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*The opinions expressed are those of the writers, and not necessarily endorsed by Tenth Dems*

## Life is a Gift

By Rosemary Heilemann

It all started with a short email message: “We have an assignment for you, should you choose to accept it.”

What was I about to get into? They wanted me to write an article for the Tenth Dems newsletter about a Waukegan High School counselor, Chuck Gutman, who had already been the subject of a newsletter article just a year ago. That article, “On Citizenship: Chuck Gutman Helps Reinvigorate the American Dream for Waukegan Students” (see <http://www.tenthdems.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/201407NL.pdf>), highlighted Chuck’s creation of Envision Scholars, an organization that helped deserving students find their way to a college education. Chuck and Envision Scholars (which recently merged with Waukegan 2 College, an organization



*Arman Sheffey (right) donated one of his kidneys to Chuck Gutman (left).*

with similar goals) helped scores of Waukegan students realize their college dreams.

As readers of last year’s article learned, Chuck was suffering from kidney failure. His survival depended on his obtaining a kidney transplant.

It was the story of that kidney transplant that I *continued on page 3*



# Tenth News

[www.tenthdems.org](http://www.tenthdems.org)

AUGUST 2015 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 12, Edition 8

## Behind the Scenes at Tenth Dems: Young People at Work for a Better World

By Danielle Resnick

As schools let out for the summer and temperatures begin to rise, so does the energy in Tenth Dems offices. High school and college students and recent college graduates from around the 10th Congressional District gather for a fun, educational, hands-on experience as Tenth Dems summer interns. The Tenth Dems summer program is a time commitment of at least sixteen hours a week; however, interns often choose to devote much more of their time to these volunteer activities.

Tenth Dems prides itself in providing a very wide range of opportunities in a variety of fields, from planning and staffing events and doing research, to assisting state legislators in their offices, making the experience unique to each individual. Gaining knowledge and connections along the way, overall, the Tenth Dems interns are able to familiarize themselves with, and get personally involved in, the political process at a grassroots level. Interns frequently further their political careers after their summers with the Tenth Dems by obtaining jobs with elected officials and candidates in Springfield, as well as Washington, DC.

Here is an introduction to this year’s summer interns:

**Aneesa Ahmed:** Aneesa is no stranger to working in politics. Last summer she worked as an intern/field associate for Julie Morrison in her campaign for State Senate. That’s how Aneesa became aware



of the Tenth Dems and the organization’s work. Aneesa is a recent graduate of Lake Forest College, where she earned her bachelor’s degree in politics as well as economics. She loves to read, but also enjoys spending time outside, particularly playing tennis and swimming. Her dream job would be to one day work in politics as a

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# Bob Dold Fails to Rise to the Historic Moment

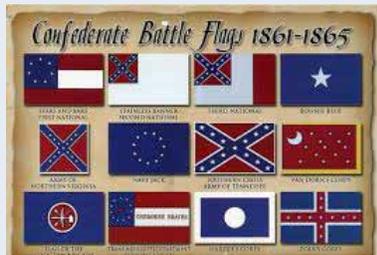
By Laurence D. Schiller



Just before midnight on Wednesday, July 8, Republican Jenny Horne rose in the South Carolina House to make an impassioned speech on behalf of her Charleston constituents. She urged passage of a bill that would remove the Confederate flag from the Capitol grounds, a flag that was first raised there in 1961 in defiance of the Civil Rights Movement.

“I cannot believe that we do not have the heart in this body to do something meaningful such as take a symbol of hate off these grounds ... I’m sorry, I have heard enough about heritage,” said the descendent of Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

## A Look at the History of Flags of the Confederacy



The flag that has been flying from so many public buildings in the South since the mid-20th century, which has mistakenly been referred to as “the Confederate flag,” was never the official flag of the Confederacy. Nor is that flag properly called “the stars and bars.” “Stars and bars” refers to the first national flag of the Confederacy, with its three bars of red, white, and red with a blue canton with stars in the upper left hand corner. (For more about historic Confederate flags, see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flags\\_of\\_the\\_Confederate\\_States\\_of\\_America](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flags_of_the_Confederate_States_of_America))

The flag that the Ku Klux Klan used to terrorize African Americans wasn’t adopted until the mid-20th century. It is a rectangular variant of Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia’s battle flag. The late Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina helped make this battle flag a symbol of the old South’s opposition to the Civil Rights Movement.

Strom Thurmond’s son Paul is now a member of the South Carolina Senate. History came full circle in late June when South Carolina State Senator Paul Thurmond publicly supported an end to flying this flag. ■

With that, after 14 hours of debate, the South Carolina House complied. On Friday, July 10, the flag came down.

At nearly the same time as Horne’s emotional speech, House Speaker John Boehner tried to sneak an amendment onto a National Parks appropriations bill that would have allowed Confederate flags and symbols to continue to be displayed in the U.S. Capitol and in our national parks. Southern Republicans had pushed for the amendment, unhappy with calls to prohibit flying Confederate flags from public buildings—calls arising from the massacre of nine innocents in the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. But Democrats caught on and challenged the parliamentary maneuver. Caught off guard by the Democrats’ intense reaction, Boehner pulled the spending bill without a vote.



The next day, on July 9, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi introduced a privileged resolution instructing that

“the Speaker of the House of Representatives remove any State flag containing any portion

of the Confederate battle flag, other than a flag displayed by the office of a Member of the House, from any area within the House wing of the Capitol or any House office building, and shall donate any such flag to the Library of Congress.”

