

Thursday's Child

ChapinHall
at the University of Chicago



Location, Location, Location: Combating Urban Poverty through Place-Based Initiatives December 11, 2008

Robert Chaskin is an associate professor at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration and a research fellow at Chapin Hall, where he directs the International Network of Child Policy Research Centers. His research focuses primarily on the role of community and community-based efforts to improve the lives of children and families. He was the principal investigator for the national evaluation of the Ford Foundation's Neighborhood and Family Initiative and for a series of studies on approaches to neighborhood-based governance as a mechanism to promote community development and improve the lives of children and families. He is coauthor of *Building Community Capacity* (Aldine 2001) and coeditor of *Research for Action* (Oxford 2007). He holds a master's degree in anthropology and a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Chicago.

Ajay Chaudry is director of the Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population at the Urban Institute. Previously, he was deputy commissioner for the New York City Administration for Children Services, where he oversaw the Division of Child Care and Head Start. He was a faculty member and senior research fellow at the New School University Milano Graduate School of Management and Urban Policy for 11 years. He is the author of *Putting Children First* (Russell Sage 2004). He holds a bachelor's degree in urban studies and mathematics from Columbia University and a master's and Ph.D. in public policy from Harvard University.

Craig Howard is the director of community and economic development for the Program on Human and Community Development at the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, with responsibility for grantmaking in neighborhood revitalization and public housing transformation. He has more than 25 years of nonprofit experience, most of it in workforce and community economic development, designing and implementing replicable programs that create jobs and opportunities for disadvantaged people. Throughout his career, he has been committed to measuring the results of programs and funding only those that can show measurable results. He holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Massachusetts and master's degrees in both public health and international affairs from Columbia University.

Celena Roldán is director of child care at Erie Neighborhood House where she oversees all aspects of the Preschool and Family Child Care Homes programs, including child care administrators, support staff, site directors, social workers, psychologists, coordinators, and program assistants. Previously, she served as a social worker at one of Erie House's community partner agencies, Casa Central, where she actively assisted homeless families resolve the financial, educational, and social issues that contributed to their homeless situation. She was also a youth program coordinator for children age 6 to 16 living at Casa Central. She holds a master's degree in early childhood administration from National Louis University, and a MSW from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Matthew Stagner is the executive director of Chapin Hall and a senior lecturer at the Irving B. Harris School of Public Policy Studies at the University of Chicago. Prior to joining Chapin Hall, he directed the Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population at the Urban Institute, and also served as director of the Division of Children and Youth Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He is an expert on youth risk behaviors, child welfare services, and program evaluation. He holds a MPP from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and a Ph.D. from the Harris School of Public Policy Studies.