

THE  
**POWER**  
OF  
**PARTNERSHIPS**



**CHANGING  
WORLDS**

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

# MISSION

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*Changing Worlds' mission is to foster inclusive communities through oral history, writing and art programs that improve student learning, affirm identity and enhance cross-cultural understanding.*

# APPROACH

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Changing Worlds' unique programming approach integrates cultural, family and community histories with writing and the arts to help participants explore their own backgrounds and learn about others while strengthening their academic and art-learning skills.

Changing Worlds is grounded in the belief that providing individuals with opportunities to explore their own identity and discover their family and individual role in society provides a foundation for them to explore the larger world.

It works toward its mission through separate, yet interconnected program areas that include:

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- **In-School and After-School Partnerships that provide educational and art resources to develop student-centered curricula that integrates cultural awareness, literacy and the arts.**
  - **Teacher Professional Development workshops, seminars and institutes that offer insight and support to enhance teacher practice, build classroom community and strengthen academic and arts learning outcomes for students.**
  - **Community Outreach Initiatives such as traveling exhibits, short-term programs and special events that spread Changing Worlds' mission across the state and engage new audiences.**
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# MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## CELEBRATING ITS 15TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR



### DEAR FRIENDS,

Over a decade ago, an idea was developed that highlighted the power of personal stories with writing and the arts to affirm identity, bridge cultural divides and improve student learning. Fifteen years later, the idea is still going strong in schools and communities across the city. As Changing Worlds celebrated its 15th Anniversary, the organization continued its legacy of annual growth and program expansion efforts. Last year represented tremendous achievement for Changing Worlds; it doubled the amount of after-school programs, finalized a three-year longitudinal study of the in-school Literacy and Cultural Connections program and completed a five-year strategic plan.

While many organizations spend an anniversary year celebrating past accomplishments, Changing Worlds chose to spend this time laying plans for the future to ensure its

sustainability for many years to come. The organization's commitment to strategic programmatic growth with a focus on results and measurable outcomes has helped strengthen its programs and services. This, coupled with your ongoing support, will enable the organization to reach more schools and communities and build the next generation of academically sound and culturally competent leaders.

Thank you for your support and continued partnership. We invite you to read the rest of the annual report and learn about other exciting developments like the launch of the Beck and Glossberg Student Leadership Award. Stayed tuned in the upcoming months as we announce new organizational developments, share the results of its three-year longitudinal study and launch a new high school readiness project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Hidalgo".

**Sharon Hidalgo**  
President, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Rodriguez".

**Mark Rodriguez**  
Executive Director



Photo courtesy of Julio C. Perez, Whitney Hsieh, Rolando Davis



# THEN & NOW

## 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY REUNION

Munarvera Grgic and Mirela Kozarcenin  
Munevera stands in front of her family's story as told shortly after their arrival to Chicago from Bosnia.

They came to Chicago from regions all over the world. Between 1996 and 2001, they – children, parents and grandparents – told their stories for the Changing Worlds oral history and photography project. Now, most of the children are young adults. Launched in 1996, the project produced an exhibit that still hangs on the walls at Hibbard School. Later, two traveling versions were created that have been displayed in schools, libraries, community centers and more, in the Chicagoland area and out of state. The exhibit shares the stories of 11 families, each from a different homeland, who lived in the diverse Albany Park neighborhood.

For years, those who knew the families in the exhibit have wondered about them and wished to reconnect. Again and again, visitors to the exhibit have asked the same question: "Where are they now?" followed by the suggestion or request that the organization do an update. The Changing Worlds community, including some of the families, came together at Hibbard School on April 4th to celebrate its journey and reconnect with families from the exhibit. Its 15th Anniversary presented a perfect opportunity to begin that process. Here are some excerpts from that effort:

The Grgic family lives in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Mirela is an assistant teacher in the Early Head Start program and has an apartment next door to her grandparents' apartment. Munervera has another daughter, Dané, who is eight. Munevera works for a social security disability attorney.

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*You have no idea how important it was. I was cut off, scared. I had so much in my heart, so much lost, but I couldn't communicate. That day, the interview, it gave me the power to survive...I'm doing well now. I have achieved so many of my dreams, ever since I accepted that this is my life here...I love the (Changing Worlds) book. I show it to everybody.*

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# FAST FACTS

- The original exhibit is on permanent display at Hibbard Elem. School in Albany Park.
- Each year, two traveling exhibits reach more than 3,000 children and adults.
- The exhibits include the stories of 11 families migrating to Chicago from Bosnia, Iraq and Mexico to name a few.
- The stories are translated into 13 different languages.



The Corea family came to Chicago from Nicaragua. Elizabeth is studying architecture at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC); Katherine is also at UIC as a freshman psychology major with plans to go to graduate school for pre-veterinarian studies. Gabriela is now a junior at Von Steuben High School.

