



# SSN Small Business & Nonprofit Development Group

*"Invest in the community that invests in you..."*

Saturday, November 17, 2012

## **Annual Gala & Program Agenda**

Tonight's MC is **John Porter**

Profound impact is resonated throughout the achievements of the 2012 nominees ... Pages 9-22



# Welcome to

## SBND Community Enterprise Achievement Gala

Saturday, November 17, 2012

Chicago South Loop Hotel

11 West 26Th Street, Chicago, IL 60616

This is an exclusive gathering of executive entrepreneurs, achievement nominee honorees and media representatives. The purpose of the event is to provide a platform of appreciation and recognition for those who invest in the success of small business and nonprofit enterprises. The primary goal is to bring awareness and support for those who are creating new legal enterprises, jobs, and tax revenues in communities most affected by the recession.

The entire event will be video recorded and used as a commercial that brings recognition to those who are empowering small business and nonprofit enterprises toward success. We plan to feature the video on several business websites, social media, public service broadcast stations, and "You Tube" outlets that will directly reach over 16,000 professionals.

### Our Agenda

#### 4:30 pm

- » Early Registration check-in, light refreshments, networking and vendor exhibit tour

#### 5:15 pm

- » Opening Remarks & Presentation in Honor of Nominees
- » Introduction of National Women Veterans United Color Guard
- » Introduction of Premium Sponsors in Honor of Award Nominees
- » Introduction of Achievement Nominees
- » Introduction of One Heart One Soul Youth Poetry/Art in Honor of Award Nominees

#### 7:00 pm

- » Closing Remarks & Announcements
- » Greet Nominees, Sponsors and Vendors
- » Collect Nomination Evaluation Ballots

#### 8:15 pm

- » After-set Party, L26 Restaurant/ Sports Lounge



## Introduction

### SSN Small Business & Nonprofit Development Group (SBND)



Nita Marchant

### SBND History

In an attempt to create self-employment and job opportunities, Strategic Solutions Network, Inc. (SSN), a small management consulting firm, created the "SSN Small Business & Nonprofit Development (SBND) Group."

SBND is a "self-help" project to provide hands-on strategic organization planning, mentoring services, and financial support through fund development initiatives to start and grow small enterprises.

### The SBND Challenge

Successful and aspiring entrepreneurs are being challenged to answer the question, "What are the characteristics of successful business leaders in an economy that is fighting to maintain its competitive edge?" SBND believes it's their relentless drive to accomplish goals and tenacious ability to capitalize on opportunities missed by others.

In consideration of this belief, SBND recently created a community enterprise platform of opportunities to expand business markets and cultivate new customers. Through multiple marketing outlets, those who partner with SBND will increase their chances to gain positive publicity for contributing to the economic turnaround in communities most affected by the recession. More specifically, SBND is focused on driving the economy forward with the creation of more self-employment opportunities, and by increasing the number of new legal enterprises, jobs, and tax revenues in Illinois, Cook County and Chicago neighborhoods.

### SSN/SBND Proof of Concept Center

During the SBND Community Enterprise Achievement Gala, Strategic Solutions Network, Inc./SBND Group and U.S.WAY Research Consortium will introduce a new project, titled, Proof of Concept Center (POCC). POCC is an expansion of SBND with a primary goal of providing assistance to early-stage enterprises, talented innovators and prospective entrepreneurs who are in need of engineering development, commercialization, and financing for expensive research and/or seed capital.

To learn more about SBND and our new Proof of Concept Center, visit our website [www.ssncandoit.com](http://www.ssncandoit.com). You can also contact Nita Marchant direct at 773-793-9128 or email [sbnd@ssncandoit.com](mailto:sbnd@ssncandoit.com).

Sincerely,

Nita Marchant, CEO

Strategic Solutions Network, Inc.

Victor Korzen, CEO

U.S.WAY Research Consortium



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
 SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

**Pat Quinn**  
 GOVERNOR

April 16, 2012

SSN Small Business and Nonprofit Development Group  
 28 E. Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1020 # S193  
 Chicago, IL 60604


Greetings!

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I am pleased to welcome everyone gathered for SSN Small Business and Nonprofit Development Group's (SBND) VIP Network Reception.

