Mr. Miles or call Mrs. Talibah Bakhit at 312-490-9292---Or just stop pass room 313 any Wed. or Thurs. at 3:30.

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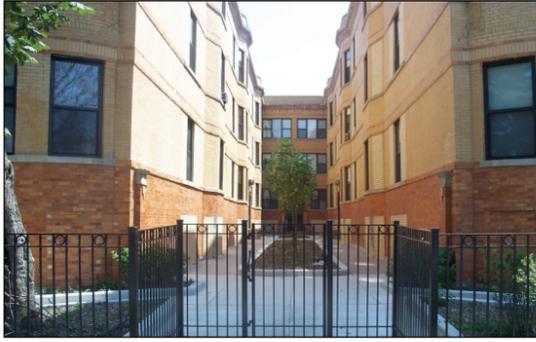
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## Poverty Remains a Problem in North Lawndale, Chicago - A SIDE BAR

Nicholas Short

Poverty in Chicago is worse than other areas in the state of Illinois. According to city-data.com the percentage of Chicago residents with income below the poverty level in 2009 is 21.6%, which is higher than the state average (13.3%).

The percentage of Chicago residents with income below 50% of the poverty level in 2009 is 10.1%.

African Americans have the largest percentage of people living below the poverty line (about 32%), while Caucasians in Chicago have the lowest percentage of people living below the poverty line (about 10%). In Chicago, there about 300,000 poor African Americans and about 90,000 poor Caucasians.

Among the families in Chicago who are living in poverty, 59.8% are single-mother households. Poor families with married-couples are 28.1% and single father poor household are 12.0%.

The rate of poor married-couple

families with both the mother and father did not work is 40%. Thirty-one percent of married-couple families have a spouse who worked part time and another spouse who did not work at all.

The number of Children below poverty level in Chicago is 31.2%, while the average of poor children in Illinois is 18.6%.

Poverty rate among people who did not graduate high school single people not in families in Chicago is 46.4% which is higher than the state average (37.3%).

The Poverty rate among disabled females in Chicago (25.7%) is slightly higher than poverty rate among disabled males (21.2%).

Renting rate in this city among Residents below poverty level is 81.7%. Renting rate in this city among Residents above poverty level is 50.7%

## POVERTY REMAINS A PROBLEM IN NORTH LAWDALE

Nicholas Short

Nearly half the people in North Lawndale live in poverty. The North Lawndale Community News conducted an interview with Community Development Consultant Valerie F. Leonard about the poor people in North Lawndale and what can help them climb out of poverty. **What are the causes of poverty in North Lawndale?**

I do not presume to be a sociologist, but it is safe to say that the root causes of poverty are complex, and could include social, economic, psychological and spiritual factors. A short list would include things like the inability to hold down steady employment due to substance abuse and/or a criminal history; under-employment due to lack of educational attainment or development of marketable skills; lowered family income stemming from divorce or death of a spouse; teenagers having children before they have completed their education; depression and other mental illness; government policies that provide incentives for single women to continue to have children out of wedlock while "punishing" women for having men in the household; changing societal value system that makes traditional employment less desirable than participating in an underground economy; disintegration of the family unit, and the list goes on.

**What can the poor people in North Lawndale do to raise themselves out of poverty?**

Getting out of poverty is a transitional process. The first step is to address basic human needs, such as food, clothing and shelter. The State of Illinois gets federal funding to run a number of programs to assist families' transition from poverty. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides temporary financial assistance for pregnant women and families with one or more dependent children. TANF provides financial assistance to help pay for food, shelter, utilities, and expenses other than medical. (<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30358>)

To find out about other programs, visit the local Department of Human Services Office as follows:

**DHS Family Community Resource Center in Cook County - Western**

Family Community Resource Center  
3910 W Ogden Ave Chicago, IL 60623  
Phone: (773) 522-8370 TTY: (866) 439-3716 Fax: (773) 522-8214

The most effective ways to get out of poverty include education, job training and entrepreneurship. The report titled "The Big Payoff: Educational Attainment and Synthetic Estimates of Work-Life Earnings" reveals that over an adult's working life, high school graduates can expect, on average, to earn \$1.2 million; those with a bachelor's degree, \$2.1 million; and people with a master's degree, \$2.5 million. Persons with doctoral degrees earn an average of \$3.4 million during their working life, while those with professional degrees do best at \$4.4 million. The average annual salary for high school dropouts in 1999 was \$18,000 or \$810,000 in a lifetime, assuming a 45-year career (Robert Longley, 2010 About.com). Unless there is a major change in North Lawndale, we will see our residents trapped at the bottom. In 2004, only 38% of students from the North Lawndale community graduated from high school.

