

# LAC Lakeview Action Coalition

Developing Leaders • Fostering Diversity • Acting Together for Justice

Fall 2009

Action Update

## Upcoming Actions

Environmental Justice Task Force Meeting on Green Jobs—12/7, 7pm, 716 W Addison

**Health Care Membership Meeting**—2/14, 6:00 pm, 3480 North Lake Shore Dr, Comissier Bridget Gainer and Alderman Tom Tunney confirmed to attend

**LAC Holiday Party**—12/14, 7 pm, 3480 North Lakeshore Dr Come and Celebrate!

TIF Action w/Chicago Coalition for the Homeless—12/15, 10:00am, Federal Plaza (Dearborn & Adams)

## Don't Worry, Be HAPI

### New ordinance improves access to financial assistance at local private hospitals

LAC, through our partnership with the Fair Care Coalition (FCC), is making progress on our campaign to win greater access to financial assistance at local hospitals. On October 21, the FCC hosted a community forum to educate county commissioners and the public about the difficulties uninsured county residents face when they try to access desperately needed hospital

care. A solution to this issue is the Healthcare Access Protection Initiative (HAPI), an ordinance that LAC helped craft and currently sits in the county's finance committee.

A new LAC leader, Carlos Cardenas, shared his story. "The pain from the infection in my foot was overwhelming to the point that I could not walk. I had no choice but to go

the nearest ER. It turns out they had to amputate my foot because the infection was spreading. Despite telling them I had no insurance and complying with the requests of a caseworker, I was still stuck with bills totaling over \$64,000. We need the HAPI ordinance so people like me will be granted charity care from the beginning and we won't be harassed

*(Continued on page 2)*

## LAC Meets with HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan

LAC, as a member of National Peoples Action's Housing Justice Movement, will meet with U.S. HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan on December 2nd in an effort to get his commitments on a few key issues regarding public and subsidized housing. Tenants will ask him to support a moratorium on the demolition of public housing and the First Right to Purchase, a provision at-risk of not being included in the Barney Frank Preservation Legislation. The latter would impact the dozen Section 8 buildings in Lakeview by allowing tenant associations and non-profits to purchase buildings when owners choose not to renew the Section 8 contract and maintain affordability. We will let you know what happens in this exciting meeting with one of the most important decision-makers in the country!

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## Let's Bring Green Jobs to Lakeview

Monday, December 7th, 7pm at Lakeview Presbyterian we will have an Environmental Justice Task Force meeting. The focus will be on how we can bring green jobs to Lakeview and what

options best fit the community's needs. There will be updates on our weatherization projects, research we have undertaken on green jobs initiatives and meetings with local organizations fol-

lowed by a brainstorming and goal-setting session. Join us as we move forward on this issue! For more information call Eve at LAC.

## Meet Our Newest Staff Member

My name is Ginnie Kamp. I am new to Chicago, having been raised in Wisconsin. I am excited to be joining the LAC team as part of a joint project between LAC and the Center on Halsted. As the Youth Organizer, I am part of an ongoing effort to increase LGBT youth voice in the Lakeview Community. Over the past and next few weeks, the youth are having listening sessions at the Center to gain a better understanding of the issues that are relevant to their lives. I am also in the midst of gathering



so if you know anyone who is working with young people, send them my way!

The Youth Leadership Committee (YLC) is having a show at the Center on Halsted on December 18th. Tickets are \$5 if you

informa-  
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about the  
state of  
y o u t h  
organiz-  
ing in  
Chicago,

order them ahead of time, and all proceeds go to benefit future efforts of the YLC. The YLC has never had a budget, and your support will go towards future youth determined field trips or leadership opportunities.

To order your tickets, call the Center at 773-472-6469 and ask for Antonio Jones.

We hope to see you there!

## Don't Worry, Be HAPI (continued from p. 1)

with phone calls and collection letters when we are feeling our most vulnerable.”

