In 1869, a small town turned into a big neighborhood. That’s the year the western edge of Chicago was pushed from Western Avenue to Crawford Avenue (today, Pulaski Road) through the annexation of a 6-year-old railroad town called Crawford.

Since 1950, the area has been known as North Lawndale. The neighborhood’s rich history is plotted in its early chapters by Russian Jewish immigrants, then later by African Americans migrating from the South. Douglas Park, brainchild of the world-renowned landscape architect, Jens Jensen, still stands as the eastern gateway to the community, which today is home to a largely African-American population of more than 40,000.

In 1995, the Steans Family Foundation — headed by family members Harrison and Lois Steans, along with daughters Heather, Jennifer and Robin — made a watershed decision. By then deeply cognizant of the issues facing struggling communities, they elected to broaden the radius of their involvement and, at the same time, concentrate on one community. North Lawndale, with all its promise (strongly rooted leadership and profound sense of community) and all its challenges (principally poverty, school performance and unemployment) was chosen.

Today, approaching ten fruitful and rewarding years, the Foundation’s familiar — and familial — presence in the community continues, as does the accessibility of family and Foundation staff to the input of neighborhood leaders and residents. Our programs encompass six revitalization fronts:

- Health & Human Services
- Family & Community Asset-Building
- Employment & Training
- Education & Youth Development
- Housing & Economic Development
- Leadership & Capacity Building

The following pages discuss the scope of these vital and dynamic programs, and how the Foundation continues to lay the groundwork of progress for years to come.
Dear Friends,

Philanthropy — like all investing — is about people. We invest in organizations with leaders who make a difference and continually strive to improve the life circumstances of individuals. Successful grant-making requires strong partnerships between funders, grantees, and the individuals they serve, to achieve desired outcomes.

The Steans Family Foundation has had the good fortune of working with numerous individuals, organizations and networks of institutions that are revitalizing Chicago’s North Lawndale community. Since 1995 we have dedicated our time, dollars and expertise to work with residents and organizations to build and enhance this neighborhood; and in 2004, we invested an additional $2 million in the community. We remain encouraged by the additional opportunities we see opening up for residents throughout North Lawndale. For example:

• More youth are going to college now than 10 years ago;
• Formerly incarcerated persons are getting help in gaining employment and becoming productive community residents;
• Hundreds of families are receiving financial literacy training and saving for educational programs or to own a home;
• Newly built and rehabilitated affordable housing units are making home ownership possible for existing and new residents who want to stay in North Lawndale

Our investment is but one ingredient in the positive change occurring in North Lawndale. The neighborhood is bolstered by many tremendous leaders and residents who are working to make a difference and improve community quality. This report highlights many of the accomplishments taking place.

As always, we invite you to continue to invest and work with us in this remarkable neighborhood. We believe in a strong future for this community and its residents.

Sincerely,

Harrison I. Steans  
President/CEO, Board of Trustees

Sincerely,

Reginald Jones  
Executive Director

Steans Family from left to right: Jennifer W. Steans, Lois M. Steans, Harrison I. Steans, Heather A. Steans and Robin M. Steans.
Health & HUMAN SERVICES

The Steans family knows that no community goal is more essential than building stable, healthy families. In line with that goal, the Foundation funds an array of community-based services that foster the well-being of both adults and children – particularly children from birth to age 5, when healthy development is so crucial.

Our support has assisted the North Lawndale Symphony of Services, an affiliate of the statewide early intervention network that provides health and human services for more than 350 new mothers and their newborns each year; the newly-expanded Lawndale Christian Health Center, which welcomes more than 100,000 patient visits annually (many of them from North Lawndale residents who have recently become uninsured); and the I AM ABLE Center for Family Development – linked to three neighborhood schools – which works to develop decision-making and other abilities in children, dramatically impacting their grades and attendance.

“Individual, family and community development is re-invigorated each time a healthy child is born in North Lawndale.”

~ Lois Steans
The Steans family recognizes that communities can thrive only when their residents prosper.

And so the Foundation has set out to create home ownership and asset growth through innovative programs such as the “Save Up!” Individual Development Account (IDA) program. For starters, IDA teaches financial literacy courses to neighborhood residents. They then become eligible to join IDA, where each dollar they deposit is matched at a rate of 2:1 or 4:1. The savings, in turn, go towards purchasing first homes or paying for post-secondary education.

