

The Renaissance Collaborative

The mission of The Renaissance Collaborative, Inc. (TRC) is to promote self-sufficiency through an innovative and comprehensive network of supportive housing, employment, and educational services.

Since its inception in 1992, TRC has always put the interests of the people it serves first. Our value statement is: "All individuals have value and that they can better contribute to themselves, their families and their communities when provided the support they need."

With this value statement guiding all of its decisions, TRC has gained a reputation for excellence in developing creative supportive housing and employment solutions that renew people and build healthier communities. Using the asset-based approach, the agency works in three distinct business areas:

- Workforce Development
- Supportive Housing
- Senior Housing



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Life Skills

Through the collaborative efforts of TRC, Life Skills enables residents to succeed in the environments in which they live. Through individualized and group settings, residents are exposed to various tools, which assist them with daily living skills.

Life Skills Department seeks to provide resources/tools that can assist on that journey toward success including but not limited to; self-esteem building, money management and credit, advocacy and community service, decision making, journaling, networking, housekeeping, relaxation and grooming etc.



Life Skills

Life skills encompasses a comprehensive array of services that provide the tools and resources needed to help our tenants become self-sufficient and productive members in society. Topics range from:

- Behavioral - communicating effectively with others
- Cognitive - making effective decisions
- Interpersonal - being assertive
- Intrapersonal - setting goals

We believe that our teaching will aid our residents in developing and building self-esteem, self-awareness, self-love, self-confidence and respect for one's self and others. The meetings focus on:

- Basic housekeeping skills
- Grooming, dressing, attitude for success
- Planning for the future
- Networking
- Thinking for Change
- Adult Literacy
- Expungement

Adult Literacy

Literacy is essential to becoming a successful, contributing member of a family, a workforce, and a community. TRC uses assessment tools to determine reading level and solicits volunteers to provide tutoring and academic support as they pursue their educational goals.

Civic Engagement

Life Skills also works with participants to assist them in re-engaging with their community as well as re-unification with family. The Life Skills Manager and participants' together plan to provide and arrange outside cultural and social events on a monthly basis. TRC encourages participants to become engaged in civic activities by attending the community meetings, local and state consumer and tenant groups. We also assist in addressing tax and legal issues, in partnership with other agencies.

Financial Literacy - Capability

We provide participants information and resources so they can increase their capacity to manage their finances, plan their spending and increase their savings. As they explore their relationship with money they change their thinking about it and learn the benefits of budgeting.

We also have incorporated an additional incentive with the program in the form of an Individual Development Account Program (IDA). This account allows individuals that qualify to have their savings matched at a 1:1 rate of their savings up to \$600.00 per year. Matched savings are to be used for designated purposes. The participants must complete the financial literacy course and have at least one year of employment to receive the match funds.

Life Skills Partners

- Supportive Housing Providers Association
- Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness
- Cabrini Green Legal Aid
- Metropolitan Tenant Organization
- Bank on Chicago
- South Side Community Federal Credit
- Chicago Cares Volunteers
- Literacy Works
- Center for Economic Progress
- Citibank
- PNC Bank
- Odyssey Project

Renaissance Bronzeville Toastmaster's Club

Toastmasters International is a worldwide non-profit educational organization that helps its individuals to hone their public speaking and leadership skills by learning by doing in a supportive, no pressure atmosphere.

Toastmasters can help you to:

- Think on your feet
- Speak confidently
- Build your network
- Demonstrate leadership skills
- Prepare for employment and business opportunities



Interested in joining Toastmaster's?

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