(For the entire text of Minority Leader Pelosi’s resolution, see <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-resolution/355/text> ).

Pelosi’s resolution includes a statement of the historical fact that the Confederacy was a domestic insurrection against the United States and reasonably concludes that, as we do not allow the symbols of other groups opposed to the United States to exist in our public buildings and parks, we should not allow the symbol of the Confederacy to be displayed either. The flag in question, a rectangular variant of Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia’s battle flag, was resurrected in the mid-20th century by Strom Thurmond’s Dixiecrats and the Ku Klux Klan with but one purpose in mind: to oppose rights for Americans of African descent.

Before a vote could be taken on the question of barring this symbol of hatred from the Capitol, Republican whip Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) moved to refer the resolution to the House Administration Committee for “committee action.” This was the very procedure McCarthy had used to kill a virtually identical bill that Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MS), the sole African American member of the Mississippi delegation, had introduced days after the Charleston church massacre.

Pelosi countered by calling for a roll-call vote on whether to refer her resolution to remove Confederate flags from the Capitol to committee rather than vote on the resolution itself.



At this historic moment, 10th District Congressman Bob Dold could have stood up against hatred, against the symbol proudly waved not only by Charleston killer Dylann Roof, but also, for decades, by groups opposing civil rights, including the KKK.

But Dold remained seated. He spinelessly went along with his party and voted to consign Pelosi’s resolution to committee oblivion—and thus to retain the symbols of hate within the U.S. Capitol.

History rarely gives a man the chance to stand up and be counted. Dold failed to seize his moment. He failed to do the right thing for his constituents and his country.

Shame on you, Congressman Dold! ■

# Life is a Gift

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was asked to write.

Why is such a story appropriate for *Tenth News*? Because Chuck's life-saving kidney was donated to him by Arman Sheffey who, like Chuck, believes in doing whatever he can to make other people's lives better. Arman may not identify with a political party, but that's a value that we, as Democrats, share with him and Chuck. As Arman's aunt and godmother, Linda Patterson, pointed out, one person may not be able to change the world, but one person can change the world for one person.

Arman Sheffey is a minister who is sometimes known as "Pastor Fury." I watched him preach one of his sermons (on YouTube) about "how to deal with disappointment" and found him to be dynamic, humble, sympathetic, and encouraging. And young!

When we talked on the phone, Arman told me he had been given a chance to work with a youth group over the summer. This was a good fit because he had been a teacher and his current daytime job was with a private



educational organization. His goal was to tie the concepts he preached to a variety of actual experiences, such as bringing the students to work at the "Feed My Starving Children" workplace in Libertyville.

Back when Arman saw a Facebook posting about Chuck's need for a healthy kidney, he wanted to help. He underwent testing to find out whether he was a genetic match. Once he learned that he was, indeed, a match, he didn't hesitate.

Although genetically compatible and sharing an interest in the education of young people, Arman Sheffey and Chuck Gutman do not appear to the casual observer to be at all alike. Chuck is white and Jewish; Arman is African American and Christian. But these men are brothers in the most meaningful way—both are dedicated to making the world a better place.

And once I sat down with both men, I discovered that Chuck and Arman had even more similarities in their lives. Both had experienced difficult times. Both had made conscious decisions to try to help others and believe that this is what gave their lives meaning. Each has his favorite quotes and ways of spreading ideas for empowering others, especially youth. They both live this every day of their lives. Surprisingly, in separate interviews with me, both of them quoted from Oprah Winfrey's commencement address to

the Harvard University class of 2013. "Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive and then go do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive." (Oprah was quoting theologian Howard Thurman.)

Sometimes you catch a lucky break. Accepting this assignment not only led to meeting two extraordinary men, it also netted me an invitation to a celebration. A Waukegan friend told me that Chuck was hosting a party to honor Arman, so I asked if I could come. It was held at the Jane Addams Center at Bowen Park on a beautiful Sunday evening. The park was filled with so many groups of people enjoying the perfect summer weather and the beautiful park facilities. Happiness and community were in the air. Chuck and his helpers had set up the Addams Center with long tables, folding chairs, and a groaning buffet table. There were also pledge sheets for the "Gift of Life" college scholarship fund being set up in Arman Sheffey's honor. (see <http://armansheffey.com/scholarship>)

The place was packed. Most of the attendees were Chuck's friends, family, and students who made the time to come and thank Arman for giving life to this man they love. There were speeches and tears of gratitude and inspiration. Chuck and Arman's story had inspired a friend,

David Carpenter, so much that he was donating his kidney anonymously the following week. Chuck's sister spoke of her gratitude and love. Chuck's friend Claudia Clavey pointed out all the love there was in the room. Kaream Williams got a laugh when he described his befuddlement when Mr. Gutman stopped him in the school hallway during his first few weeks of high school and asked where he planned to go to college. One of Chuck's



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# Life is a Gift

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Envision Scholars, Kaream has now just completed his freshman year of college. Arman's mother, Carolyn Sheffey, shared her motherly fears when she heard what her son was planning, but she understood and supported his decision.

