



Chicago Chapter

Meet the 2010 AFP Chicago Fellows



Crystal Williams runs a one-person development office supported by a part-time, grant writer for Our Lady of Tepeyac High School.

The neighborhood where Our Lady of Tepeyac High School is located is poor, underserved, and rampant with gang activity. Many of the students attending the school come from families living at or below the poverty line. The students depend on the school to provide a safe, warm, welcoming, familial environment. Each faculty and staff member is committed to this mission of the school and giving each student the opportunity to succeed. My development efforts directly support need-based scholarships for students to attend Tepeyac. Their alternative is public school where their chances of graduation are 30% and they are unlikely to find the faith-centered, empowering, and encouraging culture provided at Tepeyac. With more guidance through an established fellowship program seeking to serve those who have a passion for fundraising, I can continue serving families, young women, and a community that deserves the best opportunities for quality education.



S. Bianca Berkhia is the Special Events Manager for Susan G. Komen.

I believe that by being admitted into this program it will me to the next level. AFP boasts member that are highly accomplished in the field. I know I can learn so much and by doing so I will also help LCN. My passion lies in serving the nonprofit community. With the guidance, mentoring and networking I will as an AFP Fellow, I know my goals and those of my agency will be met and surpassed. The experience I will gain will ... leave a lifelong impact on my career... and will also allow me to be a voice for a community too often overlooked...



Astrid Guerra is the only staff member dedicated to development at Lake County Haven which provides shelter and meals to homeless women and their children.

I am a development professional by choice. I feel a profound respect for my profession and take my career very seriously. I want to become a certified Fund Raising Professional (CFRE). Getting funds for my agency depends on my knowledge and skills. Every piece of information I acquire, every skill that I improve will certainly benefit the agency...AFP (will) help me become resourceful, and knowledgeable about opportunities available in the community that will help my agency reach its goal.



Nathaniel Ekman is the Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations for the Lester and Rosalie Anixter Center.

The mentorship component of the AFP Chicago Fellows Program holds great appeal, as I benefit from working one-to-one with an experienced professional who provides guidance and perspective on the field. By diversifying my skill set through the Program, I hope to grow as a grant writer, development officer, communicator and administrator whose increased ability to land successful awards for our agency will ensure the continued delivery of high-quality services and supports to Chicago's disabilities community.



Bea C Rodriguez is the Fundraising and Communications Coordinator, one of two people responsible for development at Howard Area Community Center.

Participating in this program will help me continue realizing my own vision, mission and values, which guide me as I move forward in my career ... and as a leader in my community. My mission is to build dynamic communities....through fundraising and asset-based community development. I strive to accomplish this mission not only because it is aligned with my values...but also because there is an excellent return on my investment. The Fellows Program will broaden my horizons as a fundraiser, enhancing my abilities to help save and change lives at Howard Area Community Center and wherever I chose to contribute as a development professional.



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Help expectations of AFP Chicago Fellows by contributing to their future.

_____ Senior Leadership Circle	\$ 5,000
_____ Leadership Circle	\$ 2,500
_____ Educator Circle	\$ 1,000
_____ Circle of Friends	\$ 350
_____ Other	\$ _____

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