Katherine, Elizabeth and Gabriela  
Rosa Corea and her children, Gabriela, Elizabeth, Katherine and their younger brother



## THEN & NOW

15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY REUNION

# THEN & NOW

## 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY REUNION

Two years ago, Amina Ahmed, the mother, went on the Hajj, the important Muslim Pilgrimage to Mecca. Ruqia, a kindergartener in the original exhibit, is in college. Mohammed, who was eight when he told his story for the exhibit, attended culinary college and is a chef. He would like to open his own restaurant and serve cuisines from many cultures. Mulki, who dreamed of becoming a nurse in her Changing Worlds interview, is now a nurse at the Mayo Clinic and the mother of three children. Most of the Hassan family has relocated to Minnesota where there is a large Somali community and "it feels closer to home." Munira, a sister not in the exhibit photo, still lives in Albany Park and has three children, two attending Hibbard.

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*Mulki, who dreamed of becoming a nurse in her Changing Worlds interview, is now a nurse at the Mayo Clinic and the mother of three children.*

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Mohammed and Mulki with their mother, sisters, and niece: Mulki, Sadra, Amina Ahmed, Khadija, Muhobo, Ruqia, and Mohammed Munira and her three children at the reunion with Jill Rohde, who interviewed the children for the original project.

# TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS TO **TRANSFORM** TEACHING



Teacher engaged in Changing Worlds' professional development programming.

Changing Worlds provides resources to teachers, teaching artists and literacy specialists to assist them in integrating arts, culture and family history into curriculum that encourages student-centered classroom communities. In addition to modeling techniques in its classroom residencies, Changing Worlds conducts professional development workshops and a week-long Summer Institute. This year, over 100 educators and artists from across Chicago participated in the organization's trainings. While its programs continue to expand, so does the need. One of the participants noted, "I wish more people could attend. Many teachers need to be aware of culturally responsive teaching in their classrooms."

This past year, Changing Worlds partnered with the Chicago Public Schools, Office of Language and Culture Education, to hold five workshops for teachers. The workshops were designed to enhance teachers' comfort level and confidence in integrating art and culturally responsive teaching strategies in their curricula. Poetry, photography and comic strips were used as jumping off points for teachers to practice descriptive writing. In addition to practicing

the techniques of bringing the arts into their teaching, it also focused on cultural influences. Teachers had an opportunity to reflect on their own culture and how that determines both their planning and teaching. As a teacher who had just attended this series of workshops said, "We learned respect for the children's culture – ethnic and personal – in creating a partnership for learning." Another teacher noted that using photography allowed her to "see through someone else's eyes," while another said, "I need to be more open minded." After completing the workshop on The Power of the Arts, a teacher said, "I now realize how vast art is. I don't have to draw well in order to be artistic in the classroom."

Changing Worlds' professional development programming broadens educators' definition of the arts and expands their reach to include drama, movement, collage and other art forms. Through the process, they practice the techniques, learn how to integrate the arts into their curricula and develop strategies to further engage their students.



# AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

## THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS TO **IMPROVE** STUDENT LEARNING

Working in partnership with schools and community-based organizations, Changing Worlds' Arts and Cultural Connections (ACC) after-school program engages youth and families in hands-on arts and cultural awareness projects and residencies. This year, Changing Worlds continued its partnership with America SCORES Chicago (SCORES). A local affiliate of a national nonprofit organization, SCORES provides after-school programming with a core curricula of service learning, poetry and soccer grounded in TLC: teamwork, leadership and commitment. Through the collaboration, Changing Worlds provided comprehensive arts and cultural awareness programs at three of their five community school sites last year: Thomas Chalmers Specialty School, Pilsen Community Academy and John Milton Gregory Math and Science Academy. Changing Worlds offered drama, dance, theatre, creative writing and parent programming.

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*According to Deb Goldstein McGarvey, Director of Community Schools with SCORES, "Changing Worlds is our organizational clone...We create a holistic experience that meets the needs of the whole child and family so that children might better attain academic success.*

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Student artwork created as part of after-school programming

According to Deb Goldstein McGarvey, Director of Community Schools with SCORES, "Changing Worlds is our organizational clone – we approach the work with children and families in very much the same way. We create a holistic experience that meets the needs of the whole child and family so that children might better attain academic success." In addition to nurturing the TLC values, she says, "Changing Worlds and SCORES has similar goals: build confidence and efficacy."

In addition to the organization's program partnership with America Scores, Changing Worlds served over 600 youth through a total of 42 art residencies at seven schools. The art residencies occurred for a range of eight-ten weeks and for an average of five hours a week. During the residencies, students were engaged in arts and culture programs ranging from samba and ballet folkloric dance to mosaic, mural-making and dramatic performances.



# AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS



# IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

## NURTURING CONNECTIONS

Jacob Daniel, a 6th grader at Whittier Elementary School, says that he would encourage his friends and classmates to participate in Changing Worlds' programs because, "it will give you an opportunity to learn more about the world and to learn more about yourself." For his part in the program, he wrote a monologue that was a tribute to his great-grandfather. Jacob learned that he had won a Purple Heart and had helped build the Willis Tower. Jacob was one of the students who participated in Changing Worlds' Literacy and Cultural Connections (LCC) in-school partnership program.