I commend SBND for your dedication to educate, train, and create revenue streams for small businesses and nonprofit organizations in Illinois. The health of Illinois' economy depends on our support of small businesses and nonprofit organizations that create jobs, boost our local economy and preserve our neighborhoods. Your contribution to the economic turnaround in communities hit hardest by the recession is truly commendable.

As you celebrate your numerous accomplishments this evening, please take a few moments to reflect upon the many lives that you have enriched through your dedication to small business and nonprofit development. I am certain that the variety of speakers and presentations planned for this conference will greatly benefit both individual attendees and your organization collectively as you continue to pursue your worthy goals.

On behalf of the people of the Land of Lincoln, I offer my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable event.

Sincerely,  
  
 Pat Quinn  
 Governor



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
 CITY OF CHICAGO

**RAHM EMANUEL**  
 MAYOR

**PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago believes that small businesses are the backbone of our economy and the glue that holds communities together; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Small Business Administration, there are currently 28 million small businesses in the United States and small businesses created 65 percent of net new jobs over the past two decades; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago supports our local businesses that create jobs, boost our local economy and preserve our neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, SSN Small Business and Nonprofit Development Group (SBND) is committed to educating, training, and creating revenue streams for dedicated start-up entrepreneurs so that they can grow and contribute to the economic turnaround in communities most affected by the recession; and

WHEREAS, SBND is focused on driving the economy forward with the creation of more self-employment opportunities, and by increasing the amount of legal enterprises and tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, on Monday April 16, 2012, SBND will host their Premier VIP Network Reception and introduce its comprehensive plan to provide strategic organization development education, mentoring support, and financial sponsorship grants to help grow start-up businesses and grassroots non-profit enterprises; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RAHM EMANUEL, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim April 16, 2012 to be SSN SMALL BUSINESS AND NONPROFIT DEVELOPMENT GROUP DAY IN CHICAGO.

Dated this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2012.

  
 Mayor



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, over the past 17 years in the United States, small businesses have created over two-thirds of all new jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, roughly 25 million start-up companies in the United States have no employees; and

**WHEREAS**, SSN Small Business and Nonprofit Development Group (SBND) is training and educating committed start-up entrepreneurs, as well as helping to create revenue streams for their companies; and

**WHEREAS**, primarily located in economically distressed communities, these start-up companies are contributing to the economic turnaround of these communities, in part through generating tax revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, SBND is working to achieve its mission in collaboration with sponsors and supporters such as the following: Presbytery of Chicago's Committee on the Self-Development of People, West Point Missionary Baptist Church, Chicago State University's Illinois Small Business Development Center, Dante L. Mosely, Vice President of Business Development, Hyde Park Bank, University of Chicago's IJ Clinic on Entrepreneurship, Fifth Third Bank-Hyde Park Financial Center, Chicago Bee Branch of the City of Chicago Public Library, Yvonne Orr, United Way, Chief Professional Officer/South-Southwest Suburban Region, Continuing Education Department of Harry S. Truman College, Genesys Unique Kreations, John Porter and Resources Plus; and

**WHEREAS**, on Monday, April 16, 2012, SBND will host its Premier VIP Network Reception and introduce its comprehensive plan to provide strategic organization development education, mentoring support, and financial sponsorship grants to help grow start-up businesses and grassroots nonprofit enterprises.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that I, Toni Preckwinkle, President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, do hereby express my gratitude to SSN Small Business and Nonprofit Development Group for living up to their faith in entrepreneurs by providing guidance and financial support to these individuals, and do hereby urge all residents, prominent executives and professional executives of Cook County to invest in the success of start-up and small businesses and nonprofit enterprises.

*Toni Preckwinkle*  
**TONI PRECKWINKLE**, President  
 Cook County Board of Commissioners

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The shape of business is always changing. **Your business or organization must keep up.**

At times you need a team of professionals ready to help.

Before you seek help ask yourself a few questions about your needs.

Are you looking to define or redefine your company's value?

Are you looking to develop a value proposition?

Are you looking to articulate that value among staff?

- Do you want to broadcast your value to current and future clients?
- Do you find social media confusing?
- Do you need to understand how social media fits into your business model?

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## *Nominee Finalists*

Profound impact is resonated throughout the achievements of the 2012 nominee finalists. These dedicated change-agents have devoted themselves in areas of critical importance by fulfilling powerful agendas of transformation for the people of Chicago and beyond.



