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COMMUNITY RENEWAL SOCIETY is an organization rooted in a faith-based tradition that empowers people to combat racism and the effects of poverty by providing tools such as objective investigative journalism, organizing and training to civic leaders, community activists, and congregations.
“All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men (sic.) do nothing.”
--Edmund Burke

In 1882 several “good” people of faith, were concerned and troubled by the social conditions in which some of their fellow Chicagoans lived. Determined to assist them in bettering their circumstances, they founded the Chicago Missionary Society, a predecessor of the Community Renewal Society. Since that time of urbanization and industrialization, which brought a massive influx of European immigrants to this city, Community Renewal has endeavored to ensure that the quality of life for all Chicagoans, regardless of their station, racial or ethnic identity, or their economic circumstance, was in keeping with God’s love for all, “especially the least of these.”

Chicago still faces glaring inequalities and troubling disparities among its people, including a widening gulf between rich and poor. In this, Community Renewal Society’s 129th Annual Report, you will be informed about the ways we have sought, with your generous support, to address several of these ever-present challenges facing African-American nursing home residents, African-American male public school students, and the 90,000 children and youth of all races and backgrounds who have at least one parent who is incarcerated. In each of these situations, we find people left vulnerable, often times ignored and forgotten by the larger society in which they live.

Honoring our historic legacy, we at Community Renewal Society organize and train good people to be self-empowering and self-determining. We continue to inform good people, who use that data to uncover inequities and other injustices heaped upon poor and under-served people and their communities. And we advocate for our children—the children of incarcerated parents, but also children involved in a public school system that suspends and expels its black male charges at rates double their population. We join them and other good people to assure that this society affords them every opportunity that their God-given creation deserves and requires.

Thank you for standing with us!

Go well, stay well, be encouraged and, also, empowered. I remain very appreciatively yours,

Reverend Calvin S. Morris, Ph.D
Executive Director
The Chicago Reporter

_The Chicago Reporter_ is an investigative bimonthly print and online publication that identifies, analyzes, and reports on the social, economic, and political issues of metropolitan Chicago with a distinctive focus on race and poverty. _The Chicago Reporter_, founded in 1972 and published by the Community Renewal Society, works tirelessly to demonstrate how investigative journalism plays a vital role in combating institutionalized racism and concentrated urban poverty in Chicago. Our investigations not only highlight racial inequality, but they provide very clear pictures of the impact that inequality has on the lives of real people and communities.

Catalyst Chicago

_Catalyst Chicago_ is an independent, award-winning news organization that documents, analyzes and supports school improvement efforts in the Chicago Public Schools. Launched in 1990, Catalyst serves all centers of school change through ongoing, authoritative reporting and analysis of both policy and practice. Catalyst serves as a watchdog and resource for school improvement in Chicago, in the belief that meeting the educational needs of our city’s children requires a well-informed public.

Civic Action Network

Civic Action is a network of congregations working to overcome the barriers of poverty and racism. Activists in member congregations come together across racial, ethnic, geographic and socioeconomic lines throughout the Chicago metropolitan region to shape public policies, practices and programs in order to foster hope and create opportunity for all Illinois residents.
The Chicago Housing Authority is evicting hundreds of families under its one-strike policy for crimes that, in many cases, leaseholders were never convicted of. page 10
In September 2011, The Chicago Reporter’s investigation into the Chicago Housing Authority eviction policy revealed that hundreds of families were evicted for low-level misdemeanor crimes.

By the CHA’s standard, all arrests are subject to the one-strike eviction policy, even if the arrest occurred on property not owned by CHA. As a result, families have been separated, and tenants have lost their homes for nonviolent offences. Angela Caputo reported in the cover story, “One and Done,” that when people are arrested on CHA property, the leaseholder is automatically summoned to eviction court whether or not they were directly involved with the crime. CHA has also chosen to evict leaseholders under the one-strike policy for crimes committed by their guests, children and anyone living in the unit, even if the crime occurred on property not owned by the CHA.

The Statistics

- At the time of publication the CHA had opened 1,390 one-strike cases during the past six years. Of these cases, 86 percent did not involve the primary leaseholder.

- More than half of the evictions were based on allegations that were never proven in criminal court.

- The largest number of those evictions occurred in gentrifying and mixed-income communities where public housing developments were being prepped for demolition.

The Results

- In the wake of our reporting, the CHA Director issued a public statement to the Reporter’s investigation saying: “Although one may have missed the numbers in Angela Caputo’s story “One and Done”, it is true that the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) has evicted 360 lease holders over the past seven years on the basis of criminal activities associated with their household — whether that be by the leaseholders, their children, relatives or friends. While the number is small—a little over 1% of the nearly 17,000 leaseholders residing in a public housing unit at any time—its publication allows a welcomed discussion of the role of public housing, the rights of public housing residents—and their responsibilities as well.”

