

This is Part 1 of a 10 part series of stories examining the complex socio-economic issue of poverty and unemployment in Chicago's North Lawndale community. The aim of the series is to foster prayerful contemplation about this critical social justice issue and then rally the Old St. Patrick's faith community to help eliminate barriers to employment for North Lawndale neighbors.



PART 1: NORTH LAWNSDALE PAST AND PRESENT

By: Patricia Sullivan

Vision of Solidarity and Vitality

North Lawndale, a Chicago West Side community and close neighbor to Old St. Patrick's, has a rich history and potentially bright future. Its close proximity to the Illinois Medical District, convenient access to the Eisenhower Expressway and placement as a corridor between the western suburbs and Chicago Loop along Ogden Avenue (Historic Route 66) make it a geographically desirable location in the city. Many view it as a model of

revitalization and hope because of the proactive measures the North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council (NLCCC), other community organizations, businesses, churches, schools and elected officials are taking together. They are rallying the community to head off the displacing effects of wholesale gentrification. Through strategic alliances and initiatives, these coalitions are improving the quality of life in North Lawndale at present and positioning it to be a destination community in the future. Many Old St. Patrick's members and I are honored to walk with our neighbors at this pivotal time for both our communities.

Earlier Years

The Lawndale Christian Health Center's "North Lawndale History" tells how this neighborhood doubled its population between 1910 and 1920, from 46,226 to 93,750, and added 18,000 more people by 1930, when almost half of the 112,000 residents were Russian Jews. Roosevelt Road became the best-known Jewish commercial street in Chicago. Then, between 1930 and 1950, the Jewish population began to move into communities to the north as African-Americans began to replace them. This decade of "white flight," dropped the white population from 87,000 to less than 11,000 in 1960. Subsequently, the African-American population grew from 13,000 to more than 113,000, due to the continuing Great Migration from Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Louisiana and other southern states. By the mid-1960's North Lawndale was at its all-time population high, nearly 125,000, with 91% being African-American.



Civil Rights in the North

In 1966, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. traveled from the south and took up residence at 15th and Hamlin in North Lawndale to launch the Chicago Freedom Movement. The aim of this collaboration between King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Chicago's Coordinating Council of Community Organizations was to advocate on behalf of people suffering from housing discrimination in Chicago's slums.

After Dr. King's assassination on April 4, 1968, rioting ensued in Chicago West Side communities and in other United States cities as well. I personally remember being terrified as I watched the news on TV showing smashing of storefronts, looting and buildings set ablaze. Three years later, in my

senior year of high school, I traveled on the Kedzie bus from the South Side to work at the Sears Roebuck main headquarters on Homan and Arthington where Nichols Tower still stands. It was on this journey that I witnessed scarred, burnt out buildings and empty lots where buildings had once stood.



The area continued to be plagued by poverty, violence and unemployment, the effects of which are still evident today.

Rally Against Housing Discrimination

On July 10, 1966, more than 30,000 braved the 98-degree heat wave to hear Dr. King speak at a rally at Soldier Field. He said, "We are here because we're tired of living in rat-infested slums. We are tired of having to pay a median rent of \$97 a month in Lawndale for four rooms while whites in South Deering pay \$73 a month for five room. We are tired of being lynched physically in Mississippi, and we are tired of being lynched spiritually and economically here in the North."

Corporations that left North Lawndale, 1970-1990

- International Harvester
- Sears
- Sunbeam
- Western Electric
- Zenith

Divestment and Neglect

During the next two decades a series of economic and social disasters occurred for this increasingly isolated and segregated community. Pessimism, destruction of infrastructure from the 1968 riots and disinvestment accelerated declines in the neighborhood's population and local commerce. By 1970, 75% of the businesses that helped stabilize the community had left. Subsequently, housing deteriorated or was

abandoned so much so that North Lawndale lost almost half of its homes. African-Americans who could also left North Lawndale beginning a sharp population decline that extended through 2010. A Community Data Snapshot released by Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CCMP) in June 2019 shows the total North Lawndale population today at 35,947.

The Situation Today

So what is the state of North Lawndale in 2020? Community leaders along with engaged residents, workers, worshippers and civil servants are working diligently to revitalize the community through heightened civic engagement, affordable housing, improved infrastructure, better opportunities in education, health and employment and reductions in the types of despair and violence I saw decades ago. Today I see hope. The North Lawndale Kinship Initiative helps facilitate the Old St. Pat's community and our west side neighbors coming together to improve the quality of life in both our communities. North Lawndale Works will be one significant way of making it happen.



North Lawndale's Nichols Tower today (the original Sears Tower) at 906 S. Homan Ave.

