



**June 15, 2022**  
News & Updates from the Chicago Rehab Network

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## UPDATES FROM CRN

### **CRN @ 45: A Celebration of 45 Years of Development without Displacement**

On May 19, CRN invited members, partners, and friends to join us at Revolution Brewing in Logan Square in celebration of our 45th anniversary. The evening included time to reconnect with colleagues from around the city as well as a program honoring Polk Bros. Foundation Senior Program Officer Deborah E. Bennett, Chicago 27th Ward Alderman Walter Burnett, and WBEZ reporter Natalie Moore for their legacies of support for affordable housing. Together, we reflected on CRN's 45 years of work for development without displacement and launched "The Road to 50"--a campaign to propel CRN forward toward a half-century of commitment to affordable housing development and preservation. Thank you to all who joined us and to our generous event sponsors. Your support makes our work possible and we look forward to traveling the Road to 50 with you!



Couldn't make it? Watch the program and awards presentation below:



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## NEWS & RESOURCES

### **Support the Janet L. Smith Practitioner in Residence Fund**

Dr. Janet Smith was a professor in the Urban Planning and Policy Department at UIC since 1997, the Co-Director of UIC's Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement since 2004, and served as President of the UIC United Faculty union until early this year. Sadly, our colleague, comrade, and friend passed away January 17, 2022 after a two-year battle with cancer. To honor and continue her legacy, the Voorhees Center has announced The Janet L. Smith Practitioner in Residence Fund at UIC. Practitioner in residence awards will be granted to experienced professionals who work or have worked in non-profits, academia, and government in the areas of community development and housing policy. The Fund is asking Janet's friends and supporters to celebrate her memory in an enduring way by [clicking this link](#) and chipping in what they can to support the program. Through your support, the Janet L. Smith Practitioner in Residence Program will memorialize Janet's work and values, enhance the work of the Voorhees Center, and expand opportunities for CUPPA and its students, faculty, and staff to connect with communities.



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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### **Chicago Coalition for the Homeless**

CCH has continued work on the Bring Chicago Home (BCH) Campaign to enact a one-time real estate tax on homes sold for more than \$1 million that would generate revenue for homelessness programs. The Bring Chicago Home legislation creates a dedicated revenue stream for affordable housing and wraparound services — providing housing for 12,000 families over the next 10 years — by reforming the Real Estate Transfer Tax (RETT) for Chicago properties sold for more than \$1 million. The BCH coalition held a series of four town halls across the entire city to advance the fight for dedicated funding for homelessness. These town halls demonstrated growing support from the community to house people on the streets, in shelters or living doubled-up. Aids. Walter Burnett (27th) and Harry Osterman (48th) became the newest co-sponsors of the proposal. [Read more.](#)

### **Bickerdike Celebrates Lucy González Parsons Apartments**

On May 20, Bickerdike held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the 100% affordable Lucy González Parsons Apartments in Logan Square. Lucy González Parsons was a labor rights activist of African, Mexican, and Native descent. She dedicated her life to liberating working people from capitalism and racial oppression and led the fight for the eight-hour work day. This project honors her legacy as well as the residents of Logan Square who have fought and will

continue to fight for social justice in the community. [Find out more and learn how to apply.](#)



### POAH Honors Mattie Butler

On May 26, POAH honored the life and work of Mattie Butler, WECAN founder and CRN board member, who has worked tirelessly to ensure that Woodlawn's most at-risk residents have safe, quality, affordable housing and a secure place in the community's future. Two Woodlawn affordable housing buildings were renamed the Mattie Butler Apartments at the ceremony. [Learn more about Mattie's life and commitment to affordable housing.](#)



***Want to be featured in our newsletter? If you have an event, announcement, or resource to share, let us know!***

### About CRN

For over 40 years, the Chicago Rehab Network has worked to train, coordinate, and empower community-based organizations developing affordable housing across Chicago and the region. CRN's advocacy has resulted in policies and resources including the Affordable Requirements Ordinance, the Tax Reactivation Program, the State of Illinois Housing Trust Fund, and the Illinois Affordable Housing Tax Credit. In addition to advocacy and training, CRN provides industry-wide thought leadership through regular policy updates, best practice case studies, and demographic and economic analysis related to housing needs and markets.

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