Changing Worlds implemented its in-school program at four sites last year and reached over 3,500 students, teachers and families through classroom and school-wide activities. The LCC program uses hands-on, interactive arts, literacy and cultural awareness activities that are designed to improve student learning and build community.

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*Jacob Daniel, a 6th grader at Whittier Elementary School, says that he would encourage his friends and classmates to participate in Changing Worlds' programs because, "it will give you an opportunity to learn more about the world and to learn more about yourself."*

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Students participating in a dance residency as part of in-school programming.

The program nurtures connections within families by incorporating their heritage, memories, histories and perspectives into standard curricula. Ireon Roach, a 6th grader at Goodlow Elementary School, illustrates these at work when she states, "When we first found out we had to do an interview, I didn't know who I was going to interview because everybody was so busy all the time. So I asked my grandmother how she and my grandfather had met." This simple question led to Ireon learning more about her family's history that she had not yet learned including, why she is so smart. According to her grandmother, Ireon's mother was pregnant with her while she was still in school and told Ireon that she "was probably in her belly listening to the lessons..."



# IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMS



# OUTREACH PROGRAMS

## BUILDING PARTNERSHIP THROUGH COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

Changing Worlds' traveling oral history and photography exhibits, cultural performances and interactive art activities combine in its outreach efforts to celebrate identity and encourage participants to learn about other cultures. Huong Banh, an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher for the past 20 years at Lincoln Elementary School in Evanston, became acquainted with Changing Worlds when she attended its Annual Benefit with a friend. A refugee from Vietnam, she was personally attracted to the program and thought the stories touching. "That's my story, too," Huong said. She wanted to highlight the diversity at Lincoln; in her ESL classes alone, she has 22 students from 11 countries with 12 languages. She invited Changing Worlds to present the exhibits that would engage the students in the stories of immigrant and refugee families, and help them consider their own identities.

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*"I'm changing my curriculum because of this experience."*

*"Parents really loved it and the teachers appreciated that it fit in with their curriculum. The writing and the storytelling aligned the interests of the teachers and the PTA."*

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Students viewed Changing Worlds' Traveling Exhibits

Highlights of Changing Worlds' programming at Lincoln included its traveling exhibit, classroom workshops, and an interactive storytelling performance. Fourth and fifth grade students, after viewing photos of the children in the exhibit, imagined themselves as one of the children through an "I am..." series of writing exercises. This enhanced their desire to learn the real stories of the children in the exhibit and reconsider their first impressions. In second and third grade classrooms, Changing Worlds facilitated a map, timeline and art activity called "Defining You" that built on previous work the students had done to learn about their family roots. Additionally, all classes at Lincoln enjoyed storyteller Mama Edie Armstrong's interactive performance, honoring cultures from many lands.

Changing Worlds' rich programming inspired Lincoln School's music teacher to plan an evening program for families at which students performed music representing different continents. Another teacher said, "I'm changing my curriculum because of this experience." Huong says, "Parents really loved it and the teachers appreciated that it fit in with their curriculum. The writing and the storytelling aligned the interests of the teachers and the PTA."

Changing Worlds conducted many other outreach programs this year. The public enjoyed a student art exhibit at the 55 E. Monroe building downtown. It reached university students through an exhibit and workshop at Northeastern Illinois University and North Park University. Through World Chicago, it conducted a workshop with Serbian youth visiting the United States on a leadership development program. With high school students from the Harris Fellows Student Leadership Conference, it also conducted a dance workshop exploring race and culture. For the first time, the exhibit was sent out-of-state to the National Refugee Healthcare Conference in Rochester, New York.

Changing Worlds' Traveling Exhibits on display at Lincoln School.



# OUTREACH PROGRAMS

# 2010 – 2011 SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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## Literacy and Cultural Connections

### School Partners

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Daniel Boone Elementary School

Elaine Goodlow Elementary School

Wolfgang A. Mozart Elementary School

J.G. Whittier Elementary School

### After-School Partners

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America SCORES Chicago

Calmecca Academy of Fine Arts  
and Dual Language

Charles W. Earle Elementary School

Children's Home and Aid Society

John Milton Gregory Math  
and Science Academy

Pilsen Community Academy

Robert Fulton Elementary School

SGA Youth and Family Services

Theodore Roosevelt High School,  
International Newcomer Center

Thomas Chalmers Specialty School

### Program and Organizational Partners

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Adult Learning Resource Center /  
National Refugee and Immigrants  
Conference

Chicago Public Schools, Office of  
Language and Cultural Education

Chicago Public Schools, Office  
of Fine Arts

Chicago Arts Education Forum

Chicago Career Tech

Chicago, Department of Family and  
Support Services

Columbia College, Department of  
Educational Studies

DePaul University, Steans Center for  
Community-based Service Learning

Harris Fellows Student  
Leadership Conference

Hibbard Elementary School

Illinois Institute of Technology

Inner City Muslim Action Network

Institute for Workforce Education, a  
division of St. Augustine College

Lincoln Elementary School, Evanston

Loyola University, Center for Urban  
Research and Learning

The Motherhouse, Sisters of St. Casimir  
National Caucus & Center on Black  
Aged, Inc.