Pat Sullivan is a North Lawndale Works Intern from the Catholic Theological Union, involved in Old St. Patrick's North Lawndale Kinship Initiative. Pat is working towards completing her Master's in Pastoral Studies.

SUGGESTED READING:

Family Properties: How the Struggle Over Race and Real Estate Transformed Chicago and Urban America - Beryl Satter

The story of racial injustices against African American homeowners in North Lawndale in the 1950's-70's, including redlining and contract buying. Read about the destabilizing residual effects these injustices had on that neighborhood and other similar ones across the United States. The book gives a vital context for understanding the Chicago West Side's housing patterns and economic repercussions to this day. It provides foundational understandings of the need and invitation for true kinship between the North Lawndale and Old St. Patrick's communities.

NEXT WEEK - PART 2 IN THE SERIES:

“A Call for Compassion and Justice for North Lawndale’s Job Seekers” by Vincent Guider

Removing barriers to employment for North Lawndale Neighbors.

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Removing barriers to employment for North Lawndale's job seeking adults.

- DONATE - Funds to help with daily expenses
- NETWORK - Jobs for those with criminal records
- ENGAGE - Advocacy for just laws, policies and practices in business

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PART 2: A CALL FOR COMPASSION AND JUSTICE FOR NORTH LAWNDLE'S JOB SEEKERS
 By: Vincent Guider

Looking Back:

Last week's compelling article in the Crossroads Bulletin by Patricia Sullivan recounted the history of North Lawndale and many factors that led to the community's present economic, political and physical conditions.

The Grand Scheme of Things:

To skeptical outsiders looking in today, North Lawndale is simply a blighted area infested with crime and violence. On the contrary, those in the know recognize the community's vitality, resilience, and promise that far overshadow the challenges that exist there. North Lawndale is on a proactive path to revitalization. This means holistically improving the community without exploiting and displacing the current residents. Through this approach, the residents are not held hostage to gentrification which, when improperly done, disrespects, out prices, and completely displaces the main stakeholders, the residents. Leaders and organizations in the community are working collegially and collaboratively to address their greatest challenges and at the same time lay the groundwork for long term prosperity. Please read about the extraordinary visioning, planning, and community action taking place in North Lawndale (very often with Old St. Patrick's members humbly present at the table). The following is the comprehensive and impressive "Quality of Life Plan" for the community published in 2019.

NORTH LAWNDALE: THE NEXT CHAPTER

(Visit bit.ly/NorthLawndale-TNC to read the full plan)

The future looks bright for our North Lawndale neighbors but they have significant hurdles to overcome today, and the issue of unemployment is one of the most pervasive and impactful among them.

Why So Much Unemployment?

Despite stereotypes labeling residents of communities like North Lawndale as lazy, ignorant, incompetent or apathetic, the contrary is true in more



cases than not. Adult job seekers there do not desire to be lifelong criminals or drug dealers. They, like people in other walks of life, are eager to work dignified, sustainable jobs with livable wages, be valued contributors to employers that hire them, provide for themselves and their families and be respectable citizens. However, what they so unjustly lack are opportunities and resources to do so. That's the justification for NORTH LAWNDALÉ WORKS.



The complex and cumulative effects of racism, the diabolical institution of slavery, divestment from the community by businesses and government, corporate greed, redlining, housing inequities, segregation, mass incarceration, the War on Drugs and underresourced education, health, and social services and subsequent poverty, crime and violence combine to hold people down. These overwhelming sociological conditions noticeably and inconveniently manifest in people's lives in the following forms:

- Delays - One's important endeavors are rarely timely or convenient.
- Inertia - One is stuck, unable to make forward progress.
- Humiliation - One's situation is embarrassing.
- Despair - One remains in a constant state of anxiety because there seems to be no easy way out.
- Isolation - One chooses or is forced to be removed from wider opportunities and the mainstream.
- Setbacks - One makes a step forward and is often caused to fall backward.

When one also factors in racial profiling of blacks and Hispanics, a lack of transportation, childcare, and funds to pay living expenses it becomes more understandable why so many people in communities like North Lawndale remain chronically jobless. They are not unwilling to work, they're simply blocked from opportunities, resources, and connections that lead to sustainable and meaningful jobs.



What We Can Do:

NORTH LAWNDALÉ WORKS is an Old St. Patrick's Church campaign calling all members to help remove barriers to employment for adults in North Lawndale and most especially those with past criminal convictions.

Please visit www.oldstpts.org/nlw to learn 3 ways the people of the Old St. Patrick's are rallying in support of our Chicago West Side neighbors.

NEXT WEEK - PART 3 IN THE SERIES:

“Called To Serve: Recognizing and Developing Gifts of North Lawndale’s Job Seekers”



Removing barriers to employment for North Lawndale's job seeking adults.