**Mark S. Allen,**  
*Chairman*  
**NATIONAL BLACK  
WALL STREET  
CHICAGO**

My latest leadership challenge is my greatest leadership challenge in igniting a renewed grassroots movement that once again successfully sustains and increases Black community businesses, jobs and institutions. It is through the application of the spirit and examples of Black Wall Street, Operation Breadbasket and other models that will prove how the Black community can rebuild by redirecting its trillion dollar consumer spending power through its own community financial institutions and community organizations committed to the development of small Black community businesses.



**Dr. Karin B. Baird, PhD.,**  
*Acting Director*  
**SPERTUS COLLEGE  
MASTER OF SCIENCE  
IN NONPROFIT  
MANAGEMENT  
(MSNM) PROGRAM**

One of my callings was to develop a competitive tennis league for women called the Shoreline Tennis League. The new league began with four teams and 8 to 10 participants per team. The league was established to provide a way for women to participate in organized summer competitive team play who were not eligible to play on area country club teams. The new Shoreline Tennis League started in the late 1970's and has since grown to 44 teams for men and women. Every summer since that time over 400 adults have joined the league and participated.



**Johnnie Blair**  
*Founder, President  
& CEO*  
**BRONZEVILLE  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE**

A spirit of profound excitement to soar beyond the issues many found obstructive became an integral part of my life. I found an outlet to create and cultivate within an adverse racial climate in the early 40's. In 1954, I attended an all-white high school with a population of 4,000 whites. As one of only 2 blacks I found ways to overcome the obstacles then, as now. My background motivated me to create the Bronzeville Chamber of Commerce in 2004. As the Chamber Founder, I implemented several projects that I had previously developed as a prior South Shore Chamber President.



**Hervey/Herb Callahan, Owner**  
**COOL HERB'S SMACKDOWN BARBEQUE/PIZZA**

The loss of black-owned businesses within our neighborhoods and lack of funds to create jobs are generating tremendous black-on-black crime, which has led me to take a stand by sponsoring some of Chicago's finest high schools. Additionally, I want to foster economic empowerment in our markets by creating employment opportunities, reinvesting our dollars with minority vendors for goods and services, financially supporting selected community projects and programs. My belief is that the best return on our investment is the financial empowerment of our people and the economic revitalization of our communities.



**Kimberly Crawford, Merchant**  
*Account Executive*  
**FIFTH THIRD PROCESSING SOLUTIONS**

My motivation is found in the Word of God Deuteronomy 8:18 "But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he swore unto thy fathers, as it is this day." We are all put on this earth for a purpose, not just so that we can have more material things but to help others develop and find their life's purpose. I intend to live life abundantly and to the fullest so that others may also discover abundant life.



**Rochelle Crump, President**  
**NATIONAL WOMEN VETERANS UNITED**

As an Army veteran, I have been engaged for over 35 years with federal, state and city veteran's affairs. It bothers me greatly that there are still gaps in services. For instance, service delivery and equal access to genuine programs and resources for men and women who serve their country and put their lives on the line for the freedom of all. Organizations such as National Women Veterans United (NWWU) ensures that women veterans are informed and aware of their VA benefits and entitlements. Additionally, NWWU continues to engage women in identifying those issues and concerns that prevent them from being independent and whole by promoting advocacy for greater resources that will assist them in overcoming barriers and create better outcomes in the lives of those that are challenged with readjustment to civilian status.

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**Dr. Ewa Ewa,  
Ph.D., President and  
Chief Financial Officer  
NIGERIAN AMERICAN  
FORUM (NAF) AND  
ILLINOIS GOVERNOR'S  
OFFICE**

My quest for African identity and cultural hegemony is not limited; it extends to all people of African descent and particularly to Nigerians. As the first President of the Nigeria National Alliance (NNA) my major objectives among others, were to unite all Nigerians; to bring consular services to the community; and use this as a vehicle to improve communication with other nationalities and the image of our beloved country, Nigeria. It was through the instrumentality of Nigeria National Alliance that the federal government of Nigeria responded to, and honored NNA's application for dual citizenship of Nigerians in the diaspora. Such an honor was the first of its kind.



