

Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation

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Visit us on the web at: www.gagdc.org



The mission of the Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC) is to foster and promote revitalization of the Auburn-Gresham community, which includes Auburn-Gresham, Englewood, and West Chatham.

GADC The VISION

4th Quarter
Quarter 2006

7700 SOUTH THROOP IS HOME SWEET HOME FOR TWO FAMILIES



Evelyn, Kennedy, and Cory stand in front of their new, historic, and energy efficient home at 7700 South Throop.



Peggy Figliulo takes a picture 50 years later with her extended family.

When the Figliulos walked into the 7700 South Throop Street model block bungalow in October 2006, no one was aware that they were the former owners of the home during the 1950s and 1960s.

Infatuated by the charm and warmth their home still exhibited some 50 years later, in addition to the contemporary green enhancements, the Figliulos began to share many stories with visitors participating in the Open House. Such stories included: their old phone number Hudson 3-7806, roller skating in the basement, neighborhood gatherings, and laundry techniques to include hand ringer washing and clothespin drying in the back yard. Jim (son) said their phone number was easy to remember as they mimicked the TV carpet commercial, Hudson 3-2700.

Other stories included: Rob (son) hanging from a pipe and jumping into a pile of laundry and running into the brick front porch leaving a life-long memory etched on his head; Jim attending Quigley South High School with Fr. Michael Pflieger of St. Sabina Church; the boys playing little league baseball at the park on 77th & Racine; explaining how the house was originally heated with a coal furnace and later upgraded to an oil burner; and their grandfather "Poppy" building an additional bathroom in the basement to accommodate a household of eleven. Poppy also restored the two stained-glass windows in the living room.

Two months later, to illustrate their kindness and to mend difficult times of the 1960's in Auburn Gresham, the Figliulo family (Peggy –mom, Jim, Rob, Steve, and Michael) presented several gifts along with a ceremonial key to Cory Williams, his fiancée, Evelyn Graham, and their daughter Kennedy in their new home. Home again, Mrs. Figliulo was ecstatic to hear the innocent chatter of Kennedy's voice and responded, "Oh my God, what a pretty little girl you have on your



Gene and Peggy Figliulo stand in front of their historic bungalow at 7700 South Throop in the 1950's.

hands." As the heartfelt moments continued, Rob talked about the sudden, unpleasant transformation in Auburn Gresham in the 1960's and said, "It's been very healthy for us all to recognize the injustice caused to the community. These injustices were hurtful to each but have faded in intensity over the years. It's really great to be home again."

"The Figliulo's kindness is especially important in the Auburn Gresham community," said Carlos Nelson, Executive Director of the Greater Auburn Development Corporation (GADC). "It bridges the gap between racial and ethnic disparities while simultaneously providing the ultimate neighbor to neighbor experience."

No matter or whatever these families lost or gain as a result of this home, they have unified and positioned themselves and others for more enlightening, healing and defining moments to come.

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GADC CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS WITH ALDERMAN LATASHA THOMAS

In an effort to show appreciation for Alderman Latasha Thomas and the mighty 17th Ward, the Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC) sponsored a Christmas tree and candle lighting ceremony at 79th & Wentworth.

Several community residents, business & civic leaders and students from Simeon High School attended the annual holiday Christmas tree ceremony at 79th & Wentworth. Although rain was a factor, it did not hinder attendance, and caused a sharing of umbrellas amongst the crowd.

Pastor Glenola Lashley opened with a powerful and heartfelt prayer as everyone



Alderman Thomas poses for a photo with Simeon High School Students.

lit their candles. Like any crowd of people gather together in one place, gaper delays became evident on 79th Street as traffic began to slow down to view the ceremony. Some motorists even exited their vehicles in order to participate in this celebration.

“The ceremony was initiated by the GADC to demon-

strate to our Alderman and residents that the revitalization of the 17th Ward is much appreciated and remains a viable mechanism towards strengthening our current economic prosperity and in the years to come,” said Carlos Nelson, Executive Director of GADC.

Modest about Nelson’s remarks, Alderman Thomas

responded, “I appreciate each and every person that has taken time out of their schedule to celebrate such a joyous season with me. The 17th Ward and its revitalization will always be dear to my heart. I am especially thankful that each of you has come out into the rain.”