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PART THREE: Emmett's Story: Breaking through Barriers to Employment



Emmett Hasey

Tom Owens dedicated his life to empowering adults affected by homelessness and poverty to find quality employment. To serve communities around Chicago such as North Lawndale, he founded Cara in 1991 with a mission that goes beyond simply finding a job. Cara unlocks the power and purpose within our communities and ourselves to achieve real and lasting success.

Fast-forward to nearly 30 years and 10,000 jobs later, thousands of lives have been transformed, families have become stronger, and communities are more vibrant.

Emmett is one such life that has been impacted by Cara. When Emmett was nine years old, his mother died. To cope with this immense loss, Emmett turned to drugs and alcohol. He spent the next four decades of his life in addiction and in and out of the prison system. "I wasn't a bad man," says Emmett. "I was a man who was making bad choices."

Determined to once and for all change his ways, Emmett found sobriety at Pacific Garden Mission. It was there he was introduced to Cara. At Cara, Emmett learned how to change his behavior and his way of thinking. He began to "look with new eyes" – one of the five transformations taught in the Cara curriculum. Looking with new eyes allows you to see yourself, other people, and opportunities in that very

moment – not from who you were in the past. Where you previously saw problems, you can reframe and see the potential. This discovery gave Emmett a newfound sense of hope for himself.

Emmett joined Cleanslate, Cara’s social enterprise that provides transitional employment in exterior maintenance services to revitalize communities and keep them safe and clean. “The first day I put on a Cleanslate uniform to go to work, I just remember being so thankful for that opportunity. I knew this was going to change me for the better.”

But the truth is that Emmett was ready to change his own life. Cara gave him the tools and the support that he needed to get started, but he had the motivation to succeed. Today, Emmett is gainfully employed for almost two years with the Chicago Transit Authority as a Car Servicer. He has an apartment in Uptown that he shares with his new wife, Sanora, who he met at Pacific Garden Mission.

Tom Owens believed wholeheartedly that to whom much is given much is expected. The Cara community strives to follow in his example every day.

For people facing barriers to employment, supporting NORTH LAWNDALE WORKS is an opportunity for you to invest in people ready to rise out of poverty. Please support North Lawndale Works.

- (a.) Donate to help people like Emmett with their daily expenses while they look for work,
- (b.) Network with background-friendly employers that will consider opening up entry-level jobs for people with criminal backgrounds, or
- (c.) Engage with Old St. Patrick’s programs that advocate removing barriers to employment.

Together we can make a difference.

Emmett Hasey is a Cara Graduate in the Class of 2017.

Visit www.oldstpats.org/nlw today to learn what you can do to remove barriers to employment for job seekers in North Lawndale.





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PART FOUR: EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS FOR REENTERING CITIZENS

By Martana Wilkins



Martana Wilkins

I am a 30-year old African American ex-offender who has had a clean record for the last 8 years. I do not smoke, drink or do drugs. After my release from prison, I obtained my high school diploma in an accredited adult education program and am now taking online college classes. I have been struggling to find decent employment since I was released from prison. Let me tell you about one of my frequent experiences.

Last October 2019, I had a day I will never forget. It was my second interview with a janitorial service in Bensenville, Illinois. I did everything I could to prepare myself for this meeting because my wife and I were falling behind with our bills. We could not pay the rent, we were low on food, there were few options for transportation and to put it in a nutshell, we were broke. I worked on preparing myself for the interview and I did my research learning about the company because I was ready to work and provide for my family.

At that time, I was living on the west side of Chicago, so I estimated the commute to be at least an hour to travel to the 10:00 a.m. interview. A good friend of mine sent me money by Western Union so I could cover my transportation expenses. I got to the interview at 9:46 a.m. I asked God to please let this be my big break because I had previously been turned down for job after job after job. I looked at my phone and noticed I had a text from my wife expressing how she believed in her heart that I would get the job. Seeing how this was my second interview, I wanted to believe that this would be true. I adjusted my clothing and proudly walked through the door. Flashing a smile, I introduced myself to Mr. Jones.

The interview with Mr. Jones felt like it was going great. He gave me a quick tour of the company.

Mr. Jones introduced me to another employee saying I would be working closely with him on my assignments. We really connected as he spoke about the day to day responsibilities of the job. After we returned to his office, he looked at me and said, "I want to offer you this position if you will accept." Mr. Jones said, "I feel you are the guy for this job because you have charisma, skills, availability, and dedication to work for this company." I began shaking his hand and thanked him over and over again. I filled out and signed the paperwork. Mr. Jones said he would email me a start date. I was so excited.

