

November 16, 2009

Laura Zumdahl Named Chicago Community Trust Fellow

November 16, 2009, Chicago – Cabrini Green Legal Aid’s associate executive director, Laura Zumdahl, was named one of Chicago Community Trust’s Fellows for 2010. The Trust Fellowship offers professional development opportunities for emerging and experienced leaders in the nonprofit and public sectors. Zumdahl, like the other Fellows, was selected for her demonstrated leadership and commitment to the nonprofit field.

The Trust Fellowship is a significant investment in the leadership talent for nonprofit organizations and supports excellence in the sector. The Fellows were selected for their creativity, originality, and potential to make important contributions in the future. The Fellowship is designed to elevate the careers of Chicago leaders and increase their future impact on the Chicago metropolitan area.

"At a time when innovation is vital to keep Chicago competitive in this global economy, each of these Trust Fellows represents the next generation of nonprofit leadership," says Terry Mazany, president and chief executive officer of the Trust. "Each Fellow not only has enormous talent and passion, but the imagination and agility required to adapt to these ever-changing times. We are excited to see the leadership that they bring to their field and to the Chicago metropolitan area."

Zumdahl, one of the emerging leaders, received almost \$30,000 to fund her professional development plan. She plans to use the Fellowship to attend a course at Stanford to learn the fundamentals of design thinking, research and document how nonprofits around North America have used the concept to challenge traditional methods of service provision and solve community problems through innovation, and integrate the method of design thinking at CGLA to enhance the organization’s ability to meet the needs of clients.

"I’m thrilled at the opportunity to not only expand my skills in creating an organizational culture conducive to innovation, but also learning how other nonprofits have been successful at using the design thinking concept to develop and enhance the way they provide client services," says Zumdahl.

The Trust Fellowship program, while in its second year, builds on a history of Trust fellowships that have contributed in significant ways to increase the quality and diversity of Chicago’s nonprofit leaders.

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