“Simply put, North Lawndale needs programs and policies that facilitate wealth creation, not penalize it.”

~ Harrison Steans
The Steans family recognizes that good jobs form the underpinning of a community’s stability.

So the Foundation puts considerable resources toward access to jobs that pay family-supporting wages and salaries by supporting programs that provide training and education, pre-employment aid and job placement. Through organizations like Breaking Ground and the North Lawndale Employment Network, we continue to help the community move closer to self-sustaining earning power.

In short, the Steans family believes that one of our most important jobs is helping community citizens get good jobs.
The Steans family understands that education is the key to transforming lives. As importantly, they recognize that improving educational opportunities and outcomes is complex work that requires the collective effort of parents, teachers, students and principals working on many fronts.

First and foremost, we need to attract and keep committed and talented people in our schools. With this in mind, in collaboration with UIC, Area 8, and the North Lawndale Learning Community, Steans Family Foundation supports a broad-based teacher recruiting and induction initiative. The Foundation also supports on-going opportunities for individual and school-based staff development and training.

Next, we aim to provide students with additional enrichment and support. Toward this end, we have supported community schools and are working with multiple local and citywide partners to enhance the social services available to children at school and to expand the number of activities available throughout an extended school day.

Finally, we are committed to dramatically increasing the number of students going on to college — both by supporting critical programming and by creating and leveraging scholarship and savings programs. Through its work at Manley High School, UMOJA Student Development Corporation has significantly increased the number of graduates pursuing post-secondary degrees. And with average graduation rates in excess of 80% and average college matriculation rates of 90% or better, North Lawndale College Preparatory Charter High School has further boosted the number of college students populating the neighborhood.

“Education is the key to transforming lives, and we’re committed to working with North Lawndale teachers, principals and parents to create the best possible educational platform for our children.”

~ Robin Steans
Lawndale
GATEWAY INITIATIVE

The Lawndale Gateway Initiative seeks to maximize the impact of a major public investment — the new police station — that brings substantial activity and increased security to the neighborhood. This initiative provides a mechanism that leverages the benefit of the police station for the broader revitalization of the neighborhood.

This initiative is a partnership effort of the Steans Family Foundation, Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of Chicago, NHS Redevelopment Corporation, the City of Chicago, and local residents to transform this key entry point to North Lawndale.

Objectives:
• Develop new in-fill condos, and two-flats on adjacent streets
• Redevelop problem properties (two such properties have been redeveloped by NHS)
• Promotion by NHS of home improvement grants and loans on adjacent blocks
• Engagement of neighbors with NHS on various block improvement projects
The Steans Family Foundation has made a major commitment to North Lawndale College Prep Charter High School. This institution is a major asset in this neighborhood. School teachers, staff and parents are a potential market for improved housing. NHS has completely renovated two properties that had been viewed by neighbors as serious problems.

NHS will be working on the blocks surrounding these development projects to promote home improvement projects and to work with neighbors on projects that can enhance the look of their blocks.

New condos and two-flats will be developed on vacant lots on blocks north of the police station. These homes will be developed using the city’s New Homes for Chicago program.
The Steans family believes that good, affordable housing is the heart of any neighborhood, and economic development effort.

That’s why Foundation funding does its home work by continuing to fuse with various organizations (Lawndale Christian Development Corp., Neighborhood Housing Services, Breaking Ground, Lawndale Business and Local Development Corp., Metropolitan Planning Council) in a whole spectrum of initiatives, which include opening new homeownership opportunities and supporting maintenance of homeowners’ dwellings; buttressing the construction and rehab of for-sale rental housing and facilitating financing and staff support to community development corporations.

“AS DEVELOPMENT INTEREST IN NORTH LAWNDALE INCREASES, OUR GOAL IS TO ENSURE THAT CURRENT RESIDENTS HAVE AFFORDABLE OPTIONS TO OWN OR RENT IN THE COMMUNITY.”

~ Heather Steans

“The Foundation is committed to assisting in the creation of jobs for local residents, and expanding resources to existing businesses.”