**Michael House,  
President**

**CHICAGO DEFENDER**

Four years ago, I was handpicked to head the entire operations of the "World's Greatest Weekly," the 107-year-old Chicago Defender. Upon taking the offer I had several goals that I wanted to achieve. Less than two years after my arrival I was able to move the newspaper back into the Bronzeville community in which its legacy began. Secondly, my overall vision was to create an integrated platform that includes events marketing, traditional print advertising and web, while publishing the Best Black Newspaper in America. In 2009 the Chicago Defender received the John B. Russwurm Award from the National Newspaper Publishers Association as the "Best Black Newspaper in America." A chilling sense of euphoria is what you get by continuing the legacy of one of the nation's oldest Black newspapers.



**Olawale Idreez,  
Publisher/Founder  
AFRICA-US TODAY  
MAGAZINE**

Thanks to the Creator, I founded a local community newspaper, Africa-US Today newspaper with an emphasis on Inter-Relations in World Politics and Political Actors. I take privilege in reading EBONY magazine; and believed that my magazine (Africa-US Today Magazine) will be publishing 10,000 copies by this time next year, 2013, and reaching out to millions of people globally. The proceeds received largely from it were mainly used to help under-privileged people particularly in the continent of Africa. Through this process I have found strength in the Words of God, that says, "Weeping may endureth for a night; but JOY comes in the morning." Amen!



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**Alan Jacobs, Area  
V.P. Workshop Chair  
SCORE CHICAGO**

With a failure rate of 97%, I hope to help more small businesses survive the long run. Additionally, I want to impart information that I learned so entrepreneurs do not make the same mistakes. The most meaningful aspects of my job are the myriad success stories and my contribution to SCORE Chicago.



**Samantha  
Kendall, President  
SAM'S GOURMET  
LASAGNA**

My children are cheerleaders of encouragement for me. On Valentines' Day 2006, my oldest daughter, Amanda Skie Gallon, was murdered. By that time, I had established strategic alliances with mainstream retail. I prayed to God about whether I should continue. A miracle happened when I received a phone call from the owner of a major retail restaurant. They expressed their condolences and said, "I'm sorry for your loss and we know that you are experiencing tragedy, but when you are ready this community is demanding your product". I got my answer that it was for me to continue (it is something that Amanda would have wanted me to do). Upon continuing my passion, I made great accomplishments inclusive of extending support to small business owners needing help with their business model, strategy and more.



**Kyama Kitavi,  
Senior Loan Officer  
ACCION CHICAGO**

Born in Nairobi Kenya, I have always had a passion for development issues. Throughout my academic career my focus has been on the political and economic development in Africa and Kenya specifically. When I moved to Chicago over 3 years ago, I realized that domestically, many neighborhoods and communities faced similar economic development challenges found internationally. I see micro-finance as one strategy to try and improve conditions. Small business has always been a measure of community success and an engine for growth. As a loan officer with Accion, I have worked hard to provide a service to small businesses that have been unable to approach traditional financial institutions and fill a gap that is often neglected.



**Annesa L Lacey,  
President**

**@.I.interpretations**  
My parents said I never liked being told what to do. Watching my Dad who has always been a self-employed electrician was a strong motivation very early. Thus, having an entrepreneurial spirit was ingrained in me without ever knowing what all this "stirring" was about. Now I would love to pass the torch by leaving an awesome legacy for my daughter. I pray all the visions given to me manifest in ways that will help this dying and hurting world both economically, as well as spiritually.



**Edmon Lighthall,  
Director  
CHICAGOLAND  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE**

The lack of strong successful nonprofits in our community compels me to invest my time and resources towards improving our quality of life through networks. I intend to route more intellectual leadership and funding to organizations that promote community building throughout this city. Furthermore, my goal is to also direct more resources to the organizations that are doing more with less than their peers.



**James H. Lowry,  
Senior Advisor  
BOSTON CONSULTING  
GROUP (BCG)**

My life's devotion has been in the field of minority business development. Having 30 plus years of experience has enabled me to be a nationally recognized workforce and supplier diversity expert and pioneer. In 1978, I prepared the first major study on minority business enterprise development for the U.S. Department of Commerce entitled, New Strategy for Minority Business. It was the precursor to the creation of the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA). In 1980, I prepared another study for the Department of Commerce entitled Minority Business in the 80s. By 2000, I designed over 30 major minority business programs for corporate and public sector clients. In 1985 I co-hosted the groundbreaking television show: The Minority Business Report.



