

THE **GARFIELD** **LAWNDALE** VOICE

Volume 2, No. 3

Chicago's Largest West Side Newspapers

Week of January 25, 2006

MANLEY'S 2-YEAR HOUSE PARTY REBUILDS TAYLOR STREET HOME IN LAWNDALE



Manley graduate Carmen Morrison with her daughter, the new owners of the Taylor Street home rebuilt by students in the Umoja program. (Photo by Brad)



Manley Principal Katherine Flanagan congratulates her students and thanks corporate partners for supporting Umoja and making possible completion of the second home rehab. (Photo by Brad)

Harris Bank, Kenny Construction, and an array of other firms, convincing them to share their knowledge, skills, workforce, and money, providing needed resources to bring education to life.

Umoja teamed with Michael Dimitroff, Manley's Construction Technology Small School Director in bringing classroom learning to life. He explains, "Education is not what you know, it's what you do."

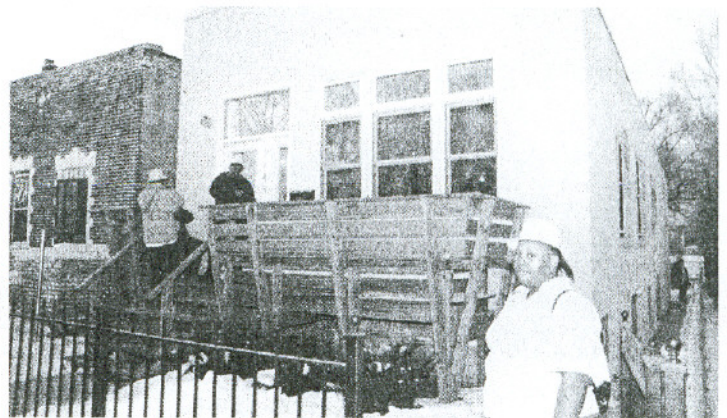
The proof of the program is that a house has been saved, a family owns their own home and gets to stay in the neighborhood, two students earned their union cards, a young lady is excelling as an architecture student at Southern Illinois University, and over 100 young men and women gained pride in their accomplishment and confidence in their abilities.

The Taylor Street house is the second home reconstruction project completed by Manley students, having rehabbed a house in the 2800 block of Polk Street in 1997.

Katherine Flanagan, Manley's Principal said, "Classrooms cannot be contained in our school," and joined Lila Leff in appealing for more construction projects to be given to the school.

Before Umoja came to Manley, fewer than 10% of graduates went on to college. Now, with Umoja programs and support, more than 60% of graduates attend colleges across the country.

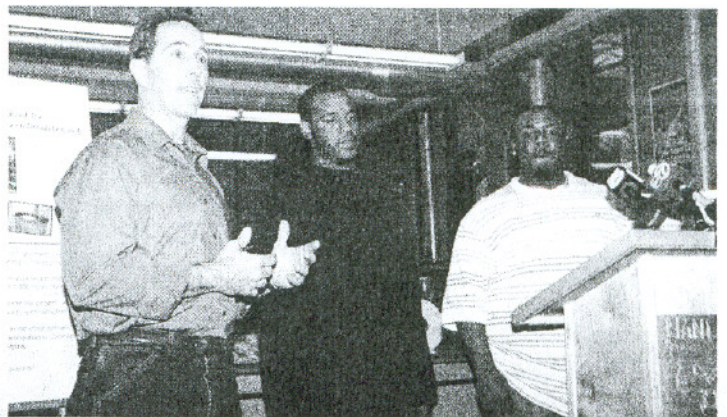
For information on Umoja and Manley High School programs, call: 773/534-8877.



Manley students redesigned and reconstructed this house at 2818 West Taylor Street as a school project. (Photo by Brad)



Michael Dimitroff with current & former Manley students who participated in the Umoja project reconstructing the abandoned, fire-damaged house at 2818 West Taylor Street. (Photo by Brad)



Michael Dimitroff, Director of Manley's Construction Technology Small School, introduces Jonathan Hayes & Larry Doss who earned their union cards by working on the Umoja Taylor Street home reconstruction project. (Photo by Brad)

For two years, over 100 Manley High School students learned everything there is to know about building a house. Working under supervision of construction trade professionals, young men and women rebuilt a fire-damaged house around the corner from Manley that had been abandoned for 12 years. They learned every aspect of construction - carpentry, masonry, excavation, plumbing, electrical wiring, architecture, heating, drywall, and painting. Along the way, they became experts at load-bearing walls, support beams, reading blueprints and construction specs. They also became familiar with power tools and their uses, and recognized appropriate attachments.

Finally, the students participants in Umoja Student Development Corporation proudly turned over the keys to a Manley graduate and her family with the knowledge that the house at 2848 West Taylor Street is sound, stylish, and livable.

Umoja is the brainchild of Lila Leff and headquartered inside Manley High School. Since 1997, Leff has steered Umoja into unique partnerships with Steans Family Foundation, Enterprise Companies,