

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES OF CHICAGO
AWARDS DINNER

Chicago, Illinois
March 11, 1998



Leadership Award Presentation

- I. Thanks, Terry [Savage]. Good evening. Delighted to be here.
 - A. I've been fortunate to have worked with the Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago on various occasions, and I can say that NHS is a organization that truly makes a difference in people's lives.
 - B. I recently visited the West Humboldt Park community with NHS representatives. I saw first hand how you're helping the people in that community fight drug and gang activities and make West Humboldt an attractive place to live and do business.

- II. The Chicago Fed's main job is helping establish national monetary policy, but we've taken an active role in community development. We've tried to emphasize the need for new approaches and collaborative efforts.
 - A. Last fall the Bank sponsored a conference on economic and community development, which focused on the importance of traditional and non-traditional partnerships in developing strong communities.
 - B. Another Chicago Fed initiative is our Mortgage Credit Access Partnership where we brought together over 100 representatives from all phases of the mortgage lending process to help

promote fair lending in low- and moderate-income areas. The work isn't completed yet, but we're very pleased with the progress of this partnership thus far.

- C. Our work in economic and community development typically involves working with others who are strongly committed to making a change.

III. I'm honored to present a NHS leadership award to Maria Guzman [say Goose MUN], who certainly fits that description.

- A. Ms. Guzman has been a Pilsen resident for seventeen years, a Resurrection Project Board member, and a mother of two young children.
- B. She's being recognized tonight for her leadership role in establishing a block club in her neighborhood and for encouraging her neighbors to take an active part in neighborhood safety.
- C. Ms. Guzman is such a strong believer in block clubs that she sits on the neighborhood-wide Block Club Steering Committee, which coordinates activities and communicates between block clubs.
- D. She has organized several block parties to help her neighbors get to know one another and create a true community. She is also responsible for starting Safety Orientations at block clubs throughout Pilsen. These orientations are workshops where the police teach children how to be safe on the streets.
- E. She is truly a worthy recipient of this NHS leadership award.
- F. Maria Guzman.