National Refugee Healthcare Conference

North Park University

Northeastern Illinois University, Centers  
of Globalization Conference

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Southwest Organizing Project

Teachers for Social Justice

University of Chicago, Community  
Service Center

University of Illinois at Chicago, The  
Chicago Civic Leadership  
Certificate Program

World Chicago

# INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES

## THE NORTHERN TRUST CENTENNIAL FUND FOR THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN

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Since 1889, Northern Trust has been distinguished by its commitment to providing exceptional client service and building strong, long-lasting relationships with clients and its employees. Throughout its more than 120-year history, Northern Trust has advanced a culture of caring by investing in the communities it serves.

Since 2010, The Northern Trust Centennial Fund, a donor advised fund of The Chicago Community Trust, has supported Changing Worlds' arts and cultural education programs. According to Jerome Harper, Second Vice President and Senior Program Officer at Northern Trust, "Changing Worlds aligns nicely with our focus on the arts and education, two of our core program investment areas. Its in-school and after-school programs are in communities that Northern Trust has a commitment to support, and the organization's strategic focus on outcomes and measuring success is aligned with our commitment to results. Moreover, Harper notes, "Changing Worlds' efforts to increase cultural understanding among youth and communities parallels our company's commitment to diversity and makes the investment even more valuable."



Jerome Harper



**Northern Trust**

Given the current financial and economic environment, the challenge to Changing Worlds and many other nonprofit organizations is great – being asked to meet growing demands with increasingly constrained resources. With respect to the outlook for nonprofits in Chicago, Harper said, "Northern Trust remains convinced that partnering with organizations that share our guiding principles of service, expertise, integrity and our commitment to the culture of caring will enable our success and allow us to fulfill Northern Trust's broad philanthropic vision."

# GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

## MAKE A GIFT

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An outright gift to Changing Worlds can be made by check, credit card or online at its secure website, [www.changingworlds.org](http://www.changingworlds.org), or by calling 312.421.8040. Checks payable to Changing Worlds can be mailed to 329 W. 18th Street, Suite 613, Chicago, IL 60616.

## MATCHING GIFT

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Contact your Human Resources department to determine whether your employer has a matching gift program.

## PLEDGE GIFT

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A pledge of any amount can be paid over time in cash or stocks. Monthly, quarterly and other payment schedules are available.

## TRIBUTES: HONOR OR MEMORIAL

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Honor someone, living or deceased, in celebration of a birthday, anniversary or other important occasion. A tribute gift is a thoughtful way to acknowledge family and friends. When you make a tribute or memorial gift, a special card is sent to the honoree or designated family member recognizing your gift.

## STOCK GIFT

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By contributing appreciated stocks, you receive a tax deduction while avoiding capital gains taxes.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Contact Mark Rodriguez, Executive Director,  
at [mrodriguez@changingworlds.org](mailto:mrodriguez@changingworlds.org) or call 312.421.8261.

Changing Worlds is a 501(c)3 agency. Money donated to Changing Worlds is professionally managed and tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.



# 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY BENEFIT CELEBRATION

## STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS WITH OUR STORY

Changing Worlds celebrated 15 years of literacy and arts programming at its Annual Benefit on May 19th at the Westin Hotel River North. Over 270 guests joined in the celebration featuring a silent auction, raffle, program testimonials and entertainment. A highlight of the evening was its new video, *Be Part of Our Story*, which presented a historical overview of the organization and an in-depth look at its Literacy and Cultural Connections program. Students featured in the video were interviewed on stage by the evening's emcee, Jim Rose of ABC7 Chicago. The students described the impact the program has had on them personally and their elementary schools in Pilsen, West Ridge and West Englewood.

The 2011 Connecting Cultures Awards were given to JoAnn Beck, Joseph Glossberg and Harry Porterfield. Ms. Beck and Mr. Glossberg are long-time supporters of Changing Worlds and are committed to leadership for young professionals and arts education, respectively. Both are members of Changing Worlds' Corporate Relations Board. Mr. Porterfield is a television journalist and the creator and host of the long-running TV show, *Someone You Should Know*, who was honored for his commitment to using the power of story to nurture connections. In addition to the Connecting Cultures Award, Changing Worlds awarded its Legacy Partnership Award to the Polk Bros. Foundation for their long-standing support.

Another highlight of the evening was the announcement of a special award honoring Ms. Beck and Mr. Glossberg: The JoAnn Beck and Joseph Glossberg Arts and Culture Student Leadership Award. The award will annually recognize youth, who have demonstrated leadership, personal and artistic growth, creativity and commitment to cultural awareness. For information on the Student Leadership Award, contact Mark Rodriguez at [mrodriguez@changingworlds.org](mailto:mrodriguez@changingworlds.org) or 312.421.8261.