**Virgil Mathis,**  
*Inventor/Owner*  
**ELeVISION**  
**-TELEVISION**

In 2000, I was elated to be granted a U.S. Patent number for the invention of the electronics positioning apparatus television stand. In 2002, I was unemployed at the age of 55 and became a homeless veteran. It felt like my value as a human being was lost, except for the fact that I had my patent. After what I went through, my goal was to give back to other veterans. I was able to develop a program in which veterans could obtain entrepreneur training at [www.vetsuccess.gov](http://www.vetsuccess.gov). Additionally, I was able to get the Nightingale-Conant corporation to understand that every day about 18-23 veterans commit suicide. I know how important support is to veterans; I too felt like taking my life to end the pain. With the help of Nightingale-Conant veterans can go to [www.nightingale.com/veterans](http://www.nightingale.com/veterans) to get the assistance and support needed.



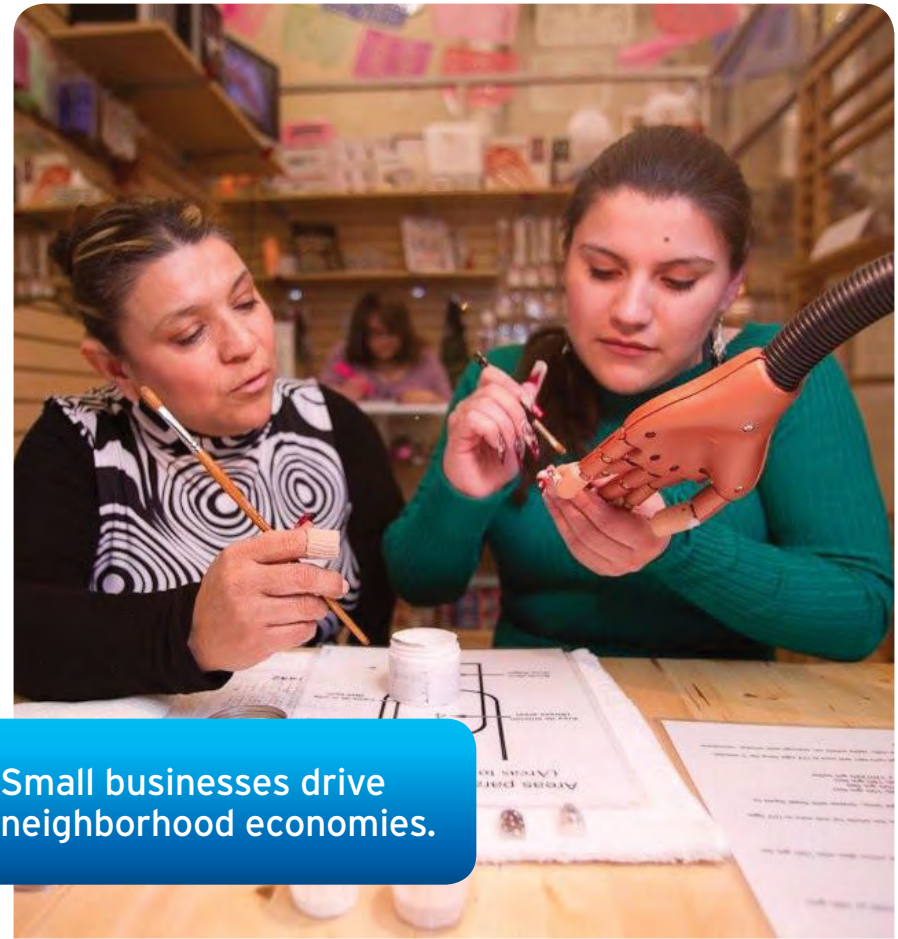
**Jill McClendon,**  
*Founder & CEO*  
**STEP TO ENRICHMENT,**  
**INC.**

Growing up in an entrepreneurial household has fueled my desire to help individuals from all facets of life. My entrepreneurial spirit has inspired me to want more and do more by being committed to investing in small business/nonprofit creation and development. In May 2011, Step to Enrichment, Inc. was created because I wanted to provide transitional housing with other supportive services to homeless veterans. In June 2010, Creative Resume Solutions (now known as Creative Consulting Solutions) was created to provide professional resume development, non-profit set-up and credit repair services. I want to contribute to the fabric of consumer advocacy by hiring people to work in the enterprises created and developed through my vision.