**What is the cause of the increase (or decrease) in the number of poor people in North Lawndale within the last ten years?**

The percentage of North Lawndale residents living in poverty has not changed very much between 2000 and 2010. In 2000, 45.2% of residents were living below the poverty line (Chicago Area Housing website). In 2009, 42%

of the residents were living below the poverty line (North Lawndale Employment Network). Additional research is necessary to get behind the numbers and get a better understanding as to why the percentage of people living below poverty decreased by 3.5%. However, it should be noted that the unemployment rate doubled from 13% in 2000 (Steans Family Foundation) to 26% in 2010 (North Lawndale Employment Network).

Even though the median family income increased from 18,342 in 2000 to 22,370 in 2009, North Lawndale families saw their buying power decrease after taking into account the effects of inflation. [\$18,342 in 2000 translates into \$22,851.55 in 2009 (Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI Calculator)]. It is more likely that the decrease in percentages of families living below the poverty line came as a result of displacement rather than increases in wealth.

**What can the politicians in Chicago do to eliminate the poverty in North Lawndale?**

Politicians need to develop comprehensive plans to address poverty that will include engaging parents and community members in the education of our children and improving school performance. They also need to work with CPS, the business community and students to make sure that the schools' curriculum is relevant to students while providing a workforce that can make American companies more competitive in a global economy. They need to make sure that our nonprofit social service sector has the necessary support to provide basic human services like food pantries, homeless shelters and clothing giveaways.

**Are there any programs that are fighting against poverty in Chicago and the North Lawndale area? What are they? Please give a brief description of each program. What is their contact information?**

I worked with the University of Illinois-Great-Cities Institute to develop a snapshot of North Lawndale organizations back in 2005. We found that:

- North Lawndale has a base of 325 organizations
- Forty percent or more provide youth development services, family services, and employment and training.
- 32% are well established with large staffs and budgets, reportedly in existence for 20-100+ years. (University of Illinois at Chicago Great Cities Institute, 2005)
- A more diverse set of non-profits that are less than 10 years old (44%)
- Approximately 12% of the organizations have been in existence 11-15 years
- The remaining 12% of the organizations reportedly in existence 16-20 years.

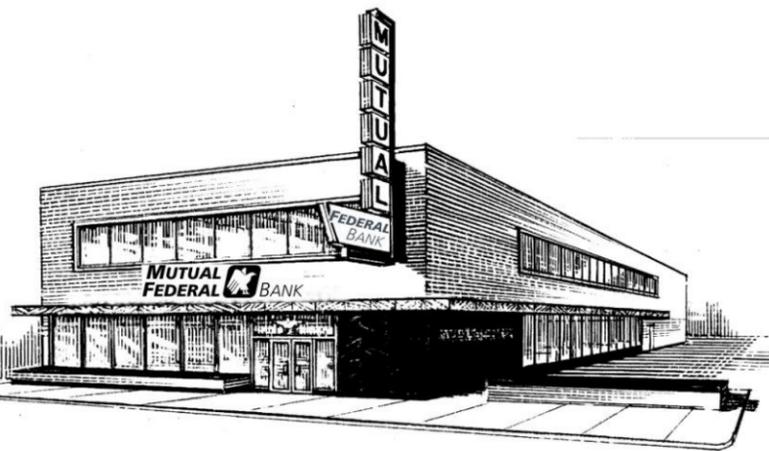
Neither time nor space would permit me to describe each of the programs. [There is a link] to "Casting a Wide Safety Net a Guide to Public Benefits and Healthcare Resources", <http://www.scribd.com/doc/46905526/Guide-to-Public-Benefits>. This is a guide I compiled while running for Alderman as a handout to my town hall meeting on jobs and economic development. The guide includes listings for some of the major organizations that provide services for people transitioning out of poverty. There are over 80,000 people in the City of Chicago who are eligible for these benefits and don't know it, or haven't utilized the services.