~ Jennifer Steans
For a decade, the Foundation has been honored to underwrite programs aimed at improving education, health, housing, family unity, economic opportunity, economic development, financial well-being, resident community involvement and neighborhood organizations.

As we march in step with the collective will of the community, the quality of life in North Lawndale will surely continue to advance.

In short, the Steans family believes that through the coalescence of Foundation funding and resident leadership, the community can reinforce its existing strengths and make further headway in meeting its challenges.
The Steans family proudly and proactively dispenses grants to every corner of the beneficiary map. Here are but three specific examples highlighting the work being done and the progress achieved:

Webster/Hansberry ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

As principal, Edith Allen Coleman heads this 40+-year-old institution boasting 624 African-American students, 97% of whom come from low-income households.

Forging against the economic and social headwinds, she and her staff have engendered academic achievement, enriched recreational activities and developed social-support programs, while tightening community bonds through broadened services to students, parents, guardians and North Lawndale citizens in general.

"The Foundation collaborates with people who honestly care about the children. They not only help in providing successful school programs, but help adult community members as well..."

~ Edith Allen Coleman, Principal
Breaking Ground provides job placement services, job readiness skills, basic education, G.E.D. preparation, counseling, and affordable homes. Over 90 percent of those served are ex-offenders.

In 2004, Breaking Ground finished constructing ten homes on the 1200 block of South Spaulding Avenue. These single-family homes were offered for $90,000, a price that enabled long-time residents to become first-time homeowners.

Beginning in fall 2005, in alliance with three other local nonprofits, Breaking Ground will construct another 70-plus affordable homes in North Lawndale.

In addition, Breaking Ground will soon open Chicagoland’s first-ever Manufacturing Credentialing Center to equip individuals with the training required for manufacturing jobs nationwide, and a wall-paneling factory is in the works that would create employment opportunities for residents and provide needed paneling for housing construction.

“The Foundation has organized many networking meetings, so that folks who are doing the work can talk with one another and figure out what the best practices are. The Steans family is engaged, so they know what’s going on in the community…” ~ Jeff Dennis, Executive Director

Lawndale Falcons FOOTBALL TEAM

For neighborhood youths between ages 14 to 17, this program affords an opportunity to compete all around the state of Illinois. Currently, the team has recruited 145 participants, with an ultimate goal of a 180-player roster. Behind the effort stands a group of more than 25 men and women dedicated to the future of North Lawndale youth.

“The Foundation has organized many networking meetings, so that folks who are doing the work can talk with one another and figure out what the best practices are. The Steans family is engaged, so they know what’s going on in the community…” ~ Jared Cooper, Falcons Coach
### Statement of Financial Position**

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<th>Assets</th>
<th>December 31, 2004</th>
<th>December 31, 2003</th>
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<td>Cash</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>23,922,726</strong></td>
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<th>Liabilities and Net Assets</th>
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<td><strong>Total liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>23,922,726</strong></td>
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<th>Program Grants</th>
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<td>Steans Family Foundation</td>
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<td>Distribution of funds from other foundations</td>
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<td>673,562</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,452,411</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,430,986</strong></td>
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* Includes $405,770 in distributions of funds from other foundations.

** Unaudited, cash basis

### 2004 Grants by Programs Area

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<tr>
<th>Program Area</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Economic Development</td>
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<td>Education and Youth Development</td>
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<td>Employment and Training</td>
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<td>Family and Community Asset Building</td>
<td>234,437</td>
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<td>Health and Human Services</td>
<td>375,995</td>
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<td>Housing</td>
<td>154,502</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leadership and Capacity Building</td>
<td>341,928</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality of Life</td>
<td>66,956</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Lawndale, Staff</td>
<td>478,276</td>
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Total* $ 2,452,411

* Includes $405,770 in distributions of funds from other foundations.

#### Pie Chart:

- **Non-Lawndale, Staff and Trustee Matching Grants**: 20%
- **Economic Development**: 5%
- **Education and Youth Development**: 24%
- **Employment and Training**: 5%
- **Family & Community Asset Building**: 10%
- **Health and Human Services**: 13%
- **Leadership and Capacity Building**: 14%
- **Quality of Life**: 3%
- **Housing**: 6%
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