

Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation

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GADC The VISION

1st Quarter
2007



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.

Visit our website at www.gagdc.org for more great news & stories. They include:

- GADC Volunteer, Ronnie Mosley, wins the TBC/NFTE Business Plan Competition
- Best Buy and Staples exceeds store sales expectations
- Perfect Peace Café opening May – June 2007
- Showcase of New Homes - May 19, 2007 at St. Benedict the African Church

GADC Promotes Community Economic Progress through Tax Returns



Pictured from left to right: Pamela Wafford: Auburn Gresham Center for Economic Progress (CEP) Site Manager; Mayor Richard M. Daley: City of Chicago; Glenetta Bell: CleanSlate Supervisor; Carlos Nelson: Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC) Executive Director; and Father Michael Pflieger: Pastor of the Faith Community of St. Sabina.

Gresham. He was particularly interested in the combined effort to generate several hundreds of thousands of dollars primarily through the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Site manager, Pamela Wafford, informed the Mayor that, “CEP strives to promote and improve economic opportunities for underserved families.” As part of its efforts to reach the \$1.5 million milestone in aggregate returns, CEP celebrated returning a record-

tion of time, energy, and skills, the Center would not be able to fulfill its commitment to provide economic opportunities to the more than 30,000 families and individuals we’ll serve this year.”

“Volunteers are the key to our output and producing quality tax returns for our clients,” said Wafford. “It’s great to have so many volunteers,” said Rhonda Jones, who has volunteered at Auburn Gresham for the past 3 years.

GADC has really empowered residents to become financially sound in Auburn Gresham and other communities in Illinois. “We want the best for our residents in the Auburn Gresham community,” said GADC Executive Director Carlos Nelson.



Synonymous to the hundreds of clients served at the Auburn Gresham tax site, CEP has taken a slice out of brand name tax preparers to provide remarkable tax experiences to this underserved community.

setting \$200 million in tax refunds to hard-working families at more than 30 tax sites across Illinois in February. Much of the site’s success could also be attributed to the number of volunteers who helped with the logistics and tax preparation. According to CEP’s Executive Director, Dave Marzahl, “Without our volunteer’s valuable contribu-



CEP’s Auburn Gresham site manager, Pamela Wafford, stands with volunteers in the Auburn Gresham Resource Center as they celebrate over 200 million tax clients served in Illinois.

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GADC's The Vision

GADC/PCS-Calumet Invited to Bring ISES-Chicago to Auburn Gresham



Rudelle Stanley Lesley

Valuable GADC Volunteer



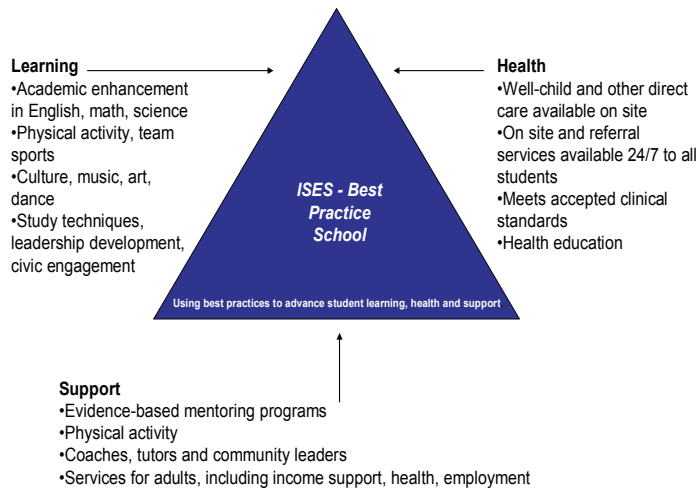
Whether it's assisting tax clients, providing landscaping improvements or snow removal, Rudelle Stanley Lesley does it all. With much experience in janitorial and landscaping care, Rudelle Stanley Lesley has been instrumental in many of the façade improvements in Auburn Gresham. You can find some of his most detailed work in the 77th Block of South Throop Street. Mr. Stanley's company (RL Landscaping) disposed of unwarranted trees, weeds, etc. in preparation for Mayor Richard M. Daley's visit to the Model Blocks Project in October 2006. Mr. Stanley's accomplishments are not limited to landscaping and janitorial duties. He is an accomplished interior home painter, along with providing transportation services to neighborhood seniors to GADC events. Thank you Mr. Stanley for contributing to Auburn Gresham aka Chicago's Best Kept Secret.

