



# The Field Foundation of Illinois

Welcome to the Field Foundation Website:

This past year has been very exciting for us. Our previous board chairperson Christina (Tina) Tchen has moved on to a very important role in the Obama Administration as the Director of Public Engagement and Director of the White House Council on Women and Girls. Tina's dedication to the nonprofit community of Chicago will truly be missed.



We do have good news. We are very happy to announce that Judith S. (Judy) Block has been selected as our new board chair. Judy has served on the foundation board for ten years and is widely recognized for her many years of volunteer service and commitment to nonprofit organizations in the city. We are tremendously grateful that Judy has taken the reins.

Still, like everyone else, the Field Foundation is challenged by the complexities of the current economic crisis. We, too, must do more with less. That said, we remain committed to our six core funding areas: Urban and Community Affairs, Arts and Culture, Community Welfare, Health, Education and Environment.

In addition, we remain committed to working toward an end to violence in our communities; particularly gun violence. Please see the recent Gun Violence Report which reflects the grants made under our special *Safe Kids/Safe Schools Program* which we introduced last summer in response to the alarming surge in gun violence and deaths of so many Chicago Public School students and others. Regrettably, our limited resources will not permit the Foundation to sponsor that program again this summer. However, requests for year-round programs on this issue may still be submitted through our regular grant process.

We are very excited that the video "Will I Be Next?" which was commissioned by the Foundation to launch our *Safe Kids/Safe Schools Program* and produced by Free Spirit Media, a grantee of the Foundation has received significant recognition. "Will I Be Next?" is one of twelve finalists selected from among five hundred films submitted from around the world, in the 2009 Media Matters Festival. The Festival will be held in New York City in June. Needless to say, we are tremendously proud of the students and staff of Free Spirit Media who, with little guidance from the Foundation, created this stunningly powerful video. This video can still be found on the home page of our website.

We expect this year to be one of the most competitive. We will be forced to turn down even more important organizations and worthy causes. However, as always we will provide a fair assessment of an organization's potential success at receiving funding. We will also continue to provide limited technical assistance to those seeking information about grant making activities, in general.

Before submission of any request, we urge you to visit the 2007/2008 Biennial Report on our website to see the types of grants we have made. Also, please note that we have made slight revisions to our Self-Certification cover sheet. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding our formal grant making process.

Aurie A. Pennick  
Executive Director and Treasurer