**What is the percentage of people in poverty in North Lawndale today?**

The federal threshold for poverty in 2009/2010 for a family of four was \$22,050 (U.S. Department of Health and Human

See Poverty page 7

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# AT THE FLICKS

David Schultz, film critic



**X MEN: FIRST CLASS (\*\*\*)** Another movie franchise begins anew in making a fresh start through this entry into a second trilogy that is decidedly youthful and clever in this stylish pre-quel.

“X Men First Class” is worthy entertainment that fractures the historic facts by taking some liberties with the 1960’s Cuba missile crisis between the U.S. and Russia that is used to set the stage for the early beginnings of the mutants who get caught up in the cold war. Before the arrival of “wolverine” in that other 2009 pre-quel “X Men Origins” that makes this film more of an action ensemble piece.

In Poland circa 1944, a young boy, Erik Lehnsherr is separated from his mother by the Nazis during the holocaust. A few years later, the boy is in the presence of a ruthless German doctor, Sebastian Shaw aka Dr. Schmidt (Kevin Bacon) who forces the lad “to unlock his gift (of telekinetic powers) with anger and rage that ram shacks the room in response to Shaw who brings his mother into the room and shoots her dead at the count of three. While in Westchester, N.Y in a privilege setting inside a lavish, castle-like mansion; another boy, Charles Xavier thinks he’s sneaking up on a burglar in the kitchen in the middle of the night. Instead, the person appears to be his mother.

However, Charles reveals that this isn’t his mother, because her mother never ventures into the kitchen that is reserved for their maid. The exposed woman morphs into the young blue skinned girl, Raven (Jennifer Lawrence) out stealing food to eat that Charles invites to live with him as his adoptive kid sister.

Meanwhile spunky FBI agent, Moira McTaggart (Rose Byrne) can’t just sit in a car with her male partner outside a Las Vegas casino to observe a militant colonel entering. Moira manages to follow him and peeks between curtains to observe the action from Dr. Schmidt and his Devil faced mutant henchman, Azazel (Jason Flemyng) who zaps the Colonel that splits him into also being at a Pentagon meeting

at the same time.

Later Moira hires Xavier despite the agency’s reluctance towards these strange new mutants. But on a tip, Moira and Xavier and his crew of mutants are about to invade a large yacht boat that has Dr. Schmidt on board. When Erik appears on the boat with the intention of killing Dr. Schmidt. His attempt nearly gets him killed until Xavier rescues him from certain doom in the water.

But naturally, this allows for the future Professor X and Magneto to meet and bond. Even though their ideologies differ from the other that would eventually lead to their split up. They establish a strong foundation of a mutual respect that initially forms their friendship and brings their motley crew together

into training at Xavier’s estate.

Clearly, the young Oxford scholar Charles Xavier is more analytical and morally concern to prove these mutants can learn to harness their superpowers and co-exist with mankind.

Compared to Erik who tends to be a “brooder ( with the similar pale facial complication to “Twilight’s stud vampire, Robert Pattinson) as he tries to maneuver himself as sort of a Nazi hunter out to eventually enact his revenge on Dr. Schmidt whose preoccupied with setting up the nuclear war.

Eventually the mutants hone their particular superpowers performing heist jobs and other capers that helps brings out the film’s intolerance theme that also prepares them for the film’s battle finale at sea against the US and Russia missiles being targeted for each other’s ships that the mutant manage to avert. But not without the expected cost of a friendship between Charles and Erik.

Director Matthew Vaughn takes away the smart aleck demeanor and attitude he offered in last year’s “Kick Ass” in exchange for a general, straight forward approach that best serves the story and characters here that helps “First Class” return to its initial glory established in the first two films by director Bryan Singer who co-wrote

the script here that manages to pull out some new life into this comic book movie franchise series that comic book and movie fans should appreciate and enjoy. **PG-13; 132min. A 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox Pictures Release – Presented at selected theaters**

**THE TREE OF LIFE (\*\*\*)** Elusive filmmaker Terrence Malick’s poetic new film “The Tree of Life” is an unconventional movie that has to grow on its viewer. Because it’s so unorthodox, pretentious, elongated by its slow pacing among its adjectives to describe this film. But like anything you plant or invest time in; one has to have some patience to reap the benefits in the end results. A film that is tailor made for discussion afterwards for its symbolism and meaning

The jest of what this film is a sprawling mixture of time and space between the creation of the universe, namely earth and the cosmic tale set during the 1950’s around an estranged life of a troubled child, Hack O’Brien (sensitively portrayed by newcomer Hunter McCracken) who becomes the elder of three children when the forth and oldest at age 19 is killed at war.