**Mary McFarlin,**  
*Founder of Linked N*  
*Chicago*  
**THE CHICAGO**  
**PROJECT LLC**

I grew up on a farm in a small community. If our neighbors had problems my parents would send us kids over to clean, cook, take in their hay or whatever they needed. We didn't wait for people to ask for our help - we just pitched in where we could. I've taken what I learned as a child and am paying it forward by being a community organizer - and the purpose of my work is to re-establish a sense of community. I created Linked N Chicago (LiNC) in 2007. We currently have 70,000 business professionals that are members of Linked N Chicago. The ultimate goal is to take this large online community - offline, live and local to promote a sense of community. If we all help and care about one another, not only will business and community opportunities improve, but all of our lives will improve.



**Small businesses drive neighborhood economies.**

Small businesses create jobs, spur innovation and strengthen communities. Citi Community Development is proud to work with Small Business & Nonprofit Development Group to support America's small businesses.

Citi salutes Helen Hammond Redding, Senior Vice President and Illinois State Director, for her nomination as a SBND Community Achievement awardee. Helen's service and leadership embody our commitment to financial inclusion and economic empowerment.

Learn more at [citicommunitydevelopment.com](http://citicommunitydevelopment.com)

Community Development

**200YEARS** *citi*



**Debbie Meyers-Martin**, Program Coordinator/Community Affairs Marketing Specialist

**OFFICE OF ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER**

I travel throughout the State of Illinois to promote programs and resources available through the State Treasurer's Office. It has become extremely important to me that in the interest of fairness, that all small businesses attain the knowledge and awareness of resources available to them that will help their businesses thrive and grow in areas that have been hit the hardest by the economic downturn. Through the Illinois State Treasurer's Office, I have made it a priority to support small business, entrepreneurs, nonprofits and organizations in an effort to generate revenue and jobs for the State of Illinois and provide economic development to communities in dire need.



**Helen Hammond Redding**, Senior V.P. and Illinois State Director

**CITI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

I'm actively involved in providing leadership to small businesses, financial literacy and spearheading small business initiatives in the community. My goal is to achieve economic empowerment and growth for underserved individuals, families, and communities by expanding access to financial products and services and building sustainable business solutions and innovative partnerships.



**Ronald Miller**, Business Opportunity Specialist  
**US SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

I was in the Air Force 23 years 3 months and 13 days where I learned the importance of government procurement in addition to working for the Small Business Association. I want to help government agencies reach their set-aside goals of 23% small business, 5% Small Disadvantaged Business, 5% Woman Owned Business, 3% HUBZone (Historically Underutilized Business Zone) and 3% Service Disabled Veteran Owned Businesses. More contracts to small businesses mean more employment opportunities. Small Businesses are the backbone of the economy and our future.

# GROWN AND SEXY

## 24/7/365

# LIVE

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WEEKDAYS	8AM CST	THE BROWNIE SHOW	DAVE BROWN
WEEKDAYS	10AM CST	THE CUBBIEHOLE	BIG JOHN NANCE
WEEKDAYS	NOON CST	THE NOON MIX	DJPHILGOOD
WEEKDAYS	1PM CST	THE MIDDAY SHOW	AL GREER
WEEKDAYS	5PM CST	DRIVETIME	BIG JOHN NANCE
WEEKDAYS	7PM CST	MAXXI'S	DJ SHERMAXX
WEEKDAYS	9PM CST	BEDTIME STORIES	AL GREER
<b>SATURDAYS</b>	<b>ALL DAY</b>	<b>ALL DAY MUSIC</b>	<b>VARIOUS</b>
SUNDAYS	2PM CST	IN THE ZONE	DJ DAN FIELDER
SUNDAYS	5PM CST	MARKEY G's SHOW	DJ MARKEY G
SUNDAYS	7PM CST	VELVET VIBES	GREG CROOK
SUNDAYS	3 & 11AM CST	JAZZPIRATIONS	SHANNON RICE