Shortly afterwards, Nelson presented Alderman Thomas with a Christmas wreath and local business owner Jackie Vassar of Soul Food Unlimited provided hot chocolate and cookies.



SENIOR
Senior Suites
CALL (312) 673-4333
SUITES

SENIOR SUITES COMES TO AUBURN GRESHAM

Participating in a groundbreaking ceremony just two blocks away from where Mayor Richard Daley commemorated the Streetscape on 79th Street with the GADC, William Kaplan, chairman and CEO of Senior Lifestyle Corpora-

tion, officially acknowledged a partnership with the Beloved Community and St. Sabina Church, the City of Chicago (Mayor’s Office, Depts. of Aging, Housing and Planning & Development), and the State of Illinois to include the Illinois Housing Development Au-

thority, to build a Senior Suites housing facility in Auburn Gresham.

Eligible seniors interested in receiving an application for residency should call (312) 673-4333 to place their name on the mailing list. For more information, please visit our website at www.gagdc.org

HOT SPOTS IDENTIFIED IN AUBURN GRESHAM

A culmination of the City of Chicago services and departments



(Police, Sewer, 311, Water, Streets and Sanitation, etc) gathered together with the Auburn-Gresham residents and community leaders to investigate a “hot spot” at 78th & Peoria.

As part of this program, the Chicago Police Department identifies “hot spots” and communicates them to CAPS facilitators for further investigation. Additionally, every Beat facilitator identifies a “hot spot” needing more attention in their neighborhoods and communicates them back to the

Chicago Police Department. This critical information is also communicated through Auburn-Gresham residents for review.

During the onsite investigation, the city services and departments actually performed their duties while inspecting the area for adverse or unwarranted happenings. As part of the investigation each department reports their findings back to the parties involved for ongoing surveillance (if needed) and closure.

To report any “hot spots” in your neighborhood, call the 6th District Police Station at (312) 745-3617.

For more information, visit our website: www.gagdc.org

AMAZING GRACE ARTESIAN PLACE FOR ENTREPRENEURS (AGAPE)



When LaVergne Moman decided to move from the Beverly community to Auburn Gresham (79th & Racine) with her authentic African clothing, art, jewelry & decorative accessories, and specialty gifts, she recruited one of her new business partners, Mattie George and also brought the symbolism of the

African bird called, Sankofa. According to W.E.B. DuBois Learning Center, the term Sankofa means that *we must go back to our roots in order to move forward. That is, we should reach back and gather the best of what our past has to teach us, so that we can achieve our full potential as we move forward.*

AGAPE, is an inspired vision and empowerment venture of Rev. Michael Pflieger of St. Sabina Church, and welcomes African American artisans and other entrepreneurs an avenue to collectively market their merchandise in a retail setting. Both ladies are long time members of the Faith Community of St. Sabina Church.

Along with their other business partner, Sherman Todd, each strive to make a difference and dedicated themselves to like-minded entrepreneurs whom want to move Auburn Gresham forward. Their philosophy is almost selfless and requires a great deal of humility.

Those who have not shopped at AGAPE are missing out on an incredible shopping experience. To reach AGAPE, call them at (773) 846-8000.



An image of the Sankofa bird looking back to catch what he forgot as he moves forward.



GADC'S OWN URBAN PLANNER

Cheryl Johnson serves as the *New Communities Program Director* for GADC. Cheryl has an extensive background in consultant services to businesses seeking government financial support. She has more than 16 years experience as an urban planner with the City of Chicago's Department of Planning and more than 25 years experience promoting economic development and improvement programs in communities. Her most recent accomplishments for the GADC includes establishing Special Service Area (SSA) #32 for our 79th street business community and coordinating the first Greater Auburn Gresham 79th Street Renaissance Festival. Businesses within the SSA #32, seeking financial, marketing, or security assistance, please contact Cheryl at the GADC offices.

TAKING COMMUNITIES TO THE NEXT LEVEL...



James Drake (back row), former GADC NCP Director Nicole Jones (front row), and Betty Swanson (front row) were just a few of many honored as Community Hero's at the NCP Leadership Assembly.

