

# Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC)

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Spring

# The VISION

2008

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## LISC NCP National Leadership Assembly: Done with Elegance

Nearly 1,000 community leaders and practitioners attended the 2008 LISC NCP Leadership Assembly. Photo Credit: Eric Young Smith



**The mission of the Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC) is to foster and promote revitalization of the greater Auburn Gresham community, which includes Auburn-Gresham, Englewood, and West Chatham.**

The Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC) along with 13 other Local Initiatives Support Corporation of Chicago's (LISC/Chicago) New Communities Program (NCP) Lead Agencies hosted nearly 1,000 attendees at the national Leadership Assembly, held this year at the new UIC Forum.

This assembly was host to more than 55 cities and 23 Chicago neighborhoods.

The two days offered many local attractions includ-

ing nearby downtown Chicago and neighborhood nightlife venues such as musical performances by the Woodlawn String Instrumental Program at the Grand Ballroom in Woodlawn; salsa dancing at the historic Humboldt Park Field House; and a tour of the Garfield Park Conservatory.

There were informative bus tours of the Logan Square, West Haven, Pilsen, Quad Communities, and Little Village neighborhoods. Also, GADC hosted an Auburn Gresham tour for the New York Mayor's office.

Three of Auburn

Gresham's finest citizens and business partners were honored as 2008 Community Heroes. They were Granville and Juanita Love and Deborah Moore, Executive Director for Neighborhood Housing Services of Auburn Gresham & Englewood.

The Loves and Ms. Moore received a proclamation from the City of Chicago and a \$500 stipend from LISC/Chicago to be donated to a charitable organization of their choice.

A special thanks goes out to all of those who made this historic event possible.

# Leadership Honors for Carlos Nelson



Valerie Jarrett and Andrew Mooney congratulate Carlos Nelson [L] on being the first recipient of the Norm Bobins Award. Photo: Ernest Sanders

ard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago, Andrew Mooney, Senior Program Director for LISC/Chicago, and Valerie Jarrett, President and CEO of The Habitat Company, the CNDA ceremony paid tribute to nine organizations and one special individual, Carlos Nelson, Executive Director for the Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC).

Nelson was honored with the 1st Annual Norm Bobins Leadership Award.

Now retired, Bobins spent the past 17 years as CEO of LaSalle Bank and currently serves as a board member for the following organizations: Chicago Public School's Board of Education, The Art Institute of Chicago, The Field

Museum, and WTTW. He also serves as the Chairman Emeritus for the Illinois Business Roundtable.

Less than two months later, Nelson received the Neighborhood Leadership Award from Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of Chicago.

This event featured remarks from NHS' senior leadership including Bruce Gottschall, Executive Director, and Thomas P. Fitz-Gibbon Jr., (MB Financial Bank, NA) President of NHS Board of Directors. The event was emceed by ABC 7 Chicago's Leah Hope.

Living most of his life near 79th Street in Auburn Gresham, Nelson has a proven history of community

activism and development.

Nelson has been able to transform a one-man organization into a seven-person (full-time) operation serving more than 60,000 constituents in the Auburn Gresham, Englewood, and West Chatham communities.

*Congratulations Carlos!*



Carlos Nelson and Leah Hope celebrate Nelson's receipt of the NHS Neighborhood Leadership Award. Photo: Ernest Sanders

Early this year, the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicago Neighborhood Development Awards (CNDA), hosted by Local Initiatives Support Corporation of Chicago (LISC/Chicago) offered much fanfare and laughter with the help of Second City.

With remarks from Rich-

Veterans Corner

## Housing for Homeless

St. Leo's Veterans Campus was also honored at the 2008 CNDA Awards hosted by LISC/Chicago. Because of their commitment and innovativeness to serve homeless veterans, this campus found a solution for homeless veterans in Chicago.

Constructed in 2005, this 141-unit residence also provides medical services and a resource center to help veterans access comprehensive healthcare and employment opportunities.



Dignitaries pose with St. Leo honorees

## A Veteran's Mission Never Ends



Samuel Miller, Jr.

Samuel Miller, Jr. was enlisted in 1968 and served in Vietnam and Thailand as a combat security policeman. A Chicago native and longtime Auburn Gresham resident, Miller received an honorable discharge in 1972 and continues to work on behalf of his fellow soldiers.

Currently, Miller is a Veteran's Service Coordinator for the City of Chicago's Veterans

Resource Center.

His present duties include administering resources, assistance and support to homeless and indigent veterans through a network of federal, state, local and non-profit agencies. He also serves on various advisory councils for veterans.

Previous to his position with the City of Chicago, Miller served as the St. Leo's Veteran Campus Community Liaison.

## Pedestrian Safety Travel Zone

While GADC has developed important partnerships with local elementary and high schools and Chicago Alternative Policing Strategies (C.A.P.S.), there is need to provide safe travel zones for our youth while sustaining these partnerships.

One such program is the, "Pedestrian Safety Travel Zone (PSTZ)." Under this program, parents from local schools will provide our youth and residents with a guarded walking path which allows them the best possible opportunity to walk to and return from school safely and focus their attention on academics.

Recently, GADC partnered with Catholic Charities St. Leo Veterans Campus and recruited four veterans to serve as parent patrollers.



## Energy Grant for Auburn Gresham Resident

**T**ony Richardson was just 20 years old when he bought his Chicago bungalow in 1970. He still lives in the house, after moving to Chicago from Birmingham, Alabama.

