

SM15006

CROSSROADS FUND

change, not charity

June 5, 2015

Presbyterian Committee on the Self Development of People
Presbyterian Mission Agency – Presbyterian Church
100 Witherspoon Street
Louisville, KY 40202-1396

Dear Committee Members,

As the Program Director of the Crossroads Fund, I am pleased to recommend The Public Health Organization for the Presbyterian Committee on the Self Development of People (SDOP) grant. The Public Health Organization has been a grantee of the Crossroads Fund since 2013.

The Crossroads Fund supports community organizations working on issues of racial, social, and economic justice in the Chicago area. The Public Health Organization stands out as a well-organized group committed to long term social change. Their commitment to genuine grassroots organizing is evident in their membership base of low-income, working class patients; current and retired nurses and other healthcare workers; and allies working in or living on the South Side of Chicago. The organization engages those most directly impacted by the closing and privatization of healthcare clinics in an area of great need.

Crossroads Fund believes in their work, and we are impressed by the strides they have made toward greater healthcare equity and justice. I am confident in recommending the Public Health Organization for the SDOP grant.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for additional information or follow up questions.

Sincerely,

Jane Kimondo

Jane Kimondo
Program Director
Crossroads Fund
773.227.7676

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June 7th, 2015

Presbyterian Committee on the Self Development of People
Presbyterian Mission Agency – Presbyterian Church
100 Witherspoon Street
Louisville, KY 40202-1396

Dear Committee Members,

It is an honor to recommend the Public Health Organization (PHO) for the SDOP grant. The PHO has been at the forefront of the fight against the privatization of community based healthcare services and one of our most consistent and strongest allies since 2012. In 2013, the Public Health Organization organized and led a campaign that saved the jobs of INA members in the breast and cervical screening department of the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) as well as preserving, expanding, and improving the quality of critical preventative services for poor and low-income women on the South Side of Chicago.

PHO organized our rank-and-file members as well as those represented by two other unions, residents, and elected officials to prevent the CDPH's efforts to privatize the mammogram and cervical cancer screening department. The program serves 5,000 low-income, primarily women of color, annually. Workers faced the loss of their jobs. Communities on the South Side faced the loss of preventive screenings for low-income women. PHO accomplished something many thought impossible by forcing the City to restore \$4.4 million dollars in funding and an additional \$250,000 to expand services to the Roseland community which has the highest breast cancer mortality rate in the city.

PHO's Executive Director, Corey Barnes, has a unique skill set that includes research, leadership development, organizing, and strategy development. His expertise allows PHO to engage at the intersection of community and labor and amplify the concerns of poor people as they lead the fight for health equity and justice. PHO's leadership has been influential in swaying public opinion, including elected and health officials.

We have been impressed with PHO's values and commitment to the human rights of poor and working class families in Chicago. The PHO has demonstrated that developing strong leaders through ongoing education and training is integral to building power and creating sustainable change. PHO has invested in educating and building the power of poor, low-income residents/patients, so that such voices are integral in debates regarding the prioritization and implementation of public health policy. They show that when such voices are truly at the forefront we can achieve a more equitable and inclusive public health care system. The potential long-term impact of PHO's efforts is limitless. This is an organization our communities would like to see grow and reach its fullest potential and one that members of INA support wholeheartedly.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Sandra Robinson

Illinois Nurses' Association, President
Illinois AFL-CIO, Vice President
773-919-9960

June 8, 2015

Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People
Presbyterian Mission Agency – Presbyterian Church
100 Witherspoon Street.
Louisville, KY 40202-1396

Dear Ms. Newton and SDOP Committee:

I have come to know Corey Barnes over the past few years in a number of capacities: as a consultant, an adviser to our work, as a witness to the wonderful work he is doing in Chicago and as a friend. I am more than happy to provide a letter in support of him and the Public Health Organization (PHO).

Corey's approach to his work is unique and in an era where we are all focused on the small metrics of accountability, his work supports those who are most directly affected by social injustice to focus also on the macro-level drivers of social justice. He points those with whom he works to real, sustainable structural change. He is one of a few people, in this country I think, who recognizes that sustainability is contingent upon our ability to change a structural value system that disregards many to benefit the few. He is one of even fewer people who have thought through the mechanics of structural change. He may be the only one who has taken these thoughts to the development of a concrete step of processes and tools that lead in the direction of structural change, as evidenced by the PHO's success in pushing policy toward the direction of structural change in Chicago recently achieved through the mammogram campaign victory.

I would highly recommend the Public Health Organization to your organization. If you have questions regarding this recommendation, please contact me at lbowen@instituteforcommunitypeace.org.

Best regards,



Linda K. Bowen
Executive Director
Institute for Community Peace