partnering for community growth and strength.

steans family foundation
2007–2008
In 1986, the Steans Family, Harrison and Lois Steans along with their three daughters, Heather, Jennifer and Robin sponsored a class of students through the “I Have a Dream” Project in Chicago. By 1994, the Steans’ had witnessed through their involvement and work with the class they first sponsored, that a long-term personal involvement and investment with individuals could change lives. They believed that this was also true for communities. Beginning in 1995, the Steans Family resolved to concentrate all their resources in one neighborhood on Chicago’s west side, North Lawndale, to enhance the community and quality of life for its residents. The family began what has been more than a decade-long commitment to the community.
Since the formation of the Steans Family Foundation in 1995, we have supported neighborhood improvement efforts in the community of North Lawndale. Partnering with dynamic community stakeholders, the Foundation has targeted its investment to help address the myriad of issues that affect community quality.

Embarking on this revitalization effort, we recognized that long-term support would be necessary. Given more than a decade-long commitment, the Foundation is pleased with achievement in key areas that impact children, families and neighborhood improvement overall.

Over the last eighteen months, we have reviewed our investment strategy to consider options for greater impact in North Lawndale. Pledging our continued commitment, children’s educational success will be the Foundation’s primary focus. Thus, we will concentrate our core grantmaking in three areas:

- Early Childhood Development
- School-Based Education
- Parent/Caregiver Advocacy and Leadership

It is our belief that supporting a quality education continuum from the earliest years will provide even stronger potential to positively impact children, their families and ultimately the community.

This Annual Report highlights some important work supported by the Foundation in areas affecting children and families. We detail projects focused on early childhood development, educational success and helping youth lead productive lives. The accomplishments cited are the product of many individuals that work tirelessly to improve North Lawndale community quality.

We are grateful to all our longtime community partners for their commitment to North Lawndale. We also greatly appreciate those who have invested along with us and encourage your continued support.

Sincerely,

Harrison I. Steans
President and CEO

Reginald Jones
Executive Director

For more information about the Steans Family Foundation, its community partnerships and programs, please visit our web site at www.steansfamilyfoundation.org
Program:
getting it right from the start:
ensuring success begins before birth

Cheryl’s story

Cheryl was born prematurely. Her mother’s pregnancy was medically high risk. She suffered from diabetes, hypertension and obesity and did not get prenatal care until late in her pregnancy. The family moved frequently as Cheryl’s mother struggled with job layoffs. Cheryl’s mother had few resources to provide needed developmental screenings. When Cheryl’s mother worked, Cheryl was cared for by relatives and her older siblings and did not participate in Head Start or other preschool enrichment programs. When she began kindergarten at Chalmers Elementary School, she was socially and academically behind her peers. Her teacher recommended that she be evaluated for a learning disability. Due to the high demand for these diagnostic services, Cheryl would wait a year before receiving an evaluation.
Strengthening fragile families such as Cheryl’s, has long been a concern of the Steans Family Foundation. When the Foundation began working in North Lawndale in 1996, more than 50% of all North Lawndale families with children were living in poverty with more than one-third earning less than $10,000 per year. North Lawndale’s standing on a number of Maternal and Child Health indicators was far below the Chicago average. For example, the percent of births to teens was 13.9% vs. 8.1% citywide and the percent of all births that were low birth weight was 13.5% vs. 10.8% city wide.

Research links early childhood interventions (good prenatal care, regular developmental screenings and quality childcare) with later educational success. Given the hardships demonstrated by North Lawndale statistics, the Steans Family Foundation recognized the need to support initiatives that would give the youngest and most vulnerable residents the same chances for a healthy start in life as other Chicagoans. Troubled by the high rate of low birthweight babies born in North Lawndale, the Foundation convened a series of community meetings with providers and residents to plan a meaningful intervention to improve birth outcomes. From these meetings a plan developed. That plan
called for a two-faceted approach. The first facet was to identify and refer into care, pregnant women who do not seek prenatal care. In North Lawndale, about 20% of all pregnant women do not receive these services annually. Pregnant women who do not participate in prenatal support services such as Family Case Management and Women, Infants and Children (WIC), have a 2.8 times higher infant mortality rate and a 3.3 times higher low birthweight percentage than those who do.\(^3\) The second facet was to provide intensive case management services for 18 months postpartum to women who had a premature or low birthweight baby or had suffered a perinatal loss. Research shows that women with one high risk birth are likely to have repeated poor outcomes in subsequent pregnancies. Publicly funded support services for these women frequently end after the pregnancy which makes it difficult for women to address the conditions effecting the poor birth outcome.

In 2006, the Foundation partnered with community agencies and several philanthropies such as Michael Reese Health Trust, the Irving Harris Foundation, the Illinois Children’s Healthcare Foundation and two State partners: the Illinois Departments of Human Services and Healthcare and Family Services to form the Healthy Births for Healthy Communities collaborative to provide a woman support and service access from conception through 18 months postpartum, allowing a more optimal outcome for current and future births.

