



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Chicago Training Center Hosts Fundraiser for At-Risk Inner City Youth On Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, At Rosa's Blues Lounge**

***Benefactors Can Meet, Greet and Support March Launch of 2007 Program That Benefits Chicago's At-Risk Youth With In-take, Training, and Competition at CTC Rowing Center***

**CHICAGO, IL – February 18, 2007** – The Chicago Training Center (CTC), an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, celebrates the March inaugural launch of its 2007 program for at-risk area youth with a fundraiser at Rosa's Blues Lounge—3420 West Armitage Avenue, on Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup> from 7-10:00 PM.

### **Launching a New Year of Serving Chicago Youth**

The 2007 CTC rowing center program, which launches on March 6, 2007, is comprised of three phases that will be implemented throughout the year: intake and new member training; rowing instruction and race preparations; and racing competitions. In addition, the Chicago Training Center will provide ongoing support for participants through tutoring sessions as well as college visits, networking and socials.

“This is an exciting first step for a dream that we've had for many years. To see the program launch this March is an exhilarating moment for all the stakeholders who have believed in establishing the Chicago Training Center,” says Montana Butsch, CTC executive director.

The Chicago Training Center organization was formed in the summer of 2005 and recently received the Illinois not-for-profit corporation 501(C)(3) status enabling all contributions as a charitable tax-exemption determination from the IRS.

The Center's overall goal is to establish a community-rowing center that will provide opportunities and experiences to enhance the daily lives of inner-city youth. Through the non-confrontational sport of rowing, the CTC will promote personal growth through teamwork, discipline, physical fitness and educational excellence.

“The discipline of rowing is all about teamwork. Teamwork creates a can-do, success attitude, as the collective team is always greater than the sum of its parts and creates relationships that will stay with you for your lifetime. What better way to instill the values and benefits of discipline, cooperation, and commitment than through rowing, which requires all of these attributes. Exposing at-risk youth to this competitive sport provides both athletic and academic opportunities,” says Butsch. (For information on the executive director, click: [http://www.chicagotrainingcenter.org/ctc\\_coachbutsch.html](http://www.chicagotrainingcenter.org/ctc_coachbutsch.html))

### **Reaching 2007 Goals Through Fun Fundraisers**

The continuing demand for the CTC programs is expected to grow exponentially in the next year. To meet the growing program demands Chicago Training Center will be hosting a series of Benefactor events to raise \$50,000. The legendary Rosa's Blues Lounge – “Chicago's friendliest Blues Lounge” – the location for the March 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday-night event starts the new year fund-raising efforts – a great venue for enjoying music and meeting like-minded people concerned with creating opportunities for at-risk youth. Anticipated attendees will include local Chicagoans, Training Center members and rowing



enthusiasts, along with alumni and philanthropists. To access your invitation, click:

[http://www.chicagotrainingcenter.org/ctc\\_events.html](http://www.chicagotrainingcenter.org/ctc_events.html)

### **Supporting Continuing Success Through Community Stakeholders**

The Chicago Training Center works with local community organizations to provide needed access and resources to support its ongoing mission of positively impacting families in the greater Chicago area. CTC's Executive Director Montana Butsch – with help from the office of the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Illinois and After School Matters – has enlisted the support of various other community stakeholders. These encompass the rowing community in Chicago, as well as their national and international affiliates, and interested businesses in the area.

The significant commitment from After School Matters helps fund the operating costs of the programs. Alliances have also been made with the: Chicago Public Schools, The Office of the Mayor, The Chicago Park District, Oxford-Cambridge Alumni, Westside Association for Community Action (WACA), United Neighborhood Organization (UNO) and USRowing.

Chicago Training center encourages help in a number of ways: contributions, Networking, volunteering time and offering other opportunities for CTC participants are all welcomed. Community participation is the basis of this model, volunteerism is encouraged –learn how to volunteer, click:

[http://www.chicagotrainingcenter.org/ctc\\_volunteer.html](http://www.chicagotrainingcenter.org/ctc_volunteer.html)

### **About Chicago Training Center (CTC)**

The Chicago Training Center (CTC) is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation begun by Chicago native and competitive rower Montana Butsch. The University of Pennsylvania and Oxford University (UK) trained athlete reached out to Chicago's inner city youth for the express purpose of making accessible the vast resources and influence of the sport of rowing. Butsch based the Center on the belief that the discipline of rowing serves as a catalyst for at-risk youth to further their athletic development and education. CTC's current objective is to create an inner city community-rowing center with access to the Chicago River where local youth can learn and enjoy the benefits from the sport of rowing competitively. Supported by the at-large community, the Center is based on existing successful models abroad as well as in US cities: Boston, New York, Oakland and Wilmington. For more information:

<http://www.chicagotrainingcenter.org>



### **Contributors:**

CORPORATE SPONSORS: Goldberg Kohn- Chicago Law Firm, ShoreBank's community specialists. After School Matters (ASM).  
COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS: Chicago Public Schools (CPS), United Neighborhood Organization (UNO, Westside Association for Community Action (WACA) and Row New York- "Making Rowing Cool."

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