Integrated Services in Extended-Day Schools—Chicago is a venture sponsored by Atlantic Philanthropies to lead school-based reform. Also, this initiative is taking place in Baltimore, Oakland, and New Mexico. Invited by Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC) to participate, the Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation (GADC) identified Perspectives Charter Schools-Calumet (PCS-Calumet) and a healthcare

partner (to be named at a later date), to participate in the planning process with the intent of submitting a final grant proposal to Atlantic Philanthropies. The grant's focal point is geared towards improving our community's quality of life through school-based reform in three critical areas: 1) community/social service involvement, 2) excellent educational opportunities, and 3) robust healthcare services targeted for adolescences. As part of our planning process, we have concentrated our

efforts to bring a gold-standard model school-based health center at PCS-Calumet Middle School which includes strengthening GADC's and PCS's current cooperative partnerships. Also, during this planning process we have solicited input from more than 100 individuals to include parents, students, healthcare professionals, civic & community leaders, and other external social service agencies. Their participation has been extremely important when brainstorming concepts of integrating social services, healthcare, and academics. Based on everyone's participation thus far, the Auburn Gresham community definitely wants to provide comprehensive care that improves student learning.

ISES - Model for Integrated Services in Schools



Congratulations to Simeon Career Academy's Varsity Basketball Team for winning their 2nd IHSA State Basketball Championship. Go Wolverines!



Chicago Residents are **CHASE** -ing Their Way to Financial Empowerment

More than 30 Chicago area residents attended GADC's "Steps to Saving" Financial Empowerment Workshop facilitated by Chase Bank (301 West 79th Street). The class was held at Mount Hermon Church (7848 South Normal). Chase provided Subway Sandwiches, chips, Girl Scout cookies, and sodas. Carlos Nelson, GADC Execu-

tive Director, welcomed the audience and introduced Lisa Walker, Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager for Chase Bank. Walker then introduced members of her team to include: Serina Smith, Chase Personal Banker, and Jason Mlakar, ADP Small Business Services District Manager. Each presented valuable information from "8 Steps to Savings," to special investments as

"Second Chance" opportunities when personal banking and businesses were concerned. To complete the evening, Walker extended 10 free financial analysis certifications (a \$90 value) for those participants interested in improving their financial outcome. GADC would like to thank Chase bank for their due diligence in Auburn Gresham.

Simeon High School Student Breaks Stereotypes for Young African Americans



Like every young man growing up, Ira Wheaton Jr. strives to be the perfect child in his parents' eyes. He is career oriented and currently seeking a career in the field of Actuarial Science, along with maintaining his professional hobbies of the piano, organ

and percussion instruments. Actuarial Science you ask? I know I did too, as Ira and his mom, Laura explained it to me. Well, according to Wikipedia, Actuarial Science applies mathematical and statistical methods to finance and insurance, particularly to risk assessment. Actuaries are professionals who are qualified in this field through highly competitive examinations and experience.

Through highly competitive examination and experience is where Ira has pushed the mark. You see, Ira scored a 30 on his ACT test score. This is

an unprecedented score for a young African American male. Recent statistics suggest that the average composite score for African Americans is 17.1. Ira's score of 30 is just 6 points away from a perfect score of 36. Wow!