Under the leadership of the 15th Anniversary Benefit co-chairs, Yvonne Afable, Sheldon Reitman and Sean Tarantino, and with the support of the Board of Directors, the Corporate Relations Board and the Associate Board, Changing Worlds raised over \$100,000 to invest in its school and community programs. Corporate sponsors for the evening included:



# BOARD MEMBER PROFILES



## JODY ADLER

Fifteen years ago, Jody Adler was coordinating pro bono legal services for nonprofit organizations. Simultaneously, Changing Worlds was embarking on its journey to become a 501(c)3 nonprofit and was one of Jody's first clients. Since then, with interest, she has watched the organization grow. A year ago, Jody was looking for new opportunities in the nonprofit world, where she could contribute her energy, expertise and resources. She was "attracted to Changing Worlds' approach of working with art, history and stories to bring people together," and became a member of its Board of Directors.

A highlight of Jody's past year with Changing Worlds was during her early days as a Director when the organization was engaged in its strategic planning process. She was impressed by being able "to walk into an all-day meeting and see a lot of committed people working very hard to see this organization grow and succeed."

## JEANETTE HOLLAND

Jeanette Holland was also looking for a new way to give back. In 2010, Holland joined Changing Worlds' board as the Treasurer. "I welcomed the opportunity to work with both a dear friend and the Board President, while contributing and being of service to an entirely new community of people," says Jeanette.

"Completing my first full budget with the executive team, proposing the budget to the Board and getting it passed was very rewarding and gave me a sense of my leadership ability." Despite Jeanette being new to the board, she says, "The process of putting all the parts together with the team really strengthened my professional development."

Another highlight for Jeanette was attending the 15th Anniversary Reunion with the families who first shared their life stories with Changing Worlds. She says, "It was pretty special to see the impact Changing Worlds has had on those families, and to see what is available to those who participate in the programs."

*Jody Adler is the Director of The Law Project of the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights. The Law Project provides pro bono legal advice and services to nonprofit entities and to low-income entrepreneurs.*

*Jeanette Holland is the Senior Business Development Manager of Language Line Services, Inc. The company is a full-service language provider serving limited English speakers with 170 languages.*



# 2011 FY BOARDS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SEPTEMBER 1, 2010 – AUGUST 31, 2011

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Comprised of successful civic, community and corporate leaders, the board of directors contributes time, resources, expertise and leadership to govern the organization and to ensure it works to fulfill its mission.

## OFFICERS

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President: Sharon Hidalgo, Affiliated Computer Services, Inc., A Xerox Company

Vice President of Governance: Sandi Toll, Jenner & Block LLP

Vice President of Resource Development: Lucy Ascoli, Consultant to Nonprofits

Vice President of Programs: Vicki Woolner Samuels, Artist

Treasurer: Jeanette Holland, Language Line Services, Inc.

Secretary: Kay Berkson, Founder

## DIRECTORS

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Jody Adler, The Chicago Law Project of the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law

Lindsay Cochrane, McCormick Foundation

Vernese Edghill-Walden, City Colleges of Chicago

Joanne Jacobson, Lincoln Park Zoo

Nadia M. Quarles, University of Chicago

Stephanie Quick, Attorney/Consultant

Lolita Sereleas, Fund Consulting, LLC

Sean Tarantino, Jenner & Block LLP

# CORPORATE RELATIONS BOARD

The Corporate Relations Board is an integral part of the management, growth and ongoing development of Changing Worlds' corporate partnership and outreach strategies. The members contribute their time, resources, expertise and guidance to ensure the organization reaches its outreach, fundraising and corporate awareness goals that help further the mission of Changing Worlds.

## MEMBER PROFILE: BRADLEY S. SHEFTTEL

Changing Worlds' Corporate Relations Board Member, Brad Sheftel, grew up traveling all over the world experiencing different cultures. Brad says, "While my classmates were going to Disney World, I was traveling to countries like Nicaragua, India, Brazil, Japan, and Israel." His father was in the Peace Corps in India, so celebrating diversity was a core family value and "was important to developing my identity." Brad further expanded his horizons by studying abroad in Spain and Cuba. In addition, being of service was important to his family.

Brad adds, "I want service and cultural awareness to be key components of our lives as I now raise my own family."

Brad's involvement with Changing Worlds has been focused on the Corporate Relations Board, which he joined in 2006.

His interest in working with Changing Worlds grew out of his concern for early childhood education and the importance of a full curriculum that includes the arts. Brad remarked that "research shows engaging children in activities beyond the basics is critical to development. I was very fortunate to be exposed to the arts early in my education."

Brad is a Principal at Valor Equity Partners, a middle market private equity firm with a workforce coming from very diverse backgrounds. This diversity serves Brad and his colleagues well in their efforts to support the community and to promote organizations that share their core values.