Over 200 community members attended the event held at Grace Place in the South Loop. We also had five county commissioners there: Commissioners Moreno, Reyes, Sims, Collins, and Steele. Commissioner Gainer was unable to attend because of a traveling conflict. At the forum Commissioner Collins commit-

ted her support to work on this legislation. Now we have five votes –Commissioners Moreno, Reyes, Daley, Butler and Collins. LAC leaders are still working to gain the commitment of our own commissioner, Bridget Gainer. Come to our health care meeting on December 14 at Temple Shalom to show her the importance of voting YES for HAPI and to learn about our other local healthcare initiatives.



Above: Commissioner Reyes speaks while Coms. Moreno and Collins listen at HAPI forum.

# Recap of a Successful Year

Dear LAC Members and Friends:

This past year has been exciting and productive for LAC. It is times of hardship that we have our greatest opportunities to make positive change.

This is also an important time to financially support the organizations that share your values, so please consider making your end of the year donation to LAC. Many of the foundations that make grants to LAC are suffering in this economic crisis, and that will translate into less support in the future. We need to pick up their slack in order to keep moving forward on the issues that we all care about.

Community organizing has been more visible this year, with the election of a former community organizer as President of the United States. People across the country are learning what we all know: effective solutions to the issues of the day come from those of us most impacted by those issues. We have the power and the imagination to “be the change we are looking for”.

In 2009, we have been that change:

- LAC, along with the other organizations making up the Chicago Housing Initiative (CHI) worked to fill the HUD funding shortfall, including working towards a final

infusion of \$2.8 billion from the stimulus bill in spring 2009.

- We stopped the sale of the Diplomat SRO for conversion to a boutique hotel, preserving those 99 affordable units. When the city vacated the building in March 2009, LAC worked with the residents to find housing, and they remain involved in efforts to reopen the building.
- With United Power for Action and Justice, we won \$144 million in the State’s Capital Budget dedicated to affordable housing, for the first time in history, in May 2009.
- We gained a seat on the Children’s Memorial Public Relations Committee for our committee working to ensure affordable housing is included in the new development on the Children’s site as the hospital moves.
- With our partners in the Fair Care Coalition (FCC), we gained the support of former Commissioner Maldonado (and now Commissioner Moreno) to introduce the Healthcare Access Protection Initiative (HAPI) to the county board in June 2009.
- LAC has developed a training curriculum for the police on working effectively with homeless and LGBT youth, and we

have trained new recruits at the police academy.

- We won the deployment in the 19th and 23rd District of “youth oriented”, officers who we have started to train; and
- LAC won a commitment from CEDA (Community and Economic Development Agency of Cook County, Inc) to work with us to bring weatherization dollars into local section 8 buildings, and to alter their contracts so that owners are locked into longer term affordability.

Thank you for all of your hard work, and have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Gonzalez  
LAC Executive Director

PS – Remember, a donation to LAC is tax deductible. You can donate online [www.lakeviewaction.org/contribute\\_to\\_lac.htm](http://www.lakeviewaction.org/contribute_to_lac.htm) or fill out the form below!

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE GIVEN YOUR ENERGY TO MAKING LAC A SUCCESSFUL CATALYST FOR SOCIAL CHANGE.**

**IF WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TO WORK FOR JUSTICE, SOLIDARITY, AND DIVERSITY IN LAKEVIEW, WE ALSO NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.**

**ACT LOCALLY!**

ENCLOSED IS MY TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION IN THE AMOUNT OF:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10    \_\_\_\_\_ \$25    \_\_\_\_\_ \$50    \_\_\_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ INSTITUTION : \_\_\_\_\_

*PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE LAKEVIEW ACTION COALITION AND MAIL TO 3225 N. SHEFFIELD, CHICAGO, IL 60657.*

**THANK YOU!**

## LAC “Makes Change Happen” in D.C.

Three leaders from LAC, along with about 100 other leaders from around the country recently attended the National People’s Action (NPA) Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.

We discussed movement-building in this country and how our struggles fit into that story; how we must learn to frame our issues in a way that reflects our vision for a more just society; and how our Big Ideas for change in this country fit into the various campaigns that NPA is working on.