Through the whispery commentary, the film explores along the evolution of the universe; Jack’s disposition in his relationship with his young siblings, his nurturing mother ((Jessica Chastain) and, in particular, his abusive and strict businessman father (Brad Pitt) who seems to vent his frustration and discipline on Jack who eventually begins to show his dark side on his siblings and neighborhood mischief with his buddies.

All depicted as disjointed flashbacks conjured up by the adult Jack O’Brien (Sean Penn) roaming through his own galaxy after having a phone chat that indicates his father hasn’t mellowed much since his youth.

While Jack, portrayed as an adult by Sean Penn is now an architect wanders through and looks upon some of Houston’s stained glass hi-rise skyscrapers that he helped designed. While he still copes with his “daddy issues” from a phone call that indicates his father has not mellowed much over the years. To the sameness felt from his opulent penthouse condo apartment when he awakes in bed with his undisclosed woman that could be his wife or a female acquaintance.

And yet, from my description, if you were expecting the extremes and /or a more commercial approach. You won’t get that from Terrence Malick who is a director that uses film like it’s a canvas.

Symbolically and lyrically, there are elements from Malick’ previous five films within his staggering forty cinematic years; that are either the opposite in tone to his war epic

“The Thin Blue Line” or. mirrors the tranquil opulence and beautifully photography of “Days of Heaven”.

Malick is a filmmaker who doesn’t dwell over the story as much as he wants the viewer to absorb the experience of the characters in their setting and circumstances.

This kind of relates well to the universe and how we must evolve as much as our environment does. A bit overwrought at times as the film alternates between Earth and the human condition.

Perhaps, the film’s turning point might be when while the father has to go away on an oversea business trip. Jack begins to show a rebellious spark; breaking out window pales for no reason with his buddies to firing a bb shot off the tip of his baby brother’s finger.

Still Jack isn’t malice in his actions because of the presence and words from his mother who earliest tries to prevent Jack from his father’s wraith over the dinner table. “The only way to be happy is to love”, she narrates in the film’s whispery narrative tone as an example of the steady, calming voice in Jack’s life that provides the difference.

When Jack’s father returns home from China only to later learn his company is downsizing that results in him taking a lesser job position that brings out some self doubt that momentarily leads to a father/ son moment where both are on the same page.

Mixed in with the celestial changes in the atmosphere and on Earth that leads to a individuals gathering in the middle of nowhere that points into the film’s religious overtures between the union of the universe and mankind that is not unlikely the evolution of man and space in a cinematic crescendo in director Stanley Kubrick’s 2001: A Space Odyssey”

Hardly, a film that any one can grasp easily, because director Terrence Malick’s intention here is to challenge us. By making “The Tree of Life”, the most distinctive and advert cinematic experience one might encounter that recently was awarded the Palme D’Or grand prize at this year’s Cannes film festival.

For a movie itself that traveled its own odyssey through its creator that took over three years in making after being in Malick’s fertile mind for decades, “The Tree of Life” is one example for why we go to movies to have a singular experience with the visions and interpretation to what ‘s on the screen.

**PG-13; 139min. A Fox Searchlight Pictures Release Presented exclusively at Landmark Century Centre (2828 North Clark Street) (Opens June 10 at River East and Century 21 in Evanston)**

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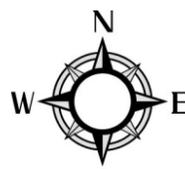


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**Featuring: Arts & Crafts  
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### Opt In from page 3

to build a lifeline of community involvement in some of Chicago's most impoverished neighborhoods.

Buoyed by the success of the chapter's recent Freedom Fund Awards event in Hillside, Brinson said he is proud that his tenure as president has restored the Westside NAACP's ability to "create an environment to inform the community and get out the information needed to create an advocacy" for them. The next step, he added, is for Westsiders and black folk around the nation to "opt in" to the system that governs them and build a united constituency that holds elected officials accountable to the interests of black wards and districts.

"Black people have been very wise to a fault," Brinson further explained when addressing the greatest hurdle his organization

must clear to achieve its goal of effective African American empowerment in Chicago. "They opted out of a system they have never seen to truly, ever really address or serve their interests.

"Most black people are aware the system has failed them; that's why they do not participate in it."