Bradley S. Sheftel

## CO-CHAIRS

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JoAnn Beck, Shepard Schwartz & Harris LLP

Nadia M. Quarles, University of Chicago

## MEMBERS

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Manas N. Athanikar, The Private Bank

Sam Cross, BMO Capital Markets

Brian Hahn, Neuberger Berman

Frank Myers, S&S Activewear

Lorenzo Bell, Johnson Controls Inc.

Joseph Glossberg, Gofen and Glossberg, LLC.

Kevin L. Miller, McDermott, Will & Emory

Bradley S. Sheftel, Valor Equity Partners

# ASSOCIATE BOARD

The Associate Board engages a core group of young professionals interested in supporting the work of Changing Worlds. Through fundraisers, school supply drives and networking events, the Members contribute their time, resources, expertise and guidance to ensure the organization reaches its outreach, fundraising and community awareness goals that help further the mission of Changing Worlds.

## MEMBER PROFILE: DEANNA ARCE



Changing Worlds' Associate Board Member, Deanna Arce, first volunteered to help greet guests at the organization's 2007 Annual Benefit. She recalls, "I was attracted by the program, liked learning about Changing Worlds and really enjoyed the people I worked with there."

When reflecting why she has stayed involved, she states, "We can have so much impact, on an individual level. We are now up to nine people. Changing Worlds is supportive of anything we do. They let us get out there and try things, take some risks. We're learning by doing."

The Associate Board hosts a monthly fundraising Trivia Night and organized their first "Bags, Brews and Buck\$" event, a beanbag tossing tournament, held in July. In addition, the Associate Board hosts an annual Art Supply Drive at the beginning of each school year, and fully supports the Silent Auction at Changing Worlds' Annual Benefit. Deanna has served as the Co-Chair of the Auction for the last three

years. Serving on the Associate Board has had a positive effect on Deanna's professional life. Shepard Schwartz & Harris has been very supportive of her work with Changing Worlds. Deanna adds, "There is an automatic networking opportunity for me at any event I attend. In my business, that's a great opportunity, and it's even better that I can do that while giving back to the community." Deanna Arce is a Senior Accountant at Shepard Schwartz & Harris LLP in Chicago.

## OFFICERS

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Chair: Lindsay Cochrane, McCormick Foundation  
Secretary: Deanna Arce, Shepard Schwartz & Harris

Vice President of Fundraising: Sarah Groninger, IFF  
Treasurer: James Sawdon, Shepard Schwartz & Harris

## MEMBERS

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Arianna Cisneros, Arabella Philanthropic Investment Advisors  
Elizabeth Ferruelo, The Executives' Club of Chicago  
Rafael Nuñez, Jr., Agency Nuñez, Inc. - American Family Insurance  
Molly Tarantino, DeVry Inc.

Katy Dienslake, Shepard Schwartz & Harris LLP  
Sarah Hamilton, Advocate Health Care  
Alyssa Schutter, Citadel Media



# CHANGING WORLDS' STAFF AND PROGRAM TEAM

Left to right: Karen Ekpenyong, Maria Miranda Ramirez, Deborah Minor Harvey, Eli Marsh, Myra Harden, Joleen Kirschenman. Seated left to right: Patti Pangborn, Mark Rodriguez, Gabriel Smith and Kay Berkson. Not pictured: Carolyn Garrett and Sheila Hobson.

## CHANGING WORLDS' 2011 FY LEADERSHIP AND OPERATIONS TEAM

- Kay Berkson, Founder and Director of Outreach (In-Kind)
- Karen Ekpenyong, Manager of Professional Development
- Carolyn Garrett, Manager of Individual Giving and Special Events (not pictured above)
- Myra Harden, Coordinator of Office Operations and Program Support
- Sheila Hobson, Accountant (not pictured above)
- Elizabeth Marsh, Manager of Operations and Community Outreach Programs
- Deborah Minor Harvey, Manager of School Partnerships and After-School Initiatives
- Maria Miranda Ramirez, Manager of Foundation Relations and Communications
- Mark Rodriguez, Executive Director

## CHANGING WORLDS' PROGRAM TEAM

### LITERACY SPECIALISTS

- Marianne Flanagan
- Karen Jaros-Doria
- Gale Liebman
- Toni Murff

### TEACHING ARTISTS

- Yaasha Abraham
- Stephanie Carter
- Pedro Cruz
- Nora Fiffer
- Meida McNeil
- Tabitha Matthews
- Jean Parisi
- Patricia Peixoto
- Candida Riley
- Danielle Riley
- Diana Solis
- Nancy Vachon
- Heather Vernon