- Angela Caputo appeared on several public affairs news shows to discuss the investigation and CHA’s response.
On May 10, 2011 nearly 200 leaders from Community Renewal’s Civic Action Network traveled to Springfield to advocate for: job opportunities for people with felony records, affordable and livable housing, and a fair tax system to adequately fund public education.
FAITH IN ACTION DAY

On May 10, nearly 200 community leaders from Civic Action Network member congregations across the Chicago metropolitan area traveled to Springfield for the annual Day of Faith in Action. Leaders rallied outside the Capitol and then spent the day holding dozens of individual meetings with state legislators. The day concluded with a high spirited song and prayer vigil outside the office of Speaker of the House Michael Madigan.

CRS leaders succeeded in protecting crucial sections of the Department of Human Services Budget. As a member of the steering committee of the Responsible Budget Coalition, we helped pass new revenues to protect the most vulnerable people in Illinois from devastating cuts.

We fought to ensure that nursing homes across Illinois will provide care from Registered Nurses to all their residents, regardless of race, geography or income.

THE RESULTS

• As a result $11.2 million was restored for the comprehensive community based youth services program, which for the first time in Illinois history includes children of incarcerated parents.

• Meetings were held with more than 40 members of the Illinois General Assembly to discuss our campaigns.

• The Illinois General Assembly increased the state income tax rate from 3 to 5 percent, providing billions of additional dollars in funding for education, healthcare, human services and public safety.

STATISTICS

• 92 percent of experts and providers surveyed said children with an incarcerated parent should have counseling.

• Illinois ranked 49th in the nation in the percentage of education funding that comes from the state.

• Illinois had the lowest income tax rate of any state that uses an income tax.
The United States Department of Justice announced a settlement with Countrywide Financial. Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan credited a 2008 investigation by The Chicago Reporter for spurring the $355 million settlement over Countrywide's discriminatory lending practices.

COUNTRYWIDE FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT
COUNTRYWIDE FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT

In December, the United States Justice Department and Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, citing The Chicago Reporter's work, reached a settlement with Countrywide Financial for $335 million to resolve discriminatory lending practices toward African-American and Latino homeowners leading up to the housing market crash. The settlement is said to be the largest ever for fair-lending claims. As the largest mortgage lender in the country, Countrywide's unfair practices were felt across 41 states and the District of Columbia.

The push for change began in 2008 when The Chicago Reporter released an investigation that revealed that Countrywide Financial issued subprime home loans to African-American and Latino homeowners who qualified for better loan rates.

The latest settlement is the second that Madigan has won against Countrywide, which was subsequently bought by Bank of America.

THE STATISTICS

- After surveying data from the Chicago area, The Chicago Reporter found that, in 2006, Countrywide Financial sold higher-cost loans to 50.9 percent of its African American borrowers and 33.8 percent of its Latino borrowers, while only 19.5 percent of the company's white borrowers received high-cost loans.

- Among mortgage applicants for owner-occupied homes, African Americans were most likely to be denied by lenders, turn down approved loans, and withdraw their applications. As a result, a majority of the more than 13,000 African Americans applying for such loans were unsuccessful.

- African Americans had better chances of getting home loans in Chicago in 1993--before the economic boom of the '90s--than they did a decade later.

- In 1993, 72 percent of all applications from African American home buyers resulted in loans, according to the Reporter's analysis. In 2003, just 48 percent did. In comparison, nearly 76 percent of applications from whites in 2003 resulted in mortgages.
EDWEEK PARTNERSHIP

Catalyst In Depth is reaching new audiences, thanks to the new ways of doing journalism. In March, Catalyst entered into a content-sharing partnership with Education Week, the country’s education newspaper of record. EdWeek kicked off the partnership by republishing the cover story, “Bridging Differences,” from the Winter 2011 issue of Catalyst In Depth. The Catalyst story appeared in several places on the EdWeek website. The Education Gadfly, a popular e-magazine put out by the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, linked to it as well.

For its part, Catalyst republished EdWeek stories on a promising school turn-around in Kentucky and a report on KIPP charter schools that found a high dropout rate for their African-American male students.

CITY NEWS LEADERS UNITE ON EDUCATION QUESTIONNAIRE TO MAYORAL CANDIDATES

In January, Catalyst organized The Chicago News Cooperative, WBEZ and WTTW Channel 11 to jointly submit a questionnaire on education issues to mayoral candidates. The questionnaire covers issues such as mayoral control, teacher tenure and youth violence. The questionnaire was posted on the Catalyst website, discussed by Linda Lutton on WBEZ’s “Eight-Forty-Eight,” and the candidates answered questions on WTTW Channel 11’s Chicago Tonight from students of the Mikva Challenge, a nonpartisan group that helps low-income Chicago youth become involved in politics and public service.