After I got outside, I could not help but text my wife telling her I got the position. She was so happy and proud of me. In the days that followed I checked my emails regularly. Having no news, I emailed Mr. Jones asking him when would be a good time to discuss a start date. My wife had started to get concerned. A week later I received an email from Mr. Jones telling me, "Unfortunately we cannot bring you onboard due to a recent background check, but we will keep your resume on file." I felt let down because I had qualified for the job but got rejected for making a bad choice way back when I was 19 years old. The background check blocked my chance for a job I really wanted and needed.

Since that interview, my constant rejections and the subsequent financial strain caused a separation between my wife and me. Legal barriers that limit employment opportunities for people with criminal records continue to prevent individuals like me from entering the labor force and they deprive us of chances to become tax-paying citizens with the ability to care for ourselves and our families.

Dishwashing jobs that I could work did not pay enough for me to support my wife and son. These types of jobs that pay very low wages, provide few benefits and are physically draining offer few chances for dignity or upward mobility. They often turn ex-offenders like me back to bad choices or completely giving up. Even though we've already paid our debt to society, our punishment does not end when we're released from prison. If only people would allow us to get past mistakes we made long ago and experience full redemption. We, like everyone else, want to experience the dignity of decent jobs that pay livable wages with benefits.

NORTH LAWNDALE WORKS is a campaign rallying the people of Old St. Patrick's to help remove barriers to employment for North Lawndale residents who, like Martana, face constant rejection from employers because of their records. Here's how you can help:

- (a.) **DONATE** toward the daily expenses of job seekers like Martana Wilkins while they look for work and adjust to new jobs in the early weeks of employment.
- (b.) **NETWORK** with background-friendly employers that will open up entry-level jobs for people with criminal backgrounds.
- (c.) **ENGAGE** with social justice initiatives at Old St. Patrick's that advocate to remove barriers to employment.

Visit www.oldstpats.org/nlw today to learn what you can do.





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PART FIVE: OVERCOMING EMPLOYMENT OBSTACLES - A CHALLENGE FOR NORTH LAWNDALE RESIDENTS

By Christyn S. Freemon
 Business Solutions Manager, North Lawndale Employment Network



Christyn S. Freemon

Often times more than a job is needed for those individuals at or below the federal poverty level guidelines. Job seekers in communities like North Lawndale have a number of obstacles to overcome when they are trying to secure gainful employment. In addition to the lack of available living wage jobs in the neighborhood, there are other barriers job seekers must overcome to have any chance of gaining successful employment.

Many job seekers start with a stirring motivation, a personal yearning, to improve themselves, provide for their families and pursue the "American Dream," but they often become discouraged by the obstacles blocking their way.

Instead of that yearning being supported by a social network, including family and friends with access to resources and positive feedback, those who want to better themselves are thwarted by minimal education, no driver's licenses, inability to afford automobiles, or if they have them they cannot afford insurance, city stickers and license fees. They are then forced to rely on public transportation. These expenses, and the cost of childcare which would allow them to pursue employment make it nearly impossible to enter the workforce.

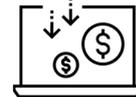
Average Unemployment, 2013 - 2017	
USA	4.3%
City of Chicago	9.9%
North Lawndale	47.7%



Here are two stories from North Lawndale residents who turned to the North Lawndale Employment Network (NLEN) a local workforce development organization, to receive job readiness training and wrap around support.

I have lived in the North Lawndale community all my life and had no idea that NLEN even existed until I attended a resource fair there. I attended an orientation and was interested in the Commercial Driver's License Program. At the start of the program, I was jobless with childcare and transportation issues. I felt anxious, stressed and alone. There were times I wanted to give up, but thinking about my dependent child made me keep trying to find a solution.

Average Household Income, 2013 - 2017	
USA	\$57,652
City of Chicago ...	\$52,497
North Lawndale ...	\$26,362



The North Lawndale Employment Network has helped me tremendously. I am currently working as a Program Assistant at NLEN which allows me to provide for myself and my child.

- Sabrina, Former NLEN Client and present NLEN Employee

I started the NLEN program in June of 2019 and I gotta say that was the best thing to happen to me. They provided me with 7-day bus cards to get back and forth; they helped me get job ready resumes and complete job applications. I always got help from NLEN when I needed it. They also arranged an interview for me with the CTA but I didn't have the right clothes to wear so they took me to buy clothes so I'd make the right first impression. Yes, I got the job! NLEN even helped me get my uniform for work. Now, I am a full-time employee for the CTA thanks to NLEN.