### INTERNS AND VOLUNTEERS

- Janice Bracy
- Debra Campbell
- Melissa Chaidez
- Aaron Chen
- Ilana Cheyfitz
- Dartunorro Clark
- Ludlow Franklin
- Cindy Kent
- Joleen Kirschenman
- Casandra Lane
- Sebrena Lewis
- Issie McClarin
- Valerie Mensah-King
- Tiffany Moore
- Lewis Newcorn
- Rick Oliphant
- Callie Rimmel
- Jessica Roti
- Drewy Washington
- Clare Wenzhe
- Jackie Zhang

# NURTURING THE PARTNERS OF TOMORROW

## CHANGING WORLDS' FOUNDERS FUND

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The Founder's Fund was launched in 2006 to commemorate Changing Worlds' 10th Anniversary and to honor its founder. The Kay Berkson Fellowship Program provides aspiring community and education leaders with a paid summer internship and hands-on learning in the areas of program research and design, capacity building, program evaluation and resource development. This past year, it identified two Fellows through its partnership with the University of Chicago, Community Service Center, at Kay's alma mater.



Valerie Mensah-King is a new graduate with a Bachelors of Arts in Sociology from the University of Chicago. Valerie was born and raised in Washington, D.C. by her parents, who emigrated from Ghana. Growing up with a dual cultural identity and an appreciation for diversity, in 2010, she welcomed the opportunity to work with Changing Worlds when she became a Kay Berkson Fellow; in 2011, she returned as a Senior Fellow. During her second fellowship, Valerie learned grant-writing procedures, created a grant research digital library, prepared need statements and coordinated the outreach and hiring process for the Teaching Artist Cadre – a reserve of teaching artists. Valerie recently joined Public Allies Chicago and is completing a service apprenticeship at Community Builders, one of the largest nonprofit development corporations.

in Visual Arts. As a life-long resident of Chicago and a graduate of Chicago Public Schools, Melissa appreciated Changing Worlds' efforts to form partnerships with schools, students and teachers in some of the city's most underserved communities. While there, Melissa supported the evaluation efforts of the Summer Institute, an intensive week-long training program for teachers, worked on developing the criteria for the new Arts & Culture Student Leadership Award and restructured existing strategies for better inventory management and office operations.

Melissa Chaidez, 2011 Kay Berkson Fellow, is a senior at the University of Chicago, majoring in Comparative Human Development with a minor



Out of the classroom, Melissa serves as Historian to her university's chapter of M.E.Ch.A (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán), a national organization that promotes higher education, culture, history and raising awareness on current issues. This year, she will begin work as the Marketing and Publicity Executive for HouseAid Inc., a new nonprofit organization founded by her peers at the University of Chicago. Their mission is to eradicate homelessness through innovative money management programs and outreach events. "Working with Changing Worlds was an enriching experience! I hope to apply the skills I have honed and insights I have gained into my future endeavors in nonprofit work."

Founder's Fund Co-chairs: Isabel Cole, Sidney Hollander and Sandy Meyers.



## 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL 5K WALK/RUN FOR CULTURAL AWARENESS

Changing Worlds' second 5K Walk took place on Saturday, August 20th - once again in scenic River Park, within the diverse and eclectic environs of Chicago's Albany Park neighborhood. This year, a timed 5K Run was added to the event. Luckily, the rain held off until everyone crossed the finish line!

In addition to having fun and connecting with friends and supporters of Changing Worlds, the event raised funds to support school and community-based arts and cultural awareness programs in some of Chicago's most underserved neighborhoods. Artwork displayed along the course was created by youth in some of the programs that directly benefit from the event proceeds.

Prizes were awarded to the individuals and the team who raised the most money, and to the male and female runners that first crossed the finish line. Congratulations to the following:

### Individual and Team Pledge Leaders

- Vicki Woolner Samuels, 1st Place Individual Pledge Leader – a Nook Color Reader
- Ben Segedin, 2nd Place Individual Pledge Leader – an iPod Touch
- Laurie Knox, 3rd Place Individual Pledge Leader – an overnight stay at the Hyatt McCormick Hotel

### Fastest Runners:

- Male Category, Charles Robey, with a time of 23:20.6
- Female Category, Gabrielle Afable, with a time of 23:56.3

Thanks to the sponsors for the event:

**Hoy, Cambodian Association of Illinois, Skinny Water, S&S Activewear, and our goody bag contributors H2O Plus and Wrigley Chewing Gum.**

If you would like to participate in next year's event, or help with the planning, please contact us at [info@changingworlds.org](mailto:info@changingworlds.org).

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Chicago Office of Tourism and Culture: City Arts Program  
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It is impossible to list the numerous volunteers and individuals who have supported the organization's work this past fiscal year. Changing Worlds thanks each and every individual that has supported its efforts. The following list highlights in-kind support received for products or professional services.