This was the perfect lead-in as Pastor Arman took the microphone. He told about his own dark days. He said that "accepting Jesus' sacrificial gift of life," along with the steadfast and unconditional love of his wife Lariza, "had taught him the way to live." He asked the question, "How far does love go?" When he saw the Facebook posting asking for a kidney donor for Chuck, a man he had been acquainted with in the past, he and Lariza decided to take one more step for love. Arman went on to tell us that, even though we might not give a kidney, we can go one more step for love in other ways. We can say hello to a lonely co-worker, help out a neighbor, or lend a hand to others. All are ways of giving love that rebound back to us.

Chuck finished up the speeches by reminding all of us to find our life's mission and live it. It was all very wonderful and inspiring.



Before and after the speeches, I went from person to person with my notebook and pen, just like Lois Lane. Waukegan High School colleagues Marsha Weinstein and Rose Kattzhan praised Chuck's love of learning and willingness to help anyone. Waukegan High School graduate Brandon Ewing told me enthusiastically about the group Chuck formed named "Men of Vision" to help young men "think, look, act, and be successful." Gilberto Colin, in his third year at DePaul, credited Chuck with helping him get scholarships and motivating him to help others. Waukegan attorney Jackie

Herrera Giron spoke glowingly of Chuck's work with the Coalition for Refugee Rights and of his community organizing to support the Dream Act. He educated his students about civic action and their responsibility to help improve their community.

I was able to speak with Linda Patterson who related that Arman truly is humble and doesn't seek attention like the evening's party, but came for Chuck's sake and for the scholarship fund. She and his mother agreed that he had always been a kind person and that they were not surprised by his decision to donate his kidney. Carolyn Sheffey said that Arman never doubted that decision.

Lariza was busy chasing little Matteo and reminded me I was coming to their home if I still wanted to come. Yes, but I wasn't sure what else I was going to ask.

So, two nights later, Chuck and I were warmly greeted at Arman and Lariza's home. We sat around the dining room table to talk while Leila and Matteo quietly played and I learned more about Arman's life. As the evening passed, there developed this warm feeling of intimacy and understanding among Chuck, Arman, and Lariza as they learned more and more about each other. The drama of the giving and receiving of a kidney gradually faded as the three of them found their similarities and differences and began talking like close friends. It's hard to keep an emotional distance from someone who has given or received your or your husband's kidney. You let down your guard and just let the ideas flow. The conversation becomes natural and easy. You go on to planning other projects, like the "Gift of Life" college scholarship fund for needy students. (see <http://armansheffey.com/scholarship>.) You talk about your plans and hopes and future.

Life is beautiful. ■

# Young People at Work

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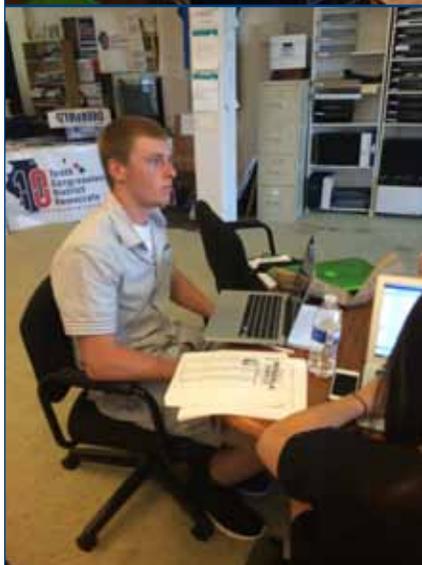
policy-maker.

**Amelia Berger:** Amelia Berger graduated from Deerfield High School in 2013 and went on to study political science and communication at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is the president of UIUC's Gamma Phi Beta sorority, a wonderful learning experience for her, as she hopes one day to attend law school or go into politics. Amelia's family has always been very involved in politics and inspired her to reach out to the Tenth Dems in order to get a deeper look into the political world.

**Sam Braganca:** Like Amelia, Sam Braganca will be studying political science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This is his second summer with the Tenth Dems, as he continues his intern experience from last summer. Sam enjoys athletics as well, playing basketball with friends and sailing in his free time. He hopes to one day be Vice President of the United States and is increasing his knowledge of the political process through his time with the Tenth Dems.

**Noah Daniel:** After this summer, Noah will be attending Grinnell College, a liberal arts school in Grinnell, Iowa, and like many other Tenth Dems interns, is planning on studying political science. He loves playing baseball in his free time as well as taking the occasional break to curl up on the couch and watch his favorite TV shows and movies on Netflix. He hopes to one day become a politician.

**Conor Kennedy:** Conor Kennedy is a junior at Libertyville High School who plans to study economics and political science in college. Conor has considered a career in law as a private attorney, but he is keeping his mind and options open. His family is very involved with the Tenth Dems and Conor himself wanted to familiarize himself with campaign organization, communications, and political research through his summer internship.



**Justin Lenz:** Justin Lenz from Libertyville will be beginning his junior year at Lawrence University this fall. Justin is a great help around the office, as he is double majoring in government and German. As a government student, he hopes to gain a deeper understanding of politics at a local level through his summer with the Tenth Dems. He ultimately plans to become a lawyer. When not at the office, Justin enjoys playing video games and watching Netflix, as well as cooking up meals for his family and friends.

**Michael Pierce:** Michael is a senior studying international relations and history at Clark University, though he would someday like to go to law school or enter the non-profit sector. Through this internship he hopes to gain transferable skills that can be used in a future career in politics or in any other field. He hopes to acquire the tools necessary to make a difference in any situation and under any circumstances.