According to his father, "Ira Jr. has such a passion to give back to his community and those younger than him. It really inspires everyone in our family." When asked about his desire to succeed, Pastor Wheaton said, "Ira Jr. strives to be a whole person as it relates to people, heritage and deity." I asked Ira for his immediate

plans after Simeon. He said he definitely wants to attend college and remain humble in all his gifts that God has bestowed upon him.



Pastor Ira Sr, Ira Jr., and Mrs. Laura Wheaton pose for a photo opportunity in Simeon High School.



GADC Supports Wireless Campaign Initiative in City of Chicago

In an effort to support economic development in Auburn Gresham and across the city of Chicago, GADC has partnered with the Chicago Digital Access Alliance (CDAA), other New Communities Program (NCP) Lead Agencies, and Computer Technology Centers (CTC) as Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT), One Economy Corporation and Lumity to

create a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) for the residents of Chicago.

One of the CBA's primary objectives is to bring jobs to Chicago neighborhoods. Once established, wireless networks will entice new businesses and development in Chicago communities, thus allowing everyone to become digitally inclusive. The CBA also intends to promote Digital Excellence across the City of Chicago,

while eliminating digital gaps in underprivileged communities. Other cities as Houston, TX, Philadelphia, PA, and Minneapolis, MN have embarked on similar campaign initiatives and have yielded much success. Free wireless networks are also being recommended for businesses in Chicago's Special Services Areas across the city. Some compare wireless networks as the next generation of the Jetsons. Stay wired for more details.

NHS, Harris Bank, and GADC Partner to Showcase New Homes

To increase awareness of the revitalization in the City of Chicago, Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS), Harris Bank, and GADC have collaborated on a project connecting potential homebuyers to new housing developments in Auburn Gresham, Englewood, and West Englewood. These partners will meet with 15 to 20 developers to discuss

their participation on May 19th's event at St. Benedict the African. At this event, open to the public, as many as 200 participants—many pre-approved applicants—are expected to attend a free workshop on "Steps to Homeownership" and literally **choose** their home from virtual tours, layouts, and architectural renderings.

GADC will be available for

participants to receive more detailed information on the Auburn Gresham, Englewood, and West Englewood communities.

An abbreviated list of developers includes:

- Quest Development
- St. Bernard Housing Corp
- New Birth Comm. Church
- NHS Redevelop. Corp
- Pershing Group
- Carlo Steel

Financial Empowerment Workshops

- 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.



G A D C

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Chicago's Best Kept Secret

Greater Auburn-Gresham
Development Corporation
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Chicago, IL 60620

Deliver To:

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

HRAIL: Home Repairs for Accessible and Independent Living

As the Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation (GADC) gears up for the 2007 HRAIL contract year, we look back at the accomplishments since its inception in 2003. We began offering free minor home repairs for seniors within our boundaries of Auburn Gresham, Englewood and West Chatham areas. We repaired 5 homes in 2003 and over 20 homes in 2006. Now, with a waiting list of over 400 seniors within the past 4 years, the number of homes repaired in our boundaries have increased by 76% since 2003.

HRAIL, described as GADC's "Aging in Place" project, focuses on maintaining the

housing stock in the greater Auburn Gresham community while assisting our precious commodities—our senior citizens—with comfortable, secure and safe living arrangements.

From the installation of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, grab bars, handrails, thermal vinyl replacement windows, exterior security doors, interior doors, and ceramic flooring to the repair of leaky faucets and slow drains, and weatherization, our seniors have been extremely pleased with the work that has been available to them by way of the Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation, the City of Chicago's Department of Hous-

ing, the 17th Ward Aldermanic Office and our local contractor, Team Construction. Below is a chart by year and dollars spent, the number of home repairs GADC has been able to assist through the HRAIL program:

- 2006—\$40,000 dollars—21 homes
- 2005—\$29,200 dollars—18 homes
- 2004—\$22,000 dollars—13 homes
- 2003—\$17,000 dollars—5 homes



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