...seemed to reflect the frame of mind geared towards Local Initiative Support Corporation's (LISC) New Communities Program (NCP) 2nd Annual Leadership Assembly—held in the Red Lacquer Room of the Palmer House Hilton in downtown Chicago. This day was fueled with excitement as 14 NCP lead agencies from across the

city of Chicago, in addition to civic and community leaders from across the country, gathered together to praise the collaborative efforts of these respective neighborhoods. More than just a supportive gathering, this assembly also celebrated the hard work and accomplishments of 28 individuals, better known as, *Community Hero's*. With

praises from dignitaries like **Jonathan Fanton**, President, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, **Andrew Mooney**, Senior Program Director, LISC/Chicago, **Lori Healy**, Commissioner, Department of Planning & Development, and **Jack Markowski**, Commissioner, Department of Housing for the city of Chicago, this assembly surpassed everyone's expectation.

Carlos Nelson, Executive Director of GADC, even provided closing remarks as he engaged the audience in a "defining moments" story regarding the Figliuolo family and the 7700 South Throop Historic Chicago Bungalow home.

"This is a magnificent event for all NCP agencies," replied GADC Community Hero, James Drake. Betty Swanson, another GADC Community Hero, emphatically agreed



and said, "This is great. I am appreciative to be a part of the revitalization in Chicago."

To compliment this highly acclaimed gala, there was a continental breakfast available for everyone's delight.

All throughout this event, there was much buzz about next year's assembly and what tremendous efforts would have to be taken both locally and nationally to surpass the accomplishments of these 14 NCP lead agencies and their perspective community hero's. Go NCP!



G A D C

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17TH WARD

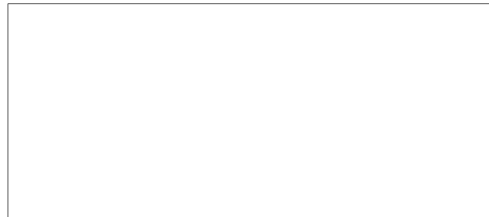
CARLOS NELSON
GADC
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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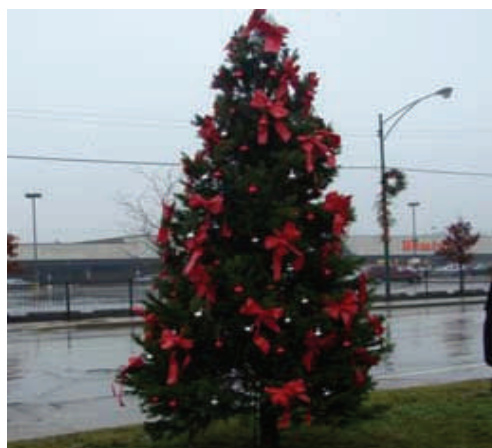


Auburn Gresham: Chicago's Best Kept Secret! We dare you to tell someone!

**SEASONS GREETINGS AND
A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**

The Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation would like to thank you for your support this past year and extend to you and your family a blessed Seasons Greeting and a prosperous New Year!

Carlos, Cheryl, Linda and Frnie



Holiday tree located at 79th & Wentworth.

For more information, visit our website: www.gagdc.org

**2007 FINANCIAL
EMPOWERMENT CLASSES**

- February 20** – How to Improve Your Credit Score – Citibank
 - March 6** – Steps to Savings –JP Morgan Chase
 - March 20** – Smart Bill Paying –Citibank
 - April 10** – From Debt to Wealth – National City Bank
 - April 24** – Insurance Investments– JP Morgan Chase
 - May 8** – Small Business Banking –Fifth Third Bank
 - May 22** – Pathway to Home Ownership –NHS
 - June 19** – Investment Rehabbing – DOH/Shore Bank
 - July 24** – How to Improve Your Credit Score – Highland Bank
 - August 21** – Financial Investments –WAMU
 - September 18** – Protecting Your Housing Investment – Northern Trust
 - October 16** – How to Start Your Own Business – Beloved Community
- Class Location:**
Mount Hermon Missionary Baptist Church
7848 S. Normal
Chicago, Illinois 60620
6:00pm –7:00pm
*Note: More classes may be offered upon request.
Classes are free & dinner is included.*