Specifically, the project targeted the unserved women in North Lawndale and enrolled them in case management, linked them to WIC, and for women who have had at least
one high risk birth, engaged them in a new program of care during and between pregnancies.

The collaborative partnered with two well-established community based agencies, Westside Association for Community Action (WACA) in North Lawndale and Westside Health Authority (WHA) in Austin (a nearby community). They provided outreach and connected to over 10,000 women and nearly 600 participants who enrolled in the program.

Healthy Births for Healthy Communities has shown that most women are eager for the services offered by this type of program because it gives them the tools to begin managing their complex lives.

Dialogue has started with the state of Illinois partners to plan a program to replicate elements of the initiatives for other high risk, Medicaid-eligible women throughout the state. Thus, the project may have an influence well beyond the west side of Chicago.

While the collaborative and its evaluation are ongoing through June 2010, the Steans Family Foundation has reaffirmed the fundamental value of community collaborative models for reaching isolated families and providing access to services that are crucial to changing the trajectory of their lives.

The Steans Family Foundation will continue supporting work aimed at building a comprehensive continuum of birth to early childhood programs that can benefit the successful long term outcomes for the youngest and most vulnerable of our society.

During the 2009 Illinois General Assembly spring session, Bill SB2043: Medicaid Low-Birth weight Study passed. This Bill creates a pilot program for Medicaid eligible women who have had a high risk pregnancy to participate in interconceptual care.

1. U.S. Census
2. IPLAN: State of Illinois Public Health Database
3. Illinois Department of Human Services, 2005
The Foundation values the success of young people — there is truth to the notion that it takes a village to raise a child. We salute the parents, and moreover the many community institutions that work tirelessly to positively affect young people’s lives.
Greg’s Story

At the start of his freshman year at Manley Career Academy High School (Manley), Greg was consistently in the top five of his class and was number one by his senior year. Despite the fact he had excellent grades, Greg had no aspirations of going to college. That is until the day one of Greg’s classmates introduced him to Umoja Student Development Corporation (Umoja). When Umoja’s College and Career staff sat down with Greg to discuss his plans for the future, they found it wasn’t that Greg did not want to go to college; he just always imagined it being out of his reach and was fearful of the unknown. During Greg’s meetings with the College and Career staff, they completed college applications and discussed what the transition from high school to college might be like for him. Greg eventually applied to 12 different colleges. He was accepted to all of them and was offered scholarships from each one. Greg decided to attend University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (U of I) as an engineering major. With support from Umoja’s College and Career staff during his senior year, Greg also applied for and was awarded a highly coveted Gates Millennium Scholarship which will cover his full tuition for four years. A second student, Junia was recently awarded a Gates Millennium Scholarship and will join Greg as his roommate this fall at U of I.

In 1996 when the Steans Family Foundation began its grantmaking in North Lawndale, many students attending high schools in the community did not view applying to college as a realistic goal. By most estimates, college matriculation rates for North Lawndale high school graduates hovered between 10-13%. As late as 2005, fewer than 7% of adults living in the community held bachelor’s degrees and more than 40% did not graduate from high school. Responding to such conditions, Lila Leff created Umoja in 1997 with initial seed funding from the Foundation. Umoja was founded to link the educational efforts of Manley to the broader community and improve educational and personal outcomes for students.
The student population at Manley mirrors that of the surrounding community; 100% of the students are African-American and 97% live in low-income households. When Umoja first opened its doors in 1997, fewer than 10% of Manley High School’s graduates went on to postsecondary education. The prospects for students were bleak when Umoja staff began to offer one-on-one college counseling and other social supports. With this support and programming, the postsecondary matriculation figure has risen dramatically, with 68% of the Class of 2008 enrolling in college; this translates to an increase of more than 500% in just ten years. While nationally 68.6% of the class of 2008 continued on to college last fall, the district’s rate was about 52.5% up from 44% in 2004. Manley, with critical support from Umoja, is keeping pace with the national average for college enrollment while significantly outpacing the enrollment rate of other Chicago public high schools.

Along with affiliates like Umoja, good schools are needed to insure positive community development. New schools have opened in North Lawndale providing quality educational options for students from pre-kindergarten through high school. One example is North Lawndale College Prep High School (NLCP) which opened in 1998. NLCP was developed to meet a pressing community need of creating a neighborhood high school that provided an academically rigorous, yet socially and emotionally supportive, small school environment with personalized support for students. In 2007, 93% of seniors graduated from NLCP and 90% of the graduates are enrolled in college. One hundred percent of all NLCP graduates are accepted to at least one college or university. These results far outpace those of students attending other high schools in North Lawndale and across other communities in Chicago. Each year college attendance and retention rates have increased along with the competitiveness of the colleges and universities attended. The Foundation will continue to support schools and organizations who work tirelessly to improve the educational outcomes of children in the community.