But with the deficit mantra dominating the political discourse here, in Springfield, Washington, D.C. and elsewhere, neither African Americans nor those supporting their interests can afford disengagement. "We have to be involved," Brinson said. "We cannot afford apathy if we are to build the community necessary to forge coalitions that educate and motivate us to focus on working to achieve our interests.

"We have to opt in to the system if we ever hope to change it."

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### Poverty from page 5

Services). The median family income for North Lawndale was \$22,370 (Citydata.com website). When we say "median income", we know that exactly one half of the community's households had total reported earnings of less than \$22,370, and exactly one half of the households reportedly earned less. Approximately 42% of North Lawndale households reportedly were living below the poverty line in 2008 (North Lawndale Employment Network) as compared to 21.6% for the City of Chicago in 2009 (Heartland Alliance).

### What is the percentage of people in poverty in North Lawndale 10 years ago?

The federal threshold for poverty in 2000 for a family of four was \$17,050 (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services). The median family income for North Lawndale was \$18,342 (Chicago Area Housing website). When we say "median income", we know that exactly one half of the community's households had total reported earnings of less than \$18,342, and exactly one half of the households reportedly earned less. Approximately 45.2% of North Lawndale households reportedly were living below the poverty line in 2000 (Chicago Area Housing website), as compared to 19.6% in the City of Chicago (Heartland Alliance).

### Police from front page

members of the executive staff for 45 minutes. I go to meetings all day I go to a roll call and then I come out to something in the evening like this. Then, I usually eat dinner about 9:30 or so. I crash I get at 5:30 the next morning and I do it again."



Police/Community meet and greet at 21st and St Louis.

### Lord from page 3



Several people inquiring about the products, how they work, how can they purchase and some were intrigued to see a display set up of SereniGy Ganoderma

Alisa has a mutual friend, Ursula, who suffered from a brain tumor and whose health had deteriorated to the point where she had to relinquish her police officer's duties and began writing her will, back in December 2010. Once, Ursula started recuperating, regaining her vision, relief of headaches, ability to walk again without assistance, more oxygenated unrestricted blood flow, losing extra pounds gained from lengthy bedridden idleness, from using the SereniGy beverages, and capsules, she then became a SG distributor herself. She then explained to Lord Xodus that, "I believe that God saved my life so that I can help make as many people as possible

aware of this company, Ganoderma and it's miraculous health improvement properties."

Gabby enlightened Lord Xodus to more of the company's benefits. She also shared a testimony with him on how these ganoderma products helped with her mother, who was a stroke victim, and miraculously improved.

That is when he himself started out as a consumer of the products. After seven days, consuming SereniGy's Ganoderma beverages, Chai Tea, Mocha and Latte coffee, Red Rooibos and Green teas, and, initially the "Fruit and Veggies" capsules, Lord Xodus, improved his energy levels as each of the women said that it would. He decided to get into the business at which point he felt he had a moral humanitarian responsibility to become to make people aware of SereniGy and Ganoderma as they can spread toward their loved ones. So he started with his family and friends first.

Lord Xodus stated that he saw SereniGy being a mass product of mass notoriety and usage by people all over the world. He believes it will be the next multi billion dollar Company. He also stated that he see SereniGy and it's testimonies in letters, and everyday conversations in church, and even as another source of entrepreneurship, financial freedom. He see's SereniGy as improving the lives of

people of all races and all ages.

The question was raised to Lord odus if he thought these products were better than the medications that doctors prescribed on a day to day basis his response was I'm not A doctor and I would not recommend to anyone to stop taking their prescribed medications but he does feel the SereniGy Ganoderma products can assist and help the human body to improve it's own natural immune system and is a great alternative, natural herbal adaptogenic medicine without the numerous high risks of side affects.

While we were doing the interview several people stopped by to inquire about the products, how they work, how can they purchase and some were intrigued to see a display set up of SereniGy Ganoderma. I asked "Kandase Khedra had she ever heard of or tried any of the products, she said she loves the "Chai tea." Lord Xodus provided some of the SereniGy Hot Chocolate instant packets to Kandase's six children that was with her, when he was asked by one of the youngest daughters, "Do you have any hot coco for us!?" "Yes, I do." Replied, Lord Xodus. "Hmmm! We love hot coco!" joyously exclaimed the little girl.