CHICAGO SCHOOLS POLICY FORUM SERIES

The 2011 Chicago School Policy Forum Series broke an attendance record with almost 300 people signing up for each of the three forums in the series. Catalyst co-sponsors the series with Business and Professional People for the Public Interest (BPI).

The topic was the Common Core State Standards, which form the foundation for major reform efforts at the school district and state levels. Catalyst also produced a Common Core State Standards online resource center.

Speakers included Michael Cohen, a nationally recognized leader in education policy and standards-based reform; Noemi Donoso, chief education officer for Chicago Public Schools; Gillian Dowley McNamee, director of teacher education at the Erikson Institute; Christopher Koch, Illinois state school superintendent; Sonja Brookings Santelises, chief academic officer of the Baltimore City Public Schools; and Jeff Nelsen, of Targeted Leadership Consulting.

UNION LEAGUE CLUB OF CHICAGO COLLABORATION

On September 20, 2011, Catalyst partnered with the Union League Club of Chicago in a forum on race and education, featuring guest speaker Terry Mazany, President of The Chicago Community Trust. Editor-In-Chief Lorraine Forte moderated the panel discussion, featuring Shelby Wyatt, counselor at Kenwood Academy High School and founder of the Brotherhood peer mentoring program; Terrence Carter, Academy of Urban School Leadership; and Ernesto Matias, principal of Wells High School and a member of the Catalyst editorial advisory board.
HIGH HOPES CAMPAIGN

At a January public forum held at Southlawn United Methodist Church on Chicago’s South side, elected officials and advocates spoke in support of the High HOPES campaign’s call to reduce unjust suspension and expulsions in Chicago Public Schools by 40 percent.

All of the mayoral candidates were invited to the forum, and Carol Moseley Braun and City Clerk Miguel del Valle responded. Del Valle was present and endorsed the campaign while Braun, although not in attendance, sent an endorsement form. Eighth Ward Ald. Michelle Harris, state Rep. Marlow H. Colvin, state Sen. Donne Trotter and other local officials were also present and and endorsed the campaign measures.

In August, the High HOPES coalition leaders attended Chicago Public Schools board meetings to call for a reduction in suspensions and expulsions in CPS. As a result, the coalition met with CPS Chief Jean-Claude Brizard and his administration to begin discussions about implementing restorative justice practices in all Chicago Public Schools.

ORGANIZER TRAININGS

The Civic Action Network staff presented several 3-Day organizing trainings and congregation-based justice trainings throughout 2011. The congregation justice trainings were held at local churches and were created to help congregations build public leadership skills and take effective and meaningful action to shape public policy in the state. The 3-Day community organizing trainings focused on faith-based principles and organizing best practices. They were conducted at community-based organizations and institutions throughout the Chicagoland area.

NEW MEDIA PARTNERSHIPS FORGED

The Chicago Reporter extended its reach through new media partnerships. In 2011, The Reporter joined forces with WMAQ’s Unit 5 Investigative Team to create hard-hitting investigative stories on social and economic issues. The partnership was forged through the NBC Nonprofit News Initiative program. Under this partnership, the Reporter will produce joint stories with WMAQ NBC 5 Unit 5 Investigative team based on the Reporters six cover-story investigations.

The Reporter also entered into a community partnership agreement with CAN-TV, Chicago’s cable access network broadcasting on several Comcast cable channels. CAN-TV will display headlines from the Reporter at least 24 times a day on cable access CAN-TV channel 27. The Reporter will share relevant CAN-TV programming in its weekly e-newsletter.

VICTORIES FOR CHILDREN OF THE INCARCERATED

In 2011, the Community Renewal Society won major victories for children of incarcerated parents. By working with the Illinois Department of Human Services Secretary Michelle Saddler, Civic Action Network leaders won the first ever funds in Illinois history to provide counseling, family counseling, transportation and group services for children of the incarcerated through DHS’s Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services program. This represents the first time in Illinois history that a state agency has provided a targeted funding stream for services for children of incarcerated parents.
LENDERS WITH UNREGISTERED VACANT PROPERTIES EXPOSED

The Chicago Reporter exposed several lenders who failed to register hundreds of foreclosed and vacant single-family homes with the City of Chicago. Just weeks after the investigation, the Chicago City Council—by a 49-0 vote—passed legislation meant to force banks to maintain such properties. Mayor Rahm Emanuel commended the legislation, noting $15.5 million the city spent last year to demolish or care for such properties. In its May/June 2011 investigation, “Despair over disrepair,” the Reporter noted that lenders—including notable firms like Deutsche Bank, U.S. Bank, Wells Fargo and HSBC—owed the city at least $2.2 million in unpaid registration fees.

