

*Washington Park and St.
Edmund's: Working New
Miracles Each Day*



When the Reverend Dr. Richard L. Tolliver became Rector of St. Edmund's Episcopal Church in 1989, he brought a