**Arun Pookote:** Also an attendee of Lake Forest College, Arun Pookote is studying political science and communication. Last summer he spent time as an intern for Brad Schneider's reelection campaign. He enjoyed canvassing in Highland Park, where he met leaders of Tenth Dems and learned about the organization. He hopes to gain experience on legal cases and a better understanding of politics. Arun loves to read, sing, dance, and do zumba in his free time.

**Danielle Resnick:** Danielle Resnick is a rising junior at Indiana University-Bloomington, studying journalism. She is the alumni relations chair for IU's chapter of Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority and is very happy to be working with the Tenth Dems this summer. She is taking this internship as a chance to explore the political world and network in the field. Danielle has been a dancer for most of her life and enjoys spending time with family and friends, as well as her dog, Sonny.



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# Young People at Work

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**Jonathan Rudnick:** A junior at Drake University, Jonathan Rudnick is studying politics and computer science. He has been an incredible asset to the Tenth Dems team with his wonderful work transforming and updating the organization's website. Jonathan also designed the July issue of *Tenth News*, and will continue to function as one of this newsletter's regular designers even after he returns to school.

**Ariel Sheffey:** Ariel Sheffey first got involved in politics through her internship with Tenth Dems in the summer of 2013. She continued her internship through 2014, and is now one of this summer's internship coordinators. Ariel has also interned for State Representative Scott Drury and volunteered for Democratic congressional campaigns. Outside of politics, Ariel is involved in cross country and dance. She hopes to pursue a career related to political economics or computer science.

**Peter Shin:** Peter Shin recently graduated from the University of Chicago where he studied math. His unique skills make him an invaluable asset to the intern team. Originally, Peter contacted Tenth Dems simply to volunteer. When he was made aware of the internship program, he seized this excellent developmental opportunity. Peter is still exploring his options as far as a future career is concerned.



**Ally Silverman:** Ally Silverman is a rising junior at Adlai E. Stevenson High School, but has big plans for her future, taking her Tenth Dems internship as the first step in her goal of one day becoming President of the United States. She plans on studying international studies, political science, or international relations once she moves on to a university. Ally is very involved in extracurricular activities at Stevenson: she is ranked statewide for her oral argument from Youth and Government, is an inductee mentor for her school's National Honor Society, is vice president of Peer Tutors, and received outstanding junior awards in Chinese, Latin, and Youth and Government.



**Joel Spiegel:** Joel Spiegel is a student at the University of Massachusetts Amherst majoring in political science and minoring in sustainable community development. Joel first got involved with politics through social justice work with the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, and later interning with the Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants. Joel interned with Tenth Dems in the summer of 2014 and now serves as an intern coordinator along with Ariel Sheffey. On campus, Joel is involved with TEDxAmherst and is active with the Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts, advocating for accessibility and affordability of public higher education.



**Haley Wint:** Haley Wint is a rising senior at New Trier High School. When Haley isn't reading or competitively figure skating, she is in a Tenth Dems office hoping to learn more about politics and become more involved with the political process in her community. One day, after studying political science and history in college, she hopes to become a campaign manager or elected official. ■

# Compassion Is Definitely NOT One of Donald Trump's Assets

By Steven Gan

One of the things that I have never been impressed with is a braggart, and to say that Donald Trump takes being a self-centered, narcissistic, egomaniac to the stratosphere is an understatement. Whenever he speaks, he manages to bring the conversation back to his wealth and how much he has accomplished. Sorry to get a little graphic, but statements like, "You know, I'm really smart;" "You know, I'm really really rich;" "I have a Gucci store worth more than Romney;" and the like make me want to vomit.

We're all aware of Trump's outrageous, insensitive, and illogical comments at the time he announced his presidential run about undocumented immigrants who come into this country by way of Mexico. There's no question that all of us, regardless of our party affiliation, want to prevent people from entering this country illegally. But from what I've read, heard, and watched, the overwhelming number of people who enter this country illegally from Mexico—not only Mexicans, but also nationals of other Latin America countries—are trying to escape extreme violence and poverty. To characterize all of these desperate people, as Trump did, as rapists, drug dealers, and criminals is dehumanizing.

Many years ago, when I worked in our family business, I hired a young high school student as an intern. "Maria" was originally from Guatemala, and at the time that she began to work for us, I knew nothing about her background, and, honestly, I probably was not particularly interested. What I needed at the time was someone to help in the office, and this young girl came in like a whirlwind. She turned out to be a remarkable employee who ended up staying on with us for almost 20 years. One time I asked her what motivated her and her family to come to the U.S. She responded very simply, "We just got tired of all of the gangs, the killings, and the endless violence to which we were continuously subjected."

Here's Maria's story: When she was 10 years old (about 1974), Maria's mother took her and her seven-year-old brother away from Guatemala on the El Norte highway (a series of trains from Central America all the way to the Mexico-U.S. border where most of the hopefuls ride on top of the freight cars), hoping to reach the U.S. On the way, they were robbed, beaten, and even pistol-whipped. Once they arrived in Tijuana, they found very menial work for a few months and saved enough money to pay a coyote to take them and some others through an unchecked border area. The coyote



left them at the point where they had to crawl through a mile-long sewer pipe until they reached the U.S. side of the border. During their harrowing trip through the excrement-and-vermin-filled pipe, they were bitten by hundreds of rats, not just on their bodies but also on their faces and hands. As Maria described it, the rats "just kept coming and coming."

