

The 411

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NEWS ITEMS

- HRC secures return of wrongfully withheld security deposits
- MRC client becomes Field School volunteer
- VASP case leads to recovery of illegal weapon

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Goals and plans discussed at Strategic Planning Summit

On February 28, RPCC board and staff members came together to tackle the daunting but vital topic of strategic planning. Facilitated by Mark Marquardt of M2 Strategies, the event took place at Housing Opportunities for Women over a six hour span and included full group discussion as well as break-out sessions.

A planning committee that convened several months before the event identified two primary

objectives for the process: clarifying the identity and strategic direction of RPCC; and setting programmatic and organizational goals for the period between 2009 and 2012. With the group's input, Marquardt created separate surveys for board members, staff and community leaders.

The responses collected served as the jumping-off point for the summit. Although the initial data suggested a dichotomy of visions for RPCC, the

work accomplished in the session did much to clarify terminology and unify the group. Commitment, fundraising and communication emerged as key issues. .

While clearly, more work lies ahead for board and staff alike, but a solid foundation has been laid. Next steps include creating timelines, measurable goals and board/staff task assignments. The full report will be sent out very soon and the

Recent Program Notes & Achievements

- Note: HRC Director, Faye Walker, intervened when an area landlord unlawfully refused to return the security deposits of two tenants. Result: Full refund!
- Note: MRC client, Samuel,

who immigrated from Nigeria with his family last year, will, with Victor Valle's help, have his teaching credentials validated for use in Illinois. Result: While he waits, Samuel volunteers at Field

School

- Note: A domestic violence case between siblings alerted VASP staff about a firearm in the home. Sonia Zuniga worked with Chicago Police, who recovered and seized the gun. Result: One less gun on the street!