1. North Lawndale: Faith Rewarded, May 2005
Program:
north lawndale juvenile justice collaborative

Marcus’ Story
At fifteen years old, Marcus is already responsible for helping to support his five siblings. His mother has battled drug addiction for years and he and his two brothers and two sisters are living with their grandmother. Marcus is no stranger to trouble. He has been expelled from school twice in the last two years for fighting. After the second time he decided not to return. Standing on the corner of 16th street in North Lawndale on a Thursday afternoon, he is arrested for selling marijuana.

Society traditionally has little sympathy for adults who commit crimes and has promoted, in recent years, harsher punishment for those who break the law. But what about children or teenagers who commit crimes? Between 2000-2005, nearly 10,000 young people in North Lawndale were arrested. Unfortunately, black youth in Illinois are four times more likely than white youth to be arrested, detained and incarcerated. Part of the increase in juvenile arrest rates can be attributed to the use of law and order approaches such as zero tolerance policies to address typical student misbehavior. However, research shows that incarceration does not rehabilitate juvenile offenders and that more and more youth who end up in juvenile detention centers or state prisons are non-violent offenders. Unfortunately, children who enter the juvenile justice system often eventually enter the adult criminal justice system.

The Steans Family Foundation actively became involved in funding juvenile justice intervention projects in the late 1990s. At that time, the Foundation played an important role in convening various community stakeholders to address the very real consequences of juvenile crime and delinquency. It quickly became clear to the Foundation that the right approach to deal with the issues of juvenile justice is always community-led and community-driven.

In 2005, a group of community residents in North Lawndale took matters into their own hands to promote alternatives to incarceration and to uphold rehabilitation as the primary goal of the juvenile justice system. They formed the North Lawndale Juvenile Justice Collaborative (NLJJC) to restore and enliven the informal mechanisms of community justice. In 1998, Illinois included balanced and restorative justice in the purpose clause of its juvenile
court. Restorative justice is a recent alternative to the inherent tension between punishment and treatment. It strives to balance the attention paid to the needs of all parties affected by crime: victims, offenders and community. Restorative justice has as its goals: the repair of the harm, the restoration of the community and the development of the offender. Tools of restorative justice include restoration, accountability and relationship with a caring adult. In North Lawndale, restorative justice is being implemented at the community level with the involvement of neighborhood residents through the NLJJC. As a North Lawndale project stakeholder explains, “Through balanced and restorative justice, the youth understand that they really affect community members. It becomes very powerful to them that these are community members that are helping them and reaching out to them. The community is becoming more supportive of youth and youth feel that someone is looking out for them and their well-being. It completes a circle of reciprocity and it stops all of the fear that youth and adults have of each other.”

Over the past year, the NLJJC has worked with community partners to expunge the juvenile criminal records of nearly thirty young people making it possible for them to pursue future employment and educational opportunities. This is all the more impressive since North Lawndale accounted for more than 70% of all successful expungements in the entire city of Chicago in 2007. In addition, more than thirty young people had their cases diverted from the juvenile court to the local community for hearings. This means that those young people would not have any criminal records at all, if they fulfilled the terms of their agreements. Probation officer Doris McDuffie speaks to the success of partnering with community members: “The NLJJC exemplifies the very best community-driven restorative practices. Community members are accessible and always available to the youth. They follow up and provide resources for the youth. I feel very good about sending young people to the NLJJC.”

This grassroots initiative is an excellent example of empowering community residents to address what they perceive to be among the most important issues in their neighborhoods. The Steans Family Foundation views itself as a resource rather than as a driver of such initiatives. Community driven solutions are critical in ensuring the eradication of social problems such as juvenile delinquency and crime. Partnerships between members of the North Lawndale community and external organizations like the Steans Family Foundation are critical to interrupting the school to jail pipeline. The Foundation plans to continue and strengthen its collaboration with organizations working on juvenile justice initiatives in the community as a means of promoting young people’s successful future.

**Between 2000-2005, there was a 27 percent increase in the juvenile arrest rate in Illinois. However, research shows that incarceration does not rehabilitate juvenile offenders and that more and more youth who end up in juvenile detention centers or state prisons are non-violent.**
**Statement of Financial Position**

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<th>December 31, 2007</th>
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<td>Distribution of funds from other foundations</td>
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<td>C. Employment and Training</td>
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<td>D. Health and Human Services</td>
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<td>E. Housing</td>
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<td>F. Leadership and Capacity Building</td>
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<td>G. Staff Small Grants, Non-Lawndale, Trustee Matching Grants</td>
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<td>H. Special Opportunities/Discretionary</td>
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** Unaudited, cash basis
2008 Grants by Program Area

2007 Grants by Program Area
Board of Directors
Harrison I. Steans
President & CEO
Gregory Darnieder
Leonard A. Gail
James P. Kastenholz
Leo A. Smith
Heather A. Steans
Jennifer W. Steans
Lois M. Steans
Robin M. Steans

Staff
Reginald Jones
Executive Director
Pat Ford
Education Program Director
Alison Janus
Program Officer
Mariame Kaba
Program Officer
Jennifer Shimp
Senior Manager, Grants & Operations
Isolda Velasquez
Operations Associate
Wendy Vendel
Information Resource Associate