The idea of crawling on my belly through a mile-long sewer pipe and enduring attacks by hundreds of rats along the way is more frightening than any horror movie I've ever sat through. If that's not enough to send someone into a psych ward, I just don't know what would be.

When Maria, her mom, and her little brother finally made it through the pipe to the U.S. side of the border, another contact was waiting for them who took them to the jefe's (big boss's) house in southern California. For the next few years, they picked oranges, avocados, and other crops on a series of farms. They were often not paid their full wages (or not paid at all). And, of course, they never complained—for fear of being cast out and deported. Apparently, this hard life on the very fringes was still better than what they had left in Guatemala.

Fortunately, Maria's mother had a distant cousin in Chicago, where they eventually moved and settled. The cousin helped Maria's mother get a job with a cleaning service and arranged for Maria and her brother to start school. From that point forward, their lives turned a corner and they settled in.

Sometime during the early '80s (when Maria started working for us), a general amnesty was granted by the government to all undocumented immigrants who could prove that they had been living in the U.S. for at least five years. For Maria, her mother, and her brother, this was their lucky opportunity to move out of the shadows and into the daylight of living normally in America. Some years later, they all became American citizens. Maria's brother joined the military and even fought in the Gulf War.

Now, I'm not advocating wide open borders, but how many people do you know who share Maria's story? Although I only know Maria's firsthand, I'm sure there are millions like her who have endured similar struggles, putting their lives on the line (and in fact many do die each year trying to cross the border) to get into this country to make a better life.

For me, it comes down to trying to reconcile our immigration system with compassion toward other, less fortunate human beings.

Do you think Donald Trump knows any undocumented immigrants who, like Maria, endured life-and-death struggles to get to this country? Trump's self-aggrandizing rhetoric, along with his empty threats to make Mexico pay for every "illegal alien" that he irrationally claims the Mexican government sends to the U.S., leads me to believe that he couldn't care less about anyone but himself, let alone the poor and unfortunate on this planet who only want to work, be safe, and provide for their families. I'm forced to conclude that compassion towards those "illegals" who pick our nation's fruits and vegetables, clean our office buildings, and perform many of the menial and dangerous jobs in our country is not an asset that is included in Trump's financial statement. ■



*L. to r.: Daniel Bien, Tenth Dems intern Justin Lenz, Bernie, Jeff Baumann, Swapna Baumann, Parth Patel, Tenth Dems intern Amanda Loutris, Rohan Balel, Rick Konter.*

## A Visit with Bernie in Madison

By Jeffrey Baumann

On July 1, a group of Bernie Sanders fans and I made the trek from Illinois to Madison, Wisconsin, to attend a campaign rally. After a two-and-a-half-hour drive, we could feel the excitement building. The Veteran's Memorial Coliseum was filled to its 10,000-seat capacity for the biggest political rally the country has seen thus far in this election cycle.

Before the speeches began, we would have a chance to meet Bernie.

On the way to Madison, one of our group wrote an email to Bernie about Lake County for Bernie Sanders. We are a unique organization because we represent all the people Bernie talks about. Ages range from 14 to 64-plus, and we have students, handicapped individuals, people with health issues, veterans, and representatives of all parties, classes, races, and income groups. We came together to elect someone who has always stood up for issues that affect us. This resonated with the Sanders campaign team, who arranged for us to meet Bernie personally.

At 73, Sanders appeals to people of all ages. Young people like his proposal for free public education through college and that he would make it possible for them to refinance student loans. No longer struggling with massive college debt, they could focus on achieving the American dream. Older people can feel comfortable that their social security won't be touched and their benefits would be expanded if they were changed at all.

To help people get into or stay in the middle class, Bernie favors a \$15 per hour minimum wage. He supports single-payer healthcare, a massive government jobs program to fix roads and bridges, and debt-free college. He voted against the Trans-Pacific Partnership

(TPP), the Keystone XL pipeline, and both Iraq wars. If more people had listened to Bernie in 1991, we wouldn't have the threat of ISIS hanging over us today.

His opponents label him an extremist. Bernie has this to say. "When you deny the right of workers to come together in collective bargaining, that's extremism. When you tell a woman that she can't control her own body, that's extremism." This comment led to some of the loudest applause of the night.

By the end of the event, there was little doubt that Bernie is a serious presidential contender. Bernie may not have the most money, but he definitely has popular appeal. "They may have the money but we have the people," he said.

According to Bernie, "The issue of wealth and income inequality, to my mind, is the great moral issue of our time. It is the greatest economic issue of our time, and it is the great political issue of our time." Bernie said he would press for guaranteed family and medical leave, paid vacation, and stronger unions. In addition, he would break up the large financial institutions that claim to be too big to fail. "If a bank is too big to fail, it is too big to exist," he said.

Bernie has also spoken out on climate change. He believes that America should take the lead in transforming our energy system away from fossil fuels toward efficiency and sustainability. We need to weatherize millions of homes and accelerate the movement toward wind and solar power generation.