A joyful, smile of 'good day's work' flashed across Lord Xodus' face. If you want more information on the benefits of SemiGy Ganoderma call 312-576-0828.

# LANE CHANGE: Denying Them Childish Things Denies Our Children Childhood

A Commentary by Travles R. Lane - the1tlane@yahoo.com

"These children sure grow up fast these days," an elderly lady commented to me the other day as we waited at a bus stop together while watching a little girl who looked about 11 years old struggling to keep her contrary little brother of about six years of age from playing in the street as they waited with us.

Little junior was adamant about defying her, and it was all she could do to keep the smaller child in check until the bus arrived. And then, she had to then loudly order and then snatch him onto the bus with her.

As I continued to watch the two of them during the ride, I further contemplated my replying to the woman's comment at the bus stop, "(Children) don't grow up any faster nowadays as they did when we were children."

"They are simply more exposed to what adults do and more neglected by the adults who should be teaching them how to be children first," I said then. "They are living with cable TV in homes that are no more than low brow reality shows. So, they do know more about the things they ought not to.

"Yet, they are still just children, and people need to quit thinking that just because a child can act grown doesn't mean it knows what it is doing. We spend too much time believing and saying they know more these days, just so we won't have to do our duty and teach them what WE don't seem to know anymore—how to BE grown, not act like it."

Then, on the bus, I began to recall one morning about four years ago, when my own son was seven, when he awoke for school just as I suddenly remembered I had forgotten to place a quarter underneath his pillow the previous night. Back then, I think, he genuinely believed in the Tooth Fairy, because I'd never failed before to have that quarter under his pillow the morning after he had shed a tooth.

Well, when he came from his room to prepare for his breakfast before school without mentioning the quarter, I quietly took two quarters from the laundry till, soft-stepped into his room and slid the 50 cents under the pillow. Then he suddenly emerged from the bathroom just before I

could exit his room.

Thinking quickly, I suddenly made a show of fanning into the air and shouting, "Shoo! Get out of here!"

And then, I said, "Oh, sorry."

I explained to my now bewildered son that I'd gone to investigate a noise in his room, heard something buzzing overhead like a large fly and attempted to drive it out when I realized it was the Tooth Fairy! The fairy had been running a little late because he was tired.

"But he left two quarters, and he didn't even take my tooth," my son replied after overturning his pillow.

"Well, (the fairy) said you deserved two quarters for how bravely you let me pull that tooth yesterday. But he said he was just too tired to carry it back with him.

"We'll just keep it to remember the day you nearly caught the Tooth Fairy! You are a special little boy indeed!"

Now, I cannot truthfully tell you that the boy believed my impromptu tale or not. He may have never believed that Tooth Fairy bit in the first place.

But the big, gap-toothed smile of genuine pleasure and pride that radiated from his freshly-washed face that morning was priceless to me. Childhood should be about fairy tales and such.

Children should not have to be responsible like adults for raising themselves and/or other children. They should not have to grow up before they are grown. They should have a life of childish things, like the Tooth Fairy and Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny and Bugs Bunny.

Because a genuine, encouraged childhood is the only proper conduit to a functional and responsible adulthood. There are other ways to get grown of course. And we can see the streets of our communities and the state's prisons filled with those debilitating options every day as well as every time we see some youngster choosing to--or having to--act grownup.

But when our children truly get to experience the life of a child, they will better be prepared to grow up. Then, putting away childish things as adults may become as much their own expectations and goals for the future as it should be for their parent(s).

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Eyebrow Wax/Arch	\$ 6
Nail Art	\$ 6
And more ...	



## Time to punch in.

Opening early at 5:30am in Jan./Feb.

Save money now when you purchase more months\*:

- 1 month - \$15
- 3 months - \$40 (save \$5)
- 6 months - \$75 (save \$15)
- 9 months - \$110 (save \$25)
- 12 months - \$145 (save \$35)

Never any joiner fees.



### Lawndale Christian Fitness Center

Loving God, Loving People

3860 W. Ogden Ave.  
 773.843.3219

Bring in this ad for a free one day workout.

Classes available now include: Cardio Flex 1, Cardio Mix, Cardio Punch, Circuit Training, Exercising with Arthritis, Full Body Toning, Get on the Ball, SilverSneakers®, Six-Pack Attack, Strength Toning

\*Prices listed are for individual plans. Savings apply to all plans. Call or stop by for more details.