When his block was chosen to be a “Green Bungalow Block—*Model Blocks*,” Richardson jumped at the offer from the Historic Chicago Bungalow Association (HCBA) to participate in this

energy efficient program.

Domus Plus, an energy-efficiency consulting firm working with HCBA, conducted a “blower door test” on his home and learned that Mr. Richardson’s bungalow, like most bungalows and older homes, had air leakage more than double the rate of the average Chicago home. Using funds provided by the HCBA’s Energy Savers Grant, he was able to insulate his home and noticed a positive

difference in comfort and billing.

To date, more than 3,000 bungalow owners have applied and received HCBA Energy Savers Grants and are reaping energy savings averaging \$1,000 each year. Available to all certified bungalow owners, these grants provide owners with funds needed to make their homes more comfortable and more affordable.

For more information,

please call (312) 360-0800 or visit [www.chicagobungalow.org](http://www.chicagobungalow.org).



Tony Richardson enters his front door after having the “blower door test” conducted. Photo: HCBA

## Smiley Receives Safe Windows

**C**hicago Lead Safe Window Services comes to Auburn Gresham as the administrator of a grant from the Chicago Department of Public Health.

This grant is a 50/50 program that subsidizes lead abatement in multi-family buildings with four or more units. Lead abatement is defined as removal or termination of lead-based paint in the interior and/or exterior of a home settings.

Most homes built in the 1970s and earlier contain

lead-based paint, especially on windows, baseboards, trim and doors. Lead from paint chips and dust can pose serious health hazards.

Nathaniel Smiley, an Auburn Gresham resident and owner/occupant of a 12-unit building, decided to utilize this program. He contacted the City of Chicago’s Department of Public Health and had his building inspected and tested by a licensed lead professional—Cass Environmental Services.

In the end, Smiley had 76 windows replaced with exte-

rior capping and painted interior trim. He also had 8 entry doors and 16 glass-block windows installed, along with new gutters. 100 square feet of new drywall was installed and painted too.

The City of Chicago’s Department of Weatherization paid for the energy efficient upgrades to Smiley’s windows and storm doors.

For more information on City of Chicago’s lead prevention programs, please call 311 or (312) 747-7820. For more information about this 50/50 grant program, please

contact Deborah Garrity at Chicago Lead Safe Window Services, (773) 446-7802 or visit their website at [www.chicagoleadsafe.com](http://www.chicagoleadsafe.com).



Nathaniel Smiley stands in front of his building after his windows were replaced by Chicago Lead Safe Windows. Photo: Hubert Newkirk

## Daley Welcomes Senior Suites to Auburn Gresham

**M**ore than 100 visitors and dignitaries poured into the newly developed Senior Suites of Auburn Gresham.

Mayor Richard M. Daley was joined by Senior Lifestyle Corporation’s President & CEO John Cobb, and Vice President Robert Gawronski, along with Father Michael Pflieger of St. Sabina Church, Alderman Latasha Thomas (D-17), City of Chicago’s Commissioners Joyce Gallagher and Ellen Sahli, and Illinois Housing Development Authority’s Executive Director Deshana Forney for remarks and a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The Mayor spoke passionately of his commitment to seniors and encouraged them to partake in the City of Chicago’s Department of Aging (Senior Services) facility located in this new building. The Beloved Community’s Executive Director Jonathan Swain echoed similar thoughts.

The partnership with Senior Lifestyle Corporation and the Beloved Community of St. Sabina made these 85 affordable housing units possible. The building has many amenities for seniors and does not require you to be a resident. For more information, please contact Senior Suites at (773) 723-0333.

**Senior Suites**  
OF AUBURN GRESHAM  
*A Senior Lifestyle Community*

*In Cooperation with*  
*The Beloved Community*

**773.723.0333**

Affordable Seniors  
Housing with Services

City of Chicago  
• Satellite Senior Center

*Auburn Gresham: Chicago's Best Kept Secret! We Dare You to Tell Someone.*

Greater Auburn-Gresham  
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1159 W. 79th Street  
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**ALD. LATASHA THOMAS**  
17TH WARD

**CARLOS NELSON**  
GADC  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**National City**

## A Wonderful Homecoming for GADC's New ISS Program Manager



Michelle Mason

*"I want to give children the tools they need to become champions."*

**M**ichelle Mason is GADC's new Manager of Integrated Services in

Schools (ISS) in Auburn Gresham.

When Mason heard about an

initiative that would focus on making public schools in Chicago more service-oriented for students and the communities they live in, she knew it was something of which she wanted to be a part. She believed that this ISS initiative would offer her the perfect opportunity to give back to the community that was so instrumental in her own success.

Mason has served the community of Auburn Gresham in various capacities for 20 years. She has experience in community case management, mental health, Alzheimer's/Dementia specific care, and elementary education. These experiences has shaped her understanding of how beneficial a holistic approach to education can be

for students.

A longtime resident of Auburn Gresham, Mason is familiar with the strengths as well as the challenges of the community. She explained that, while adverse conditions did exist when she was growing up, Auburn Gresham also provided her family with a community of concerned and involved neighbors. Mason knows the challenges youth face and is aware of just how vital community involvement can be in their lives.

She believes that the ISS program will help transform any misperceptions of Auburn Gresham youth.

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