- Milton, Former NLEN Client and present CTA Second Chance Apprentice

NORTH LAWNSDALE WORKS is a campaign calling on people of Old St. Patrick's to help remove barriers to employment for North Lawndale residents like Sabrina and Milton. These adults need your help to overcome obstacles preventing them from securing dignified, living wage jobs. Here's how you can help:

DONATE toward the daily expenses of job seekers in North Lawndale while they search for a job and eventually start working. Cash and gift cards are greatly needed to help recover the burdensome costs of searching for work and retaining it once they initially get hired. Donations help account for transportation, food, childcare, mobile phone bills, Internet service and workplace attire.

NETWORK with background-friendly employers that will consider hiring people with criminal backgrounds. These job seekers want and deserve second chances in life.

ENGAGE with social justice initiatives at Old St. Patrick's that advocate to remove barriers to employment.

Visit oldstpats.org/nlw today to learn what you can do to remove barriers to employment for North Lawndale neighbors.

Learn more about the North Lawndale Employment Network at NLEN.org.





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PART SIX: UPWARD MOBILITY OR NOT FOR NORTH LAWNDALE'S CHILDREN?
By: Patricia Sullivan



Patricia Sullivan

The Outlook for Disadvantaged Youth

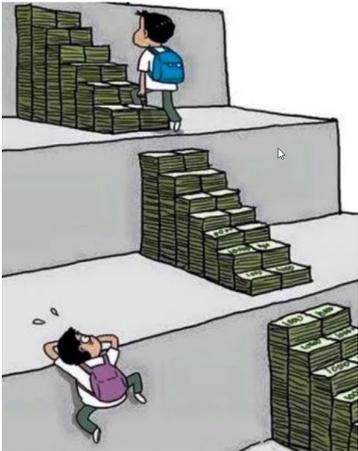
Adults in North Lawndale want to improve their children's chances of achieving social and economic upward mobility, but many in the community lack the opportunities and resources to make it happen. Timothy Smeeding wrote an interesting article examining barriers that keep parents in lower, vulnerable groups in our society, and he also offers ideas about the significance of supporting "upward mobility among truly disadvantaged parents with multiple obstacles facing them and their children" (99).

Smeeding points out that studies have shown that wealthy, educated parents have greater ability to invest in their children. Highly skilled parents value education and make sure that their children reach the highest level of educational attainment possible. Early childhood development is supported by hours spent reading and personal interaction with a young child. Even if their careers keep parents absent from home, educated hired caretakers provide emotional support and childhood development opportunities. "Parental investments, income, wealth, and social institutions affect each step of the life course" of children. (100)

According to Smeeding, "Reeves and Sawhill (2015) argues that overall social mobility is unacceptably low in the United States today: between 36 and 40 percent of those born into the bottom quintile remain there as adults" (101). Parents are faced with barriers that are not only "low economic resources, but also include a set of mechanisms and processes that discourage opportunity" (99).

Forces Influencing Social Mobility

Family instability and insecurity is often passed on from generation to generation. Labor market trends show that opportunities for the unskilled and undereducated have fallen. Manufacturing has decreased dramatically in our urban areas moving into the suburbs or outsourced to other countries. Public transportation to manufacturing jobs in distant suburbs are problematic because of the length of traveling times and an unavailability of transportation services, especially on the third shift where there are the most entry level job openings. These inconveniences dramatically limit the ability of



"The Sad Truth" Image Source: 9gag.com/gag/aOm7wnR?



disadvantaged parents to spend time with their children and position them for other life enriching opportunities.

The Race Factor

Smeeding focused on “adult outcomes for black children, children coming from families with low levels of adult education, and children growing up in a single-parent and complex families” (102). He argues that the mobility in these circumstances “suggests even lower mobility for the current generation born into these same circumstances” (102). He says, “research on differences in mobility between blacks and whites reveals: (1) on average, blacks experience less upward mobility and whites less downward mobility; (2) whites are on average 20 to 30 percentage points more likely to experience upward mobility than blacks are; (3) studies of older cohorts find that almost 50 percent of black children born into the bottom 20 percent of the income distribution were in the same position as adults, but that only 23 percent of white children born in that quintile were” (107).

position as adults, but that only 23 percent of white children born in that quintile were” (107).

North Lawndale Wants to Improve Children’s Life Outcomes by:

- Strengthening family formation and parenting options through church, city, state and federal support.
- Removing child care and transportation barriers to employment through partnerships with the North Lawndale Employment Network, Cara Chicago and Old St. Patrick’s.
- Positioning children for future economic upward mobility through quality education and other life enriching opportunities.

Timothy M. Smeeding, “Multiple Barriers to Economic Opportunity for the “Truly” Disadvantaged and Vulnerable,” *The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*, Vol. 2, No. 2 (May 2016): 99-102, 107.