REPORTER INVESTIGATIONS CITED

Noted author and legal scholar Michelle Alexander twice cited The Chicago Reporter in her award-winning book, “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness.” Alexander cited “Black Offenders Face Stiffest Drug Sentences,” a January 2002 investigation where a Reporter analysis of 110,000 drug cases revealed that black defendants often received more severe penalties than white defendants even when they committed the same crimes and had similar criminal backgrounds.

COMMUNITY NEWS MATTERS INITIATIVE

The Chicago Reporter partnered with the Chicago Community Trust and Community Media Workshop this year to provide a burst of local coverage by, for and about underserved communities on Chicago’s South and West sides. In April, through its Community News Matters initiative, the Chicago Community Trust awarded a series of $2,000 and $10,000 local reporting awards for original reporting and fact-based analysis in 2011. The funded work focuses on how important issues facing the city, county and state are affecting or will affect residents of low-income neighborhoods on the South and West sides of Chicago. This program is designed to add significant amounts of new information to the local news ecosystem. Winning projects involve original reporting or original data analysis, not just aggregation or opinion about news reported by others. The Reporter and Community Media Workshop helped manage the selection of winning projects and provide technical assistance to grantees in producing and promoting their work.

“THE TEEN REPORTER” BLOG PARTNERSHIP RENEWED

The Chicago Reporter renewed its partnership with One Economy to teach high school students about investigative journalism and how to blog about their experiences and communities. Their submissions are published on “The Teen Reporter,” a blog hosted on the Reporter’s website. Since its return, the blog has featured stories of cyber bullying and dismal Chicago Public Schools graduation and college admission rates, particularly for black and Latino teens.
Catalyst Chicago publisher Linda Lenz was honored in March with a 2011 Studs Terkel Community Media Award, which recognizes “outstanding media professionals for excellence in covering and reflecting Chicago’s diverse communities.”

In June 2011, reporter Angela Caputo and editor Kimbriell Kelly were awarded a 2011 Salute to Excellence Award from the National Association of Black Journalists for “Stolen Futures,” an investigative package of stories revealing that hundreds of Chicago youth are being sentenced to years in prison with adults for low-level crimes. The investigation appeared in the September/October 2010 edition.

In May, Catalyst Chicago’s fall issue of Catalyst In Depth, “Setting the agenda: Advice for the next mayor” won a Peter Lisagor Award from the Chicago Headline Club.

The Chicago Reporter captured four awards at the 2011 Peter S. Lisagor Awards, sponsored by the Chicago Headline Club—the Chicago chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists:

- Kelly Virella, Kimbriell Kelly and Natalie Moore won a Lisagor award for their multimedia collaboration with WBEZ called “Taser timeout,” an examination of excessive Taser use at a Kankakee County jail where Cook County detainees are often sent.
- Angela Caputo, Kimbriell Kelly and Alissa Groeninger won a Lisagor award for in-depth reporting in the investigation “17” an examination of 15-, 16- and 17-year olds prosecuted as adults, mostly for non-violent offenses.
- Joe Gallo, Jon Lowenstein and Mark Abramson won a Lisagor award for their photography on the investigation “Juvenile justice,” which includes a gripping photo illustration of a toddler in a jail cell as an illustration of the hundreds of teenagers prosecuted in Cook County as adults for low-level crimes.
- Christine Wachter won a Lisagor for graphics documenting the path teens take from juvenile to adult court, the millions of dollars spent on job training yielding meager results and the overrepresentation of African American youth in the child welfare system.

Catalyst Chicago’s deputy editor Sarah Karp scored a “three-peat” in the annual contest of the Education Writers Association. For the third year in a row, she earned an award from this very competitive competition—this time for her critical reporting on Renaissance 2010, Mayor Richard M. Daley’s signature school reform effort.
### FISCAL YEAR 2011

#### Assets

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#### Liabilities and Net Assets

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**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

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<td><strong>$ 47,620,179</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 41,138,083</strong></td>
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<p>| $                      | $                      | -                   | $ 150,000            |
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| 14,250                 | -                      | 29,821              | 52,314               |</p>
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| 1,072,598              | 40,124,420             | 47,505,827          | 40,740,858           |
| **$ 1,087,465**        | **$ 40,124,420**       | **$ 47,620,179**    | **$ 41,138,083**     |
## FISCAL YEAR 2011

### Operating Revenues, Gains and Other Support

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**TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT**

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<td>Development</td>
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**TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES**

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**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS - OPERATING**

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**NON-OPERATING GAINS AND LOSSES**

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**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS**

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**NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR**

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**NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR**

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## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

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<td>34,264,719</td>
<td>40,740,857</td>
<td>38,389,277</td>
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<td>$ 1,072,598</td>
<td>$ 40,124,420</td>
<td>$ 47,505,827</td>
<td>$ 40,740,858</td>
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