THE ABRAMS APPLE AWARD

We hold a Resident Recognition Ceremony each year to reward residents who have made remarkable strides toward achieving self-sufficiency. The highest honor, the Abrams Apple Award, is presented by and named after TRC’s Executive Director and Founder Patricia Abrams to an individual who has made extraordinary global progress toward that goal.

This year the Abrams Apple Award was presented to Sean White. You may remember Sean from the letter we mailed out a couple of weeks ago, but there’s one big update: with the help of the TRC Employment & Education department, Sean was just hired full-time as a custodian at Family Guidance Clinic Centers!

If you don’t recall Sean’s story, until recently Sean was a janitorial trainee at TRC (and the self-proclaimed jokester on the team). He had started as a landscaping trainee shortly after arriving here, but requested to switch to janitorial training after feeling like he had learned everything possible in that program. He proved to be an incredibly hard worker, open to feedback and passionate about his work.

Sean feels like he has reached the point where he is ready to be self-sufficient and his new job means he’s likely to achieve that soon. “I feel that God done took me to the level where I’m supposed be at in here, now... I’m gonna take me to another level out there.” In the meantime, he shares what he has learned by holding daily meditation and an NA meeting for other residents.

“Sean represents what the agency tries to do, which is to take people who have separated themselves in some way from society and work themselves back in. His next step might be to leave us but that’s part of self-sufficiency. It’s a part of what we do,” Abrams said.

TRC is hiring! Positions open are: Training Specialist and Executive Operations- HR Manager. Visit www.trcwabash.org/staff-openings for job descriptions.
W.O.W. @ Senior Village

Girls from the Working on Womanhood (WOW) program run by Youth Guidance visited Senior Village on December 9th to play games, do arts & crafts, serve lunch, and have a fashion show!

WOW is a multifaceted, school-year-long group counseling and clinical mentoring program. WOW works to improve social-emotional competencies for girls in 7th–12th grade exposed to traumatic stressors in high risk and under-resourced communities.

Smoking Cessation

Smoking cessation alternatives are being promoted by TRC’s Health & Wellness department. Smoking harms nearly every organ of the body, causing many diseases and affecting the health of smokers in general. Quitting smoking has immediate as well as long-term benefits for you and your loved ones.

Please visit www.cdc.gov/tobacco for information about the health effects of smoking, secondhand smoke, smokeless products, and e-cigarettes.

#PlantSeeds4BG

Earlier this month, our generous community rallied online to help Bronzeville Green Organic Landscaping as we hire more trainees for snow removal season.

So far with everyone’s contributions we have been able to secure: bus passes for new hires to get to work before their first paycheck, gloves, headband earmuffs, and face masks to keep our workers warm in the snow, and two cell phones for crews to take onsite in case of emergencies. We’re also in the process of buying a used truck so we can add more routes, allowing us to give more consistent hours to our current trainees and hire more workers.

Missed the campaign? Check it out at www.igive.com/organizations/trcwabash
TRC Residents Share Thanks

After dinner at the TRC Thanksgiving celebration, residents took to the podium to share with everyone what they were thankful for. Some multi-year residents even shared words of encouragement and advice to the new faces.

Here are just a few of the things our residents said they were thankful for:

“I’m grateful to TRC for accepting me... I struggled and made a lot of bad decisions for about 40 years. I’m getting better.... I’m just grateful that I’ve got somewhere to be, something to call my own.”

“I’d like to give thanks to my higher power for allowing me to be here today. I’ve struggled through a whole lot of things in life but I always kept my faith that one day I’m gonna be around some people that can help me through my addiction... As I work through these steps I see a better life day by day and I thank God for the people that he put in my life.”

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“I’m thankful for the people that have reached out to me, and I’ve learned how to reach back.”

“I’m thankful that we still have the building left because so many buildings are being abandoned now in our community and we still have a black institution up and running like this place.”

“Save the Date!

“Healthy Communities are Working Communities”

TRC Friendraiser Breakfast

February 28th, 7–10 a.m.

The Body Workout

Wednesdays 10-11 a.m.
@Senior Village, 346 E 53rd St

Led by fitness instructor Sheila Simmons, the “Body Workout” at Senior Village is FREE and open to local seniors. Join us!
The Renaissance Collaborative (TRC) is a community-based 501(c)3 social impact organization that has provided affordable housing, workforce development, employment, and educational services and solutions to over 1,000 individuals annually in Bronzeville and its adjacent communities for the past 27 years.

**OUR MISSION** is to promote self-sufficiency through an innovative and comprehensive network of supportive housing, employment, and educational services.

**TO DONATE** visit [www.trcwabash.org](http://www.trcwabash.org) or mail to 3757 S. Wabash Ave, Chicago IL 60653.