North Lawndale Works is a call for the people of Old St. Patrick’s to help remove barriers to employment for adults in North Lawndale so they can secure better futures for their children. Here’s how you can help:

1. **DONATE** toward the burdensome daily expenses of job seekers. Cash and gift cards are greatly needed for public transportation, childcare, Internet service and work attire.
2. **NETWORK** with background-friendly employers that will hire job seekers with criminal backgrounds into entry level positions.
3. **ENGAGE** with initiatives at Old St. Patrick’s, removing barriers to employment and advocating for dignity and justice for God’s people in many walks of life. Learn how you can engage at oldstpats.org/nlw

Pat Sullivan is completing her Master’s in Pastoral Studies from the Catholic Theological Union of Chicago by serving as an Intern for North Lawndale Works through the North Lawndale Kinship Initiative at Old St. Patrick’s.

NEXT WEEK – PART 7 IN THE SERIES:

“Effects of Incarceration in the North Lawndale Community”



North Lawndale Works

Removing barriers to employment for North Lawndale neighbors.

Send Forth Sunday
February 23, 2020





Removing barriers to employment for North Lawndale's job seeking adults.

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PART SEVEN: COUNTERACTING THE EFFECTS OF MASS INCARCERATION AND JOBLESSNESS IN NORTH LAWNDALE
By: Vincent Guider and Patricia Sullivan

Old St. Patrick's is contributing to the removal of barriers to employment for neighbors in the North Lawndale community. Through the North Lawndale Works Campaign Old St. Patrick's members and friends help ease the crippling effects of racism, incarceration and other social ills that bring about unemployment and poverty. This campaign is one way we answer Jesus' command that we love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

Challenges to Job Seekers

Love demands that we understand and justly respond to an out-of-control prison system, often called *Mass Incarceration*. This system historically subjects black and brown citizens, and most especially poor ones, to heightened social scrutiny, more arrests by law enforcement, and harsher convictions with longer prison terms than those imposed on people in other racial groups. Mass incarceration also transfers wealth out of already marginalized communities thus severely destabilizing family and community life. By contrast, white citizens are more inclined to receive leniency from law enforcement officials, quality legal representation, shorter terms of incarceration and social support and employment opportunities after their stints with the legal system. Tragically, the justice system is quite simply unjust in many cases for people who live in predominantly black and brown areas of the city. North Lawndale is one of those areas.

Ryan Hollon, an urban planner living and working in Chicago, tells of a time the Chicago West Side's 60624 zip code where North Lawndale is located "accounted for 12% of the Illinois prison population." The June 2019 Community Data Snapshot of the US Census reported that in 2017 a little over 93% of North Lawndale's residents were black, nearly half were under 34 years old and 87% of them were formerly incarcerated (returning citizens). The challenges today's North Lawndale residents face were neither their intent nor the result of their incapability, immortality or failure as citizens. They, for the most part, inherited a community decimated by decades long racism, neglect and disinvestment by businesses and government. Today, they want and deserve better.

Burdens on Returning Citizens

Black, Hispanic and female returning citizens looking for work face paralyzing "prison penalties" that can hamper them for a lifetime if people of compassion do not intervene. Even though these women and men already paid their just debts to society for mistakes made long ago, they are subject to being blocked from second chances to redeem themselves, rebuild their lives and provide for their families. Labeled as "ex-cons" and written off as unemployable, these job seekers struggle to overcome: negative stigmas; discrimination; stress and feelings of hopelessness; a dearth of honest, dignified work in or near their communities; inadequate housing, transportation, childcare or spending money so they can get to work; temptations to act out of desperation to try and make ends meet; and the lingering threat of eventual reincarceration or death. These barriers to employment, all byproducts of Mass Incarceration, are only eased when



people of means and compassion provide job seekers with resources and opportunities they need to secure entry level employment that pay livable wages and enables them to enjoy the dignity and stability that good jobs can provide.

Residual Effects on Families

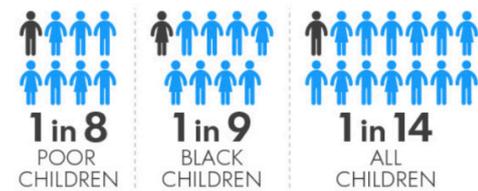
Family members of returning citizens also suffer the effects of Mass Incarceration. Those with presently incarcerated or newly returning relatives endure psychological and financial pains and social stigmas because their loved ones are away and suffering. Children separated from their elders suffer most. In the absence of parents and grandparents, children are often placed with other relatives or end up in foster homes further destabilizing family structures. A federally commissioned estimate calculated \$4.7 trillion in lost long-term economic potential in the nation by young people who are disconnected from their elders, schools and chances to work jobs. The consequential hidden costs to families were measured as well and these included: separations and divorces; other interrupted family relationships; lower educational attainment; decreased economic output; visitation expenses; increased instances of criminality; higher risks to children's safety, homelessness; lower property values; evictions and poorer health outcomes including premature death and infant mortality.



