



Peoples Gas Rate Relief Rally

On Monday, March 27, Northwest Center and community members gathered together in protest of the rise in gas rates at Peoples Gas headquarters. Recently, Peoples Gas published its year-end financials, showing a 6th consecutive year of record profits.

With more than 120 people in attendance and local media coverage, the rally was successful at spreading awareness. However, there is still work to be done.

"It was a really impactful action for those of us there, and the media coverage did a really great job of showing folks across the city that they are not alone in their struggle to pay for basic necessities like gas," Immigration Organizer Kate Kownacki said. "The majority of undocumented folks in Chicago don't have access to government-funded social supports, which makes the impact of rate hikes and inflation even greater in communities like Belmont Cragin. It felt important for us to be together in solidarity and show Peoples Gas and other corporations that we won't accept rate hikes for the purpose of corporate profit, much less a rate hike that supports further investment in an outdated fossil fuel infrastructure that's harmful to the environment."

To learn more, read Illinois PIRG's article; [After filing record rate hike, Peoples Gas posts record profits for sixth consecutive year.](#)



Employee Spotlight



It's great to have a place where it doesn't matter if you speak good English or if you were born here, everyone is welcomed. We feel safe and every day is new experience."

Mercy Maceda Parent Mentor Assistant Organizer

Since starting as a Zumba instructor at Parent University in 2022, Maceda has since found herself taking on new leadership opportunities within Northwest Center.

"I was interested in becoming a Parent Mentor and after a few months, I was offered the position of Parent Mentor Assistant Organizer," Maceda said. "It was a really big change because I was used to dancing all the time. I was nervous at first but every day I'm learning something new and it's the first time I can directly help others."

As a first generation Chicagoan, Maceda has also been able to connect with individuals who have experience similar paths once moving to the United States.

"I am able to find others like me, adults that came to US without any information," Maceda said. "It's important to connect with all different types of people to help share information on our rights and other resources people don't know are available."

Celebrate Home 2023!

Northwest Center invites you to celebrate 20 years of responding to the needs of our community at our annual fundraising gala!

JUNE 7, 2023

**ARTIFACT EVENTS
4325 N Ravenswood Ave**

5-9PM

[Purchase your tickets here!](#)



June 7th, 2023 ✨ Artifact Events ✨ 5-9pm

NWC CRI Training

The Community Resilience Initiative (CRI) focuses on creating a community conversation about resilience and aims to provide community members with science-based insights to promote and cultivate resilience. Using trauma-informed principles, the course teaches individuals to systematically create the positive environment that is essential for lasting success.



"Working as a data analyst over the past few years, I became hyper-aware of how our own perspectives and decisions affect the way we understand and communicate the data," CRI participant Minyoung Do said. "How do we tell a story with data without othering or patronizing the people we serve? How do I approach my work with more empathy and compassion? I have been working on recognizing my own bias in the process of collecting, analyzing, and presenting information. Learning more about the trauma-informed approach will allow me to be more intentional about my decision in data work. Throughout this course, I hope to gain more knowledge to be more sensitive about the impact of trauma on the people and communities we are engaging, ultimately contributing to achieving our equity goals."

Health Equity Resilience Manager Cindy Santana invites organizations for CRI training to learn the process on how to create a trauma-informed work environment.

"Everyone has trauma," Health Equity Resilience Manager Cindy Santana said. "I've given this course many times over the past few years. What makes each session unique are the experiences of the participants. When we reflect on the material, regardless of how science heavy it may be, I've noticed staff, residents and professionals draw from their experiences and connect them with what they've learned. The engagement is my favorite part. We get to have conversations on mental health and why it's so important."

Northwest Center offers a 6-hour CRI Training Course presented in 3 sessions. If you're interested in becoming trauma informed, contact Health Equity Resilience Manager Cindy Santana at csantana@northwestcenterchicago.org to learn more.

Upcoming Events

For more information on events, visit our website at www.northwestcenterchicago.org/events



Diabetes Awareness
New Life Covenant Church
5100 W Diversey Ave
April 29
12-3 pm



Bikes 4 Belmont Cragin
New Life Covenant Church
5100 W Diversey Ave
May 13
11 am - 1 pm



**Hablemos Hoy de
Violencia Domestica**
Parent University*
21 de Abril
11 am



Comprando Rico y Sano
Parent University*
28 de Abril
10 am - 12 pm

*Parent University is located at
3030 N. Mobile Ave. Chicago, IL 60639