We attended workshops on turnout, agitation, and whether a leader is born or made. Finally, we participated in actions at the U.S. Treasury Department and

Goldman Sachs, demanding that big banks be held accountable, especially after receiving billions from taxpayer bailouts.

Bob Zuley, an LAC Board Member who attended, stated, “What I valued most from the NPA conference and action was in meeting like-minded leaders from across the country concerned about similar issues. So whether from Connecticut or Missouri, Iowa or Ohio, LAC was able to dialogue with other leaders.

I was most impressed by the youth leaders from Wichita and the Bronx - reassuring that these young people have a true understanding of the struggle. We must all remember the words of Frederick Douglas: ‘Power concedes nothing without a demand.

It never has and it never will.’”

See page 5 for more exciting photos from the conference!



Bob Zuley, LAC Board Member at the NPA Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.

One of LAC's member institutions, the North Side Community Federal Credit Union is seeking Volunteer Tax Preparers for the 2010 tax season. In partnership with the Center for Economic Progress, we help neighborhood residents and families by preparing their taxes for FREE while helping them save. But in order to serve the large volume of community members, we are in need of volunteers. All volunteers are expected to attend an 8-hr. training and commit to volunteering for a few hours a week, over nine weeks during the tax season, February through mid April.

**NO tax experience necessary!**

To apply:  
visit [www.economicprogress.org](http://www.economicprogress.org) or  
call Erica Maslanka, Volunteer Services Manager for the Center for Economic Progress at  
**(312) 630-0288.**

# LAC Fun Facts!

4: number of issues LAC works on.  
 6: number of staff members at LAC—you can meet our newest member, Ginny on page 2!  
 12: members on our board.  
 41: number of Member Institutions.  
 112,000+: estimated total membership from our member institutions.



Above left: The crowds at the Fair Care Coalition’s HAPI ordinance community forum on October 21, 2009

Above right: Representative Sara Feigenholtz accepts the Rev. Gregory Dell award from LAC at the Fall Fundraiser on October 22, 2009. Other recipients were Heartland Housing and the residents of 712 W. Diversey.

## LAKEVIEW ACTION COALITION MISSION STATEMENT

The Lakeview Action Coalition (LAC), a multi-issue community organization, enables its diverse institutional members to act collectively on their values in public life by participating in the decisions that shape our community’s future. LAC fulfills this mission by organizing people around issues affecting our members and developing leaders through training action and reflection. LAC stands for justice, solidarity, and diversity.

## LAC On the National Front



**Left:** Leader Shelley Edidin protesting at the NPA Showdown in Chicago on October 25.

**Right top:** LAC Board member Curtis Smith speaks at the plenary for NPA’s Showdown in Chicago, protesting the American Banker’s Association.

**Right bottom:** LAC members Bob Zuley, Barbara Campbell, Eric Smith, and staff Mary Tarullo in Washington DC, at the NPA Leadership Conference in November 2009.



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Check us out at:  
[www.lakeviewaction.org](http://www.lakeviewaction.org)

*Fall Action Update Inside!*

## LAC Lakeview Action Coalition

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### Are you puzzled by Health Care Reform?



#### Join us for an evening of action and celebration!

LAC is hosting a meeting for its members to highlight how you can make health care more accessible on the local level.

**Monday, December 14, 6:00pm - 7:00pm**  
**LAC Holiday Party to follow**

(if you are able, bring a vegetarian dish to share)

**Temple Sholom, 3480 N. Lake Shore Dr.**

Parking available in Stratford Pl. Lot; enter on Stratford

*Confirmed to Attend: Commissioner Gainer, Alderman Tunney*

*Invited: Congressmen Quigley & Schakowsky; Representatives Feigenholtz & Fritchey; Alderman Shiller*

Questions? Contact Hannah Gelder at LAC at 773-549-1947 x387 or [hgelder@lakeviewaction.org](mailto:hgelder@lakeviewaction.org)