AP Photo/Stephen Morton

PARENTAL INCARCERATION

More than 5 million U.S. children have an incarcerated parent.



SOURCE: Child Trends' analysis of the National Survey of Children's Health
Janet Loehrke, USA TODAY



Graphic from USA TODAY

Given these stark realities, our kinship with the North Lawndale community and the vitality of the Old St. Patrick's Community, the North Lawndale Works Team invites all members and friends of the congregation to contribute to the mission of removing barriers to employment for our North Lawndale neighbors. Please join us for the official launch of North Lawndale Works after the masses on Sunday, February 23.

1. Ryan Hollon, "Moving Beyond Boundaries: Restorative Justice and Reconciliation as Complementary Paths in Peacemaking," *Moving Beyond Boundaries Review and Expositor*, 104 (Summer 2007): 580, 583.
2. Community Data Snapshot released by Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning in June 2019.
3. Stephanie Kollmann, Children and Family Justice Center, *The Costliest Choice: Economic Impact of Youth Incarceration, Community Safety and the Future of Illinois' Youth Prisons Vol. 3* (March 2018).

Pat Sullivan is a North Lawndale Works Intern from the Catholic Theological Union, involved in Old St. Patrick's North Lawndale Kinship Initiative. Pat is working towards completing her Master's in Pastoral Studies. Vincent Guider is on staff at Old St. Patrick's as Director of the North Lawndale Kinship Initiative which sponsors North Lawndale Works.

SEND FORTH SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2020
15 MINUTE RALLY FOLLOWING THE 8 AM, 9:30AM, 11:15 AM & 5 PM MASSES
HUGHES HALL (LOWER LEVEL OF THE CHURCH)

Enjoy light refreshments, view the new North Lawndale Works video, and hear personal testimony.

DONATE funds or gift cards to ease expenses of North Lawndale job seekers while they look for work.

NETWORK and ENGAGE to provide entry level jobs for returning citizens and to advocate for just laws and policies related to employment.

Also DONATE, NETWORK or ENGAGE online today at oldstpats.org/nlw

North Lawndale Works Committee: Reri Barrett, North Lawndale Employment Network, Erin Brinkman Dynek, OSP, Christyn Freeman, North Lawndale Employment Network, Kevin Gallagher, OSP, Vince Guider, OSP and Kinship Initiative Executive Director, Maureen Hellwig, OSP, Mike Hobbs, OSP, Robert Kastenholz, OSP, Barry Pollard, OSP, Kathie Stokes, OSP & Cara, Pat Sullivan, Catholic Theological Union and Intern for OSP. **Contact us at vincentg@oldstpats.org**





Removing barriers to employment for North Lawndale's neighbors.

TODAY, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 IS SEND FORTH SUNDAY AT OLD ST. PATRICK'S.
All members, friends and visitors are cordially invited . . .

North Lawndale Works Official Launch
15-minute rallies to begin a year-long Old St. Patrick's campaign to remove barriers to employment for North Lawndale neighbors.

oldstpats.org/nlw

RALLY TIMES, LOCATIONS AND OBJECTIVES:
 Immediately following 8 am, 9:30 am and 11:15 am Masses - Francis Xavier Warde Cafeteria
 Immediately following 5 pm Mass - Hughes Hall (Lower level of the church)
 30-minutes prior to 8:00 pm Mass - Hospitality Table outside church (Weather permitting)

- Refreshments
- Brief speaker
- Premiere of the new North Lawndale Works Video (5:00)
- Opportunities to donate, network and engage for the cause

The North Lawndale Works Mission:

North Lawndale Works is a year-long campaign helping to remove barriers to employment for North Lawndale neighbors as an extension of the North Lawndale Kinship Initiative and social justice concerns at Old St. Patrick's, the campaign puts wind beneath the wings of the readings, thoughts, discussion and prayers of people willing to actively reduce joblessness and poverty on Chicago's West side.



Whereas American employment figures are at historic lows today, the situation is much different for residents of North Lawndale. National income statistics further reflect the economic disparity between North Lawndale and more privileged, better resourced communities.

Unemployment in 2018

United States	4%
City of Chicago	9.9%
North Lawndale overall	19.9%
North Lawndale, ages 18-35.	47%

Median Household Income in 2018

United States	\$60,293
City of Chicago	\$55,198
North Lawndale	\$22,383

Source: US Census

The Old St. Patrick's Mission:

Encounter the God who loves you. Engage the community who welcomes you. Serve the world that needs you.