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**Barry Moltz,**  
*President*  
**SHAFRAN MOLTZ**  
**GROUP**

My desire is to get business owners growing again by unlocking their long forgotten potential. In 1999 I began speaking and writing books to help others accomplish their goals of running a small business. My goal is to show small business owners that they are not alone. That it is okay to fail and how to be fulfilled financially and emotionally having your own business. I've discovered the formula to get stuck business owners unstuck and marching forward via simple, strategic steps to facilitate change. During the normal life cycle, every single business gets stuck from time to time and most owners do not know where to turn. It is a lonely world out there running a small business. Entrepreneurs need all the help, support and advice they can get from nonprofit enterprises. The most meaningful aspect of the work is when people email and say I made a difference in their business.



**Dante L. Mosely,**  
*V.P. Business*  
*Development Branch*  
*Manager*  
**HYDE PARK BANK**

Since I was born and raised on Chicago's South Side, I define myself as a true Chicago native who understands the Chicago business environment. Although I've spent much of my career in banking, my experience as an entrepreneur has greatly influenced how I work to meet the needs of my customers. My entrepreneurial experience has taught me the value of building lasting customer relationships based on trust and mutual respect. I am motivated to work with small businesses and nonprofit organizations because when they succeed, we all succeed. I believe that we have a civic duty to support and lend aid when we can to those just starting out or struggling. In tough economic times we must band together if we are all going to survive.



**Stephanie D. Neely,**  
*Treasurer*  
**CITY OF CHICAGO**

My motivation for business came at an early age. I watched my father who was an entrepreneur that owned and operated a successful chain of gas stations located on the south side of Chicago. Seeing how his businesses helped to cultivate the community encouraged me to take up the torch but from a different perspective. The innovative economic development programs I started include the Small Business Development Fund Loan Program, BankOn Chicago, a financial literacy program in Chicago Public Schools that has reached over 240,000 students, and free seminars on "How to Start a Small Business" and "How to use Social Media to Build a Small Business." As a native Chicagoan with deep ties to the City I have a strong commitment to its civic and financial well-being.



**Yvonne M. Orr,**  
*Chief Professional*  
*Officer*  
**SOUTH-SOUTHWEST**  
**SUBURBAN UNITED**  
**WAY**

I am so honored to be a part of the largest nonprofit in the world that has enabled thousands regionally to obtain jobs, become self-sufficient and gain access to quality health care. My mission is to be the preemptive choice for organizations by providing excellent services to support their efforts to develop, implement and evaluate plans for growth and transform communities. I believe that the future of the U.S. as a strong global contender rests in the investment of building small businesses and empowering individuals to be charitable, socially responsible and focused on empowering young people to help shape our future. As such, I live by the following Winston Churchill quote: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."



**Zelda Robinson-Hogues,**  
*TV/Radio*  
*Personality/Trainer/*  
*Author*

**HIGHER LEARNING**  
**NETWORK, NFP**

Les Brown, the Motivator, told me in the midst of my career in radio that not everyone would hear me on the radio. If I wanted more impact, I would have to come from behind the microphone into the community to really make a difference. Now that I stepped from behind the microphone at 1390AM more people are aware of Zelda Robinson Communications and Higher Learning Network, NFP. My purpose has always been to share my gift of gab and writing. The Passion Principles: Pathways to Purpose, Power & Profit! Say it all. It was written by God, I simply listened. I had to help others, I had no choice! God's voice spoke to me, and I had to listen.



**William T. Rogers,**  
*Senior*  
*Account Executive*  
**CHICAGO DEFENDER**

I'm a proud West Side native who has worked in advertising and marketing for more than 15 years. Publishing the Fifth City Voice (community newsletter) actually gave me a thrill for publishing, which catapulted me into the news business with the assistance of Ms. Helen Eckridge, community leader who showed me how to paste up ads on a light table. After a few years at 5th City, I was quickly hired in the Chicago Defender's Classifieds Department as their Manager for six years. Then I joined the Wednesday Journal Newspaper which published the Chicago Journal and other publications as a Classified Manager for three years. Two years ago I re-joined the Chicago Defender. I'm considered to be a master networker and pride myself on being a go to type of guy. My motto is, "When in doubt, call Will Rogers and check it out."



