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Have an interesting story idea or topic for the next issue of *Community Networking News*? Information on events is always welcome. Please contact Amanda Grant via phone (312-795-8958) or email (agrant@cedaorg.net) with your newsletter suggestions and comments.

Board of Directors Slated for the 2003-2004 Fiscal Year

CEDA is pleased to announce its new Executive Committee for the 2003-04 Fiscal Year: Joseph Freelon (Chairman), Rene Gonzales (Vice-Chairman), Lisa Anthony (Secretary, representing the Honorable Daniel B. Pritchett, President, Village of Franklin Park), Seth McCormick (Treasurer, representing the Honorable Ray Martino, Supervisor, Calumet Township), W.R. McCollom, Jr. (Parliamentarian), the Honorable Eugene Moore, Recorder of Deeds, Martha Martinez, (representing President of the Cook County Board John Stroger), Edward Presberry and Cora

Galbreath.

Other Board of Directors members are: the Honorable Lorraine H. Morton, Mayor, City of Evanston; the Honorable Eric J. Kellogg, Mayor, City of Harvey; Dr. Irene Brodie, Mayor, Village of Robbins (represented by Beverly Gavin); the Honorable

Saul Beck, Mayor, Village of Ford Heights; Earl Collymore; Freda Hardaway; Richard Parigini; Stephanie Jackson-Rowe; Sarah Bolton/Head and Cynthia Thomas.

Our Board members represent the great diversity found within Cook County, and are looking forward to a productive year.



Board Members Rene Gonzales, Edward Presberry, Joseph Freelon, and CEDA President Robert Wharton enjoy the festivities at the CEDA Near West Grand Opening.

CEDA Wins 100% CSBG Approval Rating

In May, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity awarded CEDA a 100% approval rating in the 2002



Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Performance Evaluation, which places CEDA in the "Excellent" category.

CEDA was rated in

the categories of administrative, fiscal and programmatic, including objectives and outcomes. This score guarantees that CEDA will retain the six percent CSBG performance funding under the 2003 grant agreement.

CEDA Near West Grand Opening Celebrates New Location at 6141 W. Roosevelt Road in Cicero

July 24, 2003 marked the Grand Opening of the new CEDA Near West office in Cicero. While CEDA Near West has been in the Berwyn-Cicero area for over 20 years, this is the first building specifically for CEDA in the area. The new location at 6131 W. Roosevelt Road is located in Cicero, yet directly across the street from Berwyn (to the West) and Oak Park (to the North). This unique location gives CEDA Near West better access to the communities it strives to serve.

CEDA's new Chairman of the Board of Directors, Joseph Freelon, gave the introductory remarks and praised the community service being done by CEDA Near West. Vice-President Mark Enen-

bach honored the memory of recently deceased Board Member Suzanne Dillon with the presentation of a plaque that will be hung in the new facility. Ms. Dillon had played a large role in helping CEDA expand its services to the near west suburbs. During the ceremony, CSBG Director Bill Kohn presented Augna Lopez and her family with the 2003 Family of Distinction Award due to her incredible efforts to improve her life and the lives of her children with the help of the staff at the Near West Center.

CEDA Near West staff includes Director Magda Favale, Vickie Acosta, Social Services Coordinator, Alma Rojas, Housing Counselor, and Angela Brito, Office Manager.



CSBG Director Bill Kohn presents Augna Lopez and her family with the 2003 Family of Distinction Award.

CEDA Announces Hughes and CSBG Scholarship Winners

With the start of a new school year, CEDA is pleased to announce the winners of the annual Charles D. Hughes, Jr. Graduate Scholarship and the CSBG Educational Scholarships.

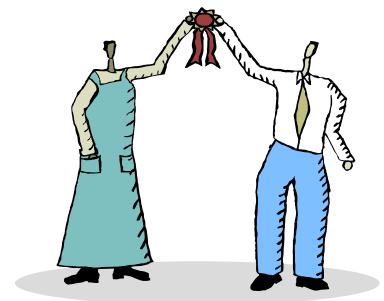
The 2003 Charles D. Hughes, Jr. Graduate Scholarship has been awarded to University of Chicago student Kristen Kainer. The Hughes scholarship program began in 1997 by the CEDA Board of Directors to honor the legacy of Mr. Hughes, who retired after 29 years of service to CEDA as President and C.E.O.

CSBG Educational Scholarships are awarded to high school seniors or high

school graduates living in suburban Cook County and planning on attending an accredited Illinois college, university or vocational school. In the spring, students apply through CEDA's Community Development Area Centers. All applicants must demonstrate financial need, and provide proof of income, school transcripts and three letters of recommendation.

The winners of the 2003 CSBG Educational Scholarships are: C. Black, S. Blades, K. Bouchra, A. Cannon, F. Chacon, J. Davis, M. Day, L. Dodd, J. Doss, N. Elsharkway, N. Elsharkway, G. Garcia, F. Guerrero, F. Harris, A. Haw-

thorne, T. Henry, M. Hepburn, J. Hwang, C. Irby, I. Jones, A. Kooy, M. Lee, A. Liddell, C. Loggins, A. Martinez, E. Martinez, V. Massey, S. McNeal, P. Mitchell, S. Mitchell, S. Morrow, D. Orozco, S. Rice, S. Schaefer, B. Simmons, M. Simmons, G. Suarez, B. Taylor, T. Tran, A. Tucker, D. Allen-Tucker, S. Villagomez, A. Willoughby, S. Wilson, K. Woodson, and S. Zarembo.