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# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Years ended August 31, 2010 and 2011

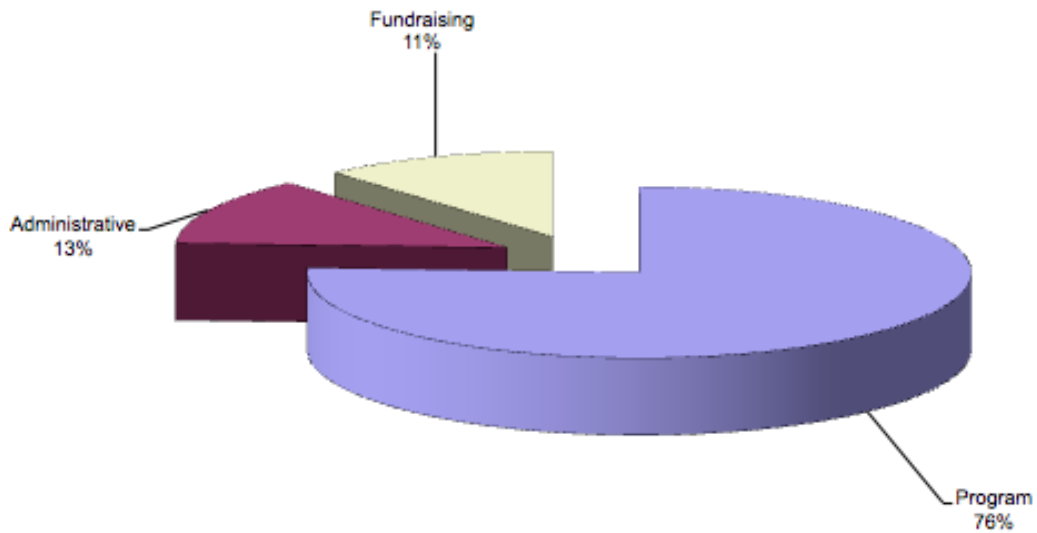
	2010 FY	2011 FY
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets:		
Cash	\$ 79,396	\$ 83,130
Grants and accounts receivable	88,811	36,665
Prepaid expenses and deposits	3,122	7,062
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	171,329	126,857
Fixed Assets:		
Computer and office equipment	41,956	41,956
Furniture	12,898	12,898
Leasehold Improvements	9,638	9,638
	64,492	64,492
Less: accumulated depreciation	(44,927)	(52,142)
	19,565	12,350
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	190,894	\$ 139,207
Liabilities & Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 21,639	\$ 10,505
Total Liabilities	21,639	10,505
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	85,462	109,756
Temporarily restricted	83,793	18,946
Total Net Assets	169,255	128,702
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 190,894</b>	<b>\$ 139,207</b>

# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

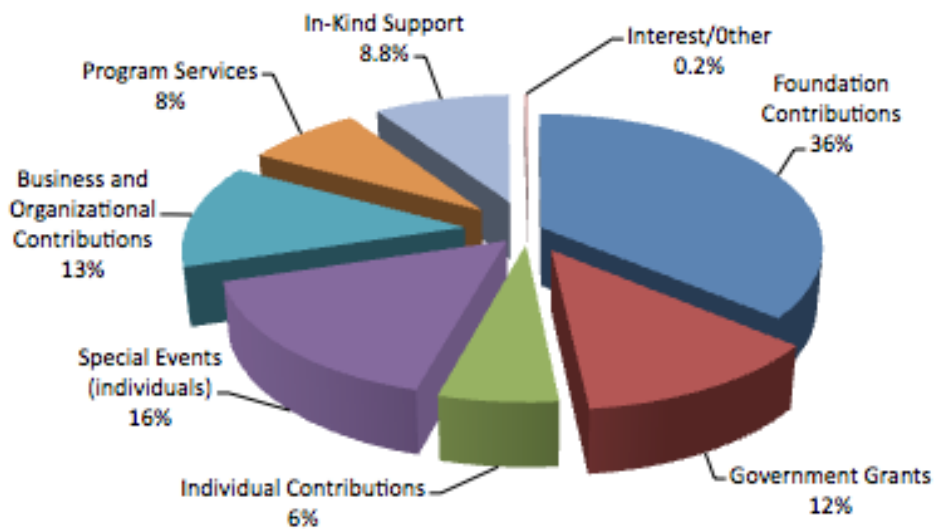
Years ended August 31, 2010 and 2011

	2010 FY	2011 FY
Support and Revenue		
Foundation Contributions	\$ 254,250	\$ 257,909
Government Grants	26,184	67,220
Individual Contributions	45,723	35,007
Corporate Contributions	32,218	25,700
In-Kind Support	43,053	49,680
Special Events		
Gross Proceeds	109,360	129,842
Direct Expenses	(35,951)	(48,662)
Program Services	41,273	42,258
Interest	642	517
Other	30	739
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	516,782	560,210
Temporary Restricted Support	66,124	(64,847)
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	582,906	495,363
Expenses		
Program	375,162	406,137
Administrative	36,492	68,413
Fundraising	74,692	61,366
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	486,346	535,916
Change in Net Assets	96,560	(40,553)
Net Assets, beginning of year	72,695	169,255
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 169,255</b>	<b>\$ 128,702</b>

# 2011 FY EXPENSE AREAS



# 2011 FY REVENUE SOURCES





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