**Annie Russell,**  
*Chairperson*  
**WEST POINT BAPTIST CHURCH**

Working with other nonprofit companies stimulated my interest for assisting small companies in establishing operating procedures and programs to enhance their business. Helping others achieve their objectives and goals has always and will continue to be my purpose in life.



**Mary Swopes,**  
*President/CEO*  
**MAHOGANY SCHOLARSHIP HERITAGE FOUNDATION**

I organized the Mahogany USA Pageant in 1976 and Swopes Charm and Modeling School on the South Side of Chicago. In 1980 I established Swopes Center for Models and Performing Artists, cultivating and promoting talent. My love for male and female leaders inspired me to establish Images and Great Black Women Past and Present as a way to educate, inform and inspire children and young adults about their heritage. In 1989 I organized the annual Youth Expo and Black Heritage Awards, which recognizes local and national leaders whose work perpetuates black dignity and heritage. Currently I am working on a special documentary profiling and saluting 100 Women of Substance. My goal is to present 100 scholarships named in honor of the 100 women.



**Mireya Trejo,**  
*Founder*  
**ONE HEART ONE SOUL**

Help from Many brings Hope to All. My mission is to innovatively & creatively work within communities to raise awareness on social injustice issues while bringing us together in one accord. Inspired by Acts 4:32. Developing an organization such as One Heart One Soul, which created programs such as "UNSPOKEN WORDS, a voice for homeless youth" and UMATTER: Chicago Winter Drive are my passions. I want to provide a voice for the voiceless.

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**“By investing in community enterprise development, you are investing in the creation of jobs and tax revenues that help end the recession.**

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# Acknowledgements

It is with deep appreciation that SSN Small Business & Nonprofit Development Group (SBND) extends its gratitude for those who invested time and resources toward the success of this pilot project.

We further appreciate those who accepted SBND's challenge to look beyond the surface and embrace the opportunities associated with SBND. Now we ask you, the reader of our 2012 Souvenir Program Business Directory, to accept SBND's challenge and invest in community enterprises that invest in you. Take time to ponder the unlimited possibilities, by answering the following question.

"What are the characteristics of successful business leaders in an economy that is failing to maintain its competitive edge?"

SBND believes that the most successful business leaders are those who have a relentless drive to accomplish goals and a tenacious ability to capitalize on opportunities missed by others. Following is a list of sponsors, partners and supporters who have accepted SBND's challenge.

The list consists of individuals and organizations that are now working with SBND to drive the economy forward by investing in development of new legal enterprises and jobs that help to create tax revenue streams in Illinois, Cook County and Chicago communities most affected by the recession. A special thanks and appreciation is extended to National Women Veterans United, One Heart One Soul, Joy Binion, Pearl Griffin, Mary Kaminski and John Porter for helping us create a platform that honors our achievement nominees.

This has been a communal experience. I'm sure there are many others who have crossed my path by the inspiring and amazing things they have done to help further along this journey; and to you I am very appreciative. We are grateful for each of you, and with our continued collaborative effort, the recession will soon be a thing of the past.

Sincerely,

**Nita Marchant, MS, CADC**  
SBND Chief Executive Officer

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Strategic Solutions Network, Inc. (SSN) is committed to enhancing organizational culture and core competencies of nonprofit organizations, social service enterprises and small business entrepreneurs.

We strive to strengthen human resource fitness, program and service delivery, organization development, and sustainability of our clients.

Our goal is to facilitate the growth of community enterprises that they may more effectively meet the needs of target populations.

For more information, contact us at 773-793-9128, email [nmarchant@ssncandoit.com](mailto:nmarchant@ssncandoit.com) or visit our website at [www.ssncandoit.com](http://www.ssncandoit.com).

*We look forward to hearing from you.*

**Nita E. Marchant, MS, CADC**  
SSN President and CEO”

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SBND is a "self-help" nonprofit initiative that provides hands-on strategic organization planning and financial support through education, mentoring and fund development ingenuities to start and grow community enterprises.

### Why We Exist:

SBND was developed to create a bridge between start-up and success toward development of new legal enterprises, jobs and tax revenue streams in Illinois, Cook County, and Chicago communities most affected by the recession.

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