“Look What’s Cooking!” Annual Fundraiser for CEDA Northwest is a Huge Success

On September 9, CEDA Northwest Self-Help Center held their 12th Annual “Look Who’s Cooking” Fundraiser raising nearly \$42,000 to benefit their housing department. Approximately 375 people attended the event, held at the Arlington Heights Sheraton.

Twenty area restaurants participated in the event, serving a variety of ethnic foods including appetizers, main courses and desserts. The event focused on celebrating diversity, and attendees sampled delicious food and wine throughout the evening, including Indian, Mexican, French and Japanese cuisine.

Foods and packaged to serve as table centerpieces were also raffled off.

Attendees participated in the silent auction, bidding on such items as weekend getaways to hand-blown glassware. A live auction gave guests the opportunity to win the services of one of two chefs. The prize included the chef preparing a meal for several guests in your home as well as providing the food, wine and clean-up service.

Money was also raised on direct appeal for the Children and Fathers Program, bringing in over \$1200. This program assists custodial and non-custodial fathers with DCFS issues and legal referrals, encourages mediation and arranges activities for fathers to be more involved in their children’s lives.

As well as raising money through ticket sales, CEDA Northwest held two raffles and two auctions to increase funds.

Tickets were sold for a large raffle, with the grand prize being a trip for two to Aruba. Other prizes included gift baskets with a variety of ethnic foods and tickets to Chicago area events. Gift baskets containing imported and domestic edibles from Whole



Master of Ceremonies Irene Rodriguez and Chef David Esau, of Dave’s Specialty Foods, prepare to auction off his culinary skills.

Beaumont Technology Foundation Awards Grants

Southeast CEDA and CEDA Center for Community Action were recently awarded grants in the form of computer equipment from the Beaumont Technology Foundation based in Texas.

The Beaumont Technology Foundation’s mission is to help people advance economically and socially toward equal opportunity. Their goal is to provide computer equipment to under funded schools and community organizations in order to close the digital divide.

Southeast CEDA and the Center for Community Action applied for Beaumont Grants in the spring of 2003. In August, a program officer visited each of the sites to see how the computer

equipment would be used and stored, and the sites were notified of their grant approval in mid-September.

Both sites will receive ten laptop computers, one computer cart, one server, one digital camera and one printer, valued at approximately \$42,000.

Southeast CEDA will use the computer equipment to expand classes offered by their medical career center, such as medical billing, which will begin next January.

In addition to expanding the medical career center offerings, the equipment will also be used for basic computer training beginning in Spring 2004. Displaced workers will be able to receive computer

training in A+, Network + and Microsoft Mouse programs.

The CEDA Center for Community Action also has big plans for their award. The computer equipment will be used to expand their current computer technology center, allowing instructors to teach more students on programs such as Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Printshop.

Computers are available for use throughout the week during open lab time, when clients can use self-paced instructional software to improve typing skills, learn Spanish or learn English as a second language. Programs designed improve reading skills are available to area children.



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Celebration of Diversity Kicks Off LIHEAP Season

CEDA's Energy Department kicked off a new LIHEAP season with a celebration of diversity on September 17, 2003. Held at the Westin Hotel, Jack Lavin, Director of the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn addressed the audience.

The event featured a variety of cultural exhibits, including performances from the African American Religious Connection and the Shery Milosavljevic Band. Several dance troupes performed traditional dances from the Asian-Indian, Vietnamese, and Philipino cultures.

September 2 marked the start of the 2003-2004 LIHEAP year. The goal of LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) is to provide energy assistance in the form of one-time payments to utility companies and individuals to assist with winter heating

bills. Part of the program also includes help with repair or replacement of non-working furnaces for low-income households.

Throughout September and October, applications will be accepted for homes with senior citizens, disabled residents and homes that are currently disconnected due to lack of payment. All other households meeting the eligibility guidelines can apply on and after November 1, 2003. To be eligible for LIHEAP, residents must be at 150% of the federal income poverty level and live in Cook County.

LIHEAP applications can be taken at one of the 124 intake sites located throughout Cook County. Clients must bring recent copies of their utility bills, proof of income for the past 30 days, proof of social security numbers for all members in the residence, and proof of household.

Most applications take at least 30 days to process, so clients must be patient. Clients will receive written notification of their approval for LIHEAP funds. If the client is approved, money is either given directly to the utility company or, if the clients' utility bills are factored into their monthly rent payment, given directly to the client.

This year, CEDA's Energy Department hopes to service approximately 89,000 households in Cook County, with 23,000 homes in suburban Cook County and 66,000 homes in the City of Chicago.

Cook County residents in need of assistance with their utility bills should call CEDA's LIHEAP Hotline at 312-795-8800. The number for multi-language services is 312-795-3107.