Given these missions and statistics every Old St. Patrick's member and friend is invited to join in making a difference in one or more of the following three ways:



1. Please DONATE

Cash and gift cards are greatly needed to ease the financial burdens related to looking for work and starting new jobs once they're hired.

Donations of funds, Ventra Cards, Visa or Mastercards and also gift cards for major grocery and department stores are beneficial. Some examples of how your donations help are:

Donations of:	Provide:
\$20	Ventra card (CTA/Pace) fare cards for 2 people, round trip, for 1 day.
\$50	8 - 10 hours of private childcare for the child of a job seeker for 2 days.
\$100	1 pair of inexpensive shoes and 1 shirt or blouse for an interview for 1 person.
\$250	Assistance with a mobile phone bill and food for one family of 4.
\$500	Funds for an entrepreneurial-minded job seeker to prepare a private vehicle for ride and cost sharing with co-workers to and from the job site for 1 month.
\$1,000	Transportation and food for 5 newly hired workers until they receive their first 2-week paycheck.
\$2500	Critical unrestricted emergency assistance for new workers on the brink of making employment breakthroughs.

Ways to Donate:

- Visit oldstpts.org/nlw. Please select "North Lawndale Works" from the dropdown menu.
- Drop off gift cards in the collection basket, at the Hospitality Table before and after Sunday Masses or at the Fr. Jack Wall Mission Center, 711 W. Monroe Street, 3rd Floor, Mon - Fri, 9 am - 5 pm.
- Mail checks or gift cards to: Old St. Patrick's Church, 711 W. Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois 60661. Attn: North Lawndale Works. Please indicate North Lawndale Works on the notation line of the check.
- Donations of clothing, shoes, electronic devices or vehicles are not being accepted.

2. Please NETWORK

Since networking is essential to landing a good job in today's business environment, and because these job seekers have little or no access to such networks, they need help making connections with employers that will consider hiring them. Please reach out to business owners, managers, HR personnel, co-workers, friends and family in your circles of influence in positions to hire North Lawndale residents with criminal backgrounds into entry level jobs. By leveraging your networks, you provide opportunities they cannot find on their own.



Types of Entry Level Positions to Consider:

Food service | Driving | Equipment operation | Maintenance | Mailroom | Reception Product assembly
 Administrative aid | Tech support | Security | Customer Service | Manufacturing | Hospitality | and more . . .

Note - A workforce development professional from the North Lawndale Employment Network (NLEN) or Cara Chicago will contact you to explore the job opportunity and provide ongoing support to the job seeker and employer.



Job seekers to benefit from North Lawndale Works are workforce ready clients of NLEN and Cara. These two agencies have successfully prepared, placed, supported and tracked thousands of adult job seekers facing significant barriers to employment.



Visit oldstpts.org/nlw to learn more about these partnering agencies.



THANK YOU OLD ST. PATRICK'S FOR HELPING TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT FOR NORTH LAWNSDALE NEIGHBORS.

DONATE - Cash, Venra, Uber, Lyft, Visa or Mastercard gift cards as well as gift cards for major grocery and department stores are needed to ease the financial burdens placed upon job seekers. These donations help to offset expenses of job seekers while they look for work and after they eventually settle into new jobs (until they receive a 2nd paycheck).

Here's what your donations can provide:

Donations of:	Provide:
\$20	Ventra card (CTA/Pace) fare cards for 2 people, round trip, for 1 day.
\$50	8 - 10 hours of private childcare for the child of a job seeker for 2 days.
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NETWORK - Please contact business owners, managers, co-workers, friends and family members you know who are in positions to hire adults with criminal backgrounds into entry level jobs. These job seekers have few connections in business networks, so by leveraging yours, you provide opportunities these job seekers cannot find on their own.

Examples of Entry Level Jobs are: food service; driving, equipment operation, maintenance, mailroom, reception, product assembly, administrative aid, tech support, security, customer service, manufacturing, hospitality and more.

ENGAGE - Examine, pray for and get involved in social justice initiatives in the Old St. Patrick's community and beyond. Learn about these initiatives in the Old St. Patrick's Crossroads Bulletin and online at www.oldstpats.org.

DONATE, NETWORK AND ENGAGE today at: oldstpats.org/nlw

Your faith, generosity and social action transforms the City of Chicago and God's Kingdom.

Sincerely:

The North Lawndale Works Team
 Reri Barrett, North Lawndale Employment Network
 Erin Brinkman Dynek, OSP
 Christyn Freeman, North Lawndale Employment Network
 Kevin Gallagher, OSP
 Vince Guider, OSP and Kinship Initiative Executive Director
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