Editor's Note: Tenth News hopes to publish articles about Democratic candidates throughout the months running up to the 2016 primary elections. If you would like to submit an article about your candidate, contact us at [info@tenthdems.org](mailto:info@tenthdems.org). ■

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C-100 PRELIMINARY LAYOUT AND PAVING PLAN  
C-200 PRELIMINARY GRADING PLAN  
C-300 PRELIMINARY UTILITY PLAN

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				<p>ORIGINAL ISSUE DATE: 4-22-15</p>

<p>DATE: 4/22/15</p>
<p>PROJECT: Zion Woods Multi-Family Housing</p>
<p>LOCATION: 10 Deerfield Road, Deerfield, IL</p>
<p>PRELIMINARY TITLE SHEET</p>
<p>SCALE: C-0.0</p>

Ironically, those who fear affordable housing do not realize that they already know people who would qualify to live in that housing: their neighbor who was recently downsized, the emergency medical technician who works for the fire department, or the local child care worker. Although it is not unusual for neighbors to initially oppose affordable workforce housing, once the developments are created, time and time again they blend seamlessly into the fabric of their communities.

In today's complex world, mixed-income housing not only makes economic sense, it's also the right thing to do.

For more information about affordable housing's impact on traffic, environment, infrastructure, and property

## Housing for Working Families in Deerfield: Let Facts Overcome Fear

By Brendan Saunders and Howard Schickler

A congregation, a community-based organization, and a private developer—Zion Lutheran Evangelical Church, the Housing Opportunity Development Corporation, and Brinshore Development, LLC—came together around a vision: housing for working families in Deerfield. That vision crystallized into a proposal for a 48-unit rental development that they presented to the village's Plan Commission in May.

At the May Plan Commission meeting, many residents expressed their opinions. Advocates emphasized Deerfield's need to create room for the local workforce and their families in housing they can afford. They offered studies that demonstrated there would be no traffic impact, and local school board representatives reported that there is ample space for new students. Without offering any contrary evidence, opponents argued that the development would disrupt traffic, would burden schools, and would "not fit in the neighborhood."

Now it is time for supporters to come together and make their voices heard!

An underlying issue driving the opposition is fear—fear that lower-income people and their children are not people of quality; that property values will decline; that the architecture of "affordable housing" is unsightly; and ultimately that mixed-income housing will not fit into the overall character of the community. Examples of these statements can be viewed on the Village of Deerfield's website.

values, see "Fear of Affordable Housing: Perception vs. Reality." ([http://www.shelterforce.org/article/2891/fear\\_of\\_affordable\\_housing\\_perception\\_vs\\_reality/](http://www.shelterforce.org/article/2891/fear_of_affordable_housing_perception_vs_reality/)) For further details about the need for affordable housing, see the "MacArthur Foundation's Housing Challenges Real For Many Americans, Finds 2014 How Housing Matters Survey." (<https://www.macfound.org/press/press-releases/housing-challenges-real-many-americans-finds-2014-how-housing-matters-survey/>)

The message of supporters needs to be loud and clear:

- 1) We want a more diverse and inclusive community to be reflected in its housing opportunities.
- 2) Valid community concerns about traffic, schools, safety, aesthetics, and the like can and will be addressed.
- 3) This development aligns with and will enhance the character of Deerfield.

In July 2015, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released its final rules for communities to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing. This requires communities to take action to break down barriers of segregation. This can be done by creating affordable housing in areas that offer a supportive environment in which all can access a broad range of opportunities. This proposed development does just that; it opens opportunities for the local workforce that would be otherwise unavailable.

What can you do to help this project proceed and succeed? Talk to your friends and neighbors in Deerfield; let them know that this is a good development, and share facts from reliable sources. Make it known that Deerfield should be a YIMBY (Yes In My Back Yard) community. Attend public hearings and make your voice of support heard. Join your neighbors in Deerfield and Open Communities to endorse Welcoming Communities. ■

# Happy Birthday! Medicaid at 50 Years of Age



By Mark Rosenberg, M.D.

In the second birthday greeting of the year (the first was the 50th anniversary of Medicare), we celebrate the signing in 1965 by President Lyndon Johnson of the Medicaid authorization. In contrast to Medicare, which is funded and managed entirely by the federal government, Medicaid was designed as a federal-state cooperative program to cover medical expenses for certain low-income individuals—specifically, aged, blind, and disabled persons and parents and dependent children receiving public assistance.

The Medicaid program is a hybrid of federal and state funding and control—the federal share of funding is contingent on the state’s adherence to federal standards. This feature of the program has been a source of ongoing tension between states and the federal government.

For an example of disharmony arising from the federal-state partnership in the Medicaid program, we can look at our own State of Illinois. Traditionally, state control of the administration of the plan has meant significant variability in the benefits and access to care from state to state, with some limiting payments to physicians and other providers. In Illinois, it was widely acknowledged that low payment levels had a direct correlation with physician participation; that is, physicians chose not to treat Medicaid recipients rather than accept the program’s low payment for their services.

That was the subject of *Memisovski v. Maram*, a federal lawsuit that challenged the state’s payments to providers as inadequate to provide access to care by Medicaid recipients. The suit was brought on behalf of all children in Cook County who were eligible for Medicaid.

I was a witness for the plaintiffs. I testified about the lack of access to care and low physician participation because of Illinois Medicaid’s inadequate reimbursements. In a major decision that, unfortunately, did not impact other states, the court decided in favor of the plaintiffs and required the State of Illinois to provide adequate payment to ensure physician participation in its Medicaid program.

More recently, the Affordable Care Act (ACA or Obamacare) expanded Medicaid by making it widely available to individuals and families earning below 133 percent of the federal poverty level. And unlike traditional Medicaid, the federal government is paying the entire cost of expanded Medicaid in the first years and a large share thereafter.

However, the same Supreme Court decision that in 2013 found the ACA to be constitutional also held that the federal government could not require a state to expand its Medicaid program.

States choosing to forgo Medicaid expansion—mostly red states—continue to include only aged, blind, and disabled people and pregnant women and dependent children in their Medicaid programs. This is unfortunate, because there is clear evidence that the states that have enrolled low-income families in expanded

Medicaid have benefitted from the ACA, with approximately 10 million newly insured.

Hopefully, now that the ACA has become a permanent fixture in American healthcare (see “The Affordable Care Act Prevails at SCOTUS Once Again,” below), more states will take advantage of the federal government’s support of Medicaid funding and expand their Medicaid-eligible population.

Finally, because Medicaid is the primary funding source for long-term care for the elderly and disabled, states have obtained waivers of federal requirements in order to find alternatives to institutional care. The resulting innovation is leading to expansion of community-based healthcare. ■

## The Affordable Care Act Prevails at SCOTUS Once Again



By Mark Rosenberg, M.D.

For those who were on vacation on a South Pacific island in June, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *King v. Burwell*, upheld the administration’s reading of the Affordable Care Act (ACA or Obamacare), thus preserving a key provision of this landmark legislation. The challenge rested on the interpretation of the phrase “an Exchange established by the State.” If, as plaintiffs claimed, this phrase referred exclusively to health insurance exchanges run wholly by a state government and not by the federal government, residents of states using the federal exchange would be deemed ineligible for the advance premium tax credits that make health insurance affordable under the Affordable Care Act. Illinois has been using the federal exchange.

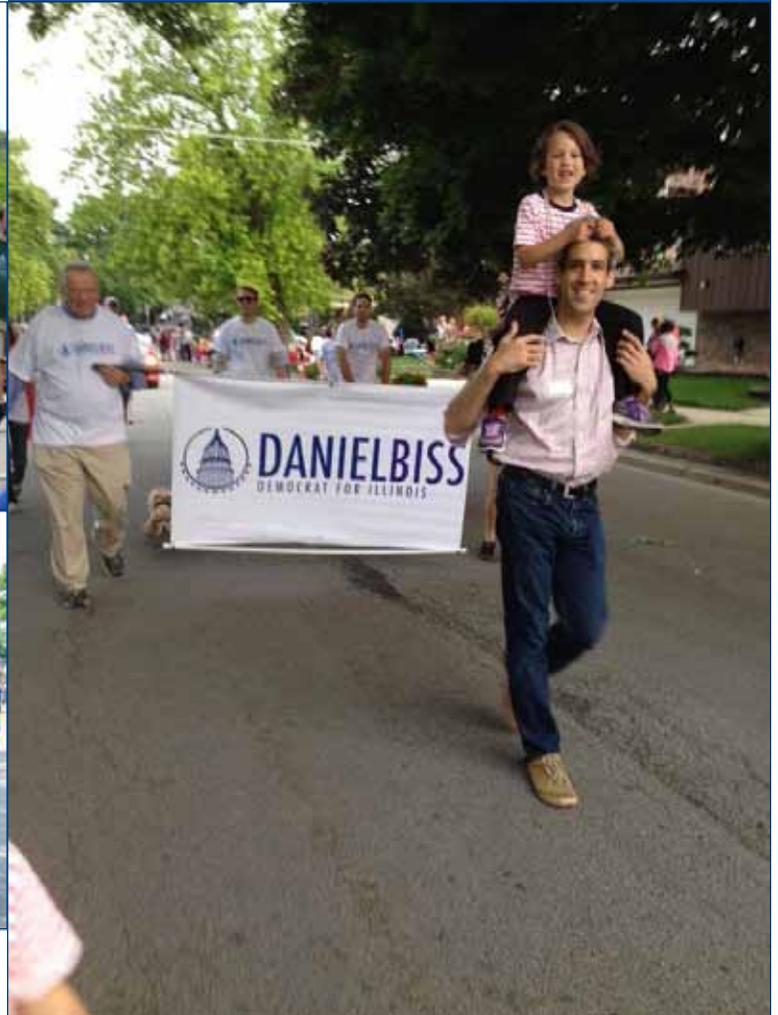
The Court, by a 6-3 margin, concluded that such a cramped reading was inconsistent with the law that Congress passed in 2010. In the majority opinion, the justices affirmed that a primary intent of the law was to subsidize the purchase of health insurance. To read the subject phrase in isolation as plaintiffs argued it should be read would defeat that core purpose of Obamacare by depriving millions of low-income Americans of affordable health insurance simply because the state they resided in chose not to create its own insurance exchange. Justice Antonin Scalia, who called this reasoning “pure applesauce,” wrote a vitriolic dissent.

Unfortunately, the SCOTUS decision in *King v. Burwell* will not end challenges to the Affordable Care Act. Republicans in Congress, including 10th District Congressman Bob Dold, will continue to waste their time and our money by voting to repeal or gut Obamacare, and the Republican-controlled states that have refused to expand their Medicaid programs (see accompanying article) will continue to deny their lowest income residents access to affordable healthcare.

Perhaps after the 2016 election, Congressional Republicans will stop grandstanding and abandon efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Then Congress may be ready to work to improve Obamacare and Medicare to ensure that all Americans have access to quality, affordable healthcare. ■

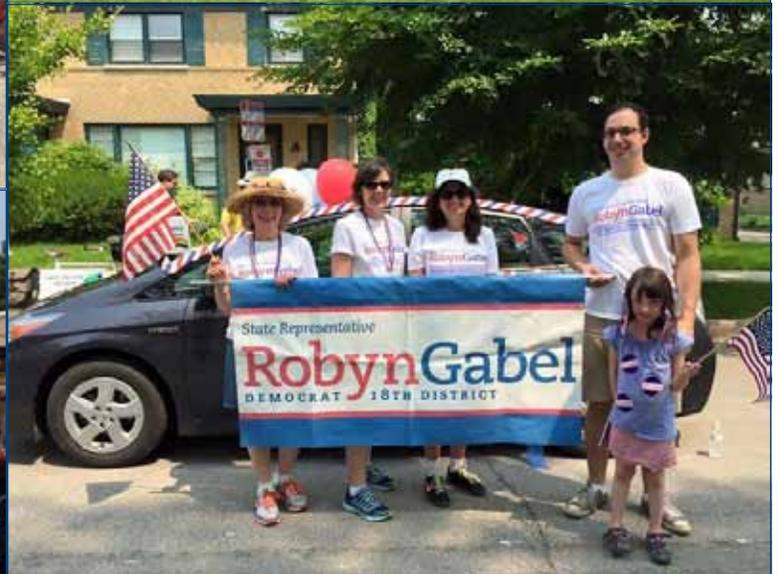
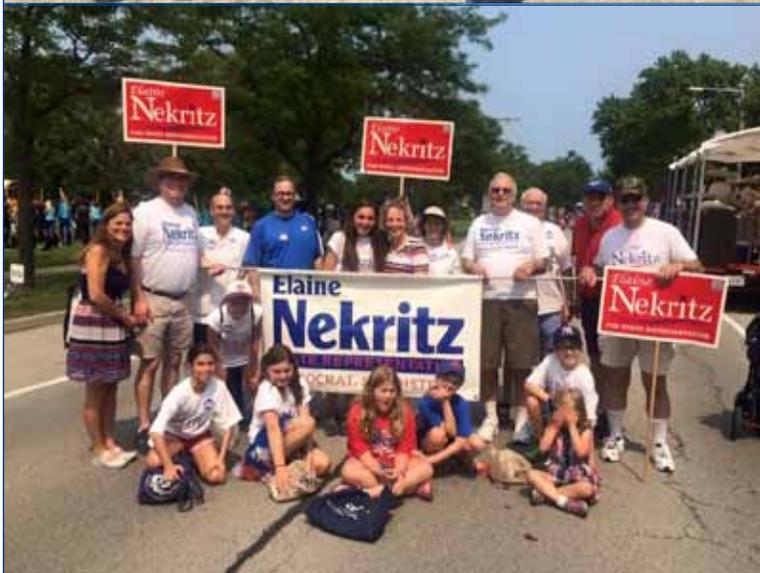


# ELECTED OFFICIALS, CANDIDATES ENJOY A PERFECT FOURTH





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# ELECTED OFFICIALS, CANDIDATES ENJOY A PERFECT FOURTH



*Clockwise from upper left: Representative Tammy Duckworth, candidate for U.S. Senate; State Representative Marty Moylan; State Senator Terry Link; State Senator Melinda Bush; State Representative Sam Yingling; State Representative Rita Mayfield.*

Jennifer Frankfurter, Photography with Heart.



L. to r.: Jeffrey Baumann, Barbara Altman, Max Boton, Lauren Beth Gash, Amanda Loutris, Swapna Baumann, President Barack Obama (the cardboard version).



L. to r.: Barbara Altman, Alex Morgan, Karen Singer, Jeffrey Baumann (seated), Hon. Karen May, Juli Scaff.

## Tenth Dems Participates in Justice Day

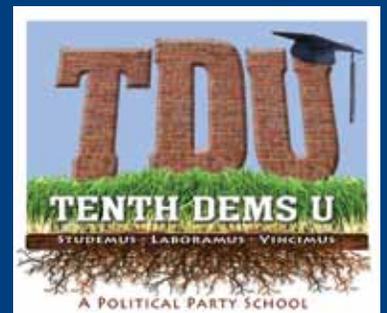
On Sunday afternoon, July 26, Tenth Dems joined more than a dozen other community organizations at the Winnetka Village Green to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Northshore Summer Project, the grassroots movement that brought Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to rally thousands of Chicagoland residents in support of social justice.

The event featured songs, fun, food, and speeches by such luminaries as William McNary, Co-Director of Citizen Action/Illinois, and 9th District Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky.

With a call for a renewed commitment to social justice, the event also honored the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Tenth Dems was a partner in the event and drew many visitors to its booth, which was anchored by Tenth Dems' very own "cardboard Obama." ■

## Tenth Dems University Sponsoring Deputy Voter Registrar Training Sessions at Locations Throughout 10th District



Volunteers prepare to view slide show at one of several training sessions for Deputy Voter Registrars that Tenth Dems organized in July.

*Paid for by the Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats (www.tenthdems.org) and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. Contributions are not tax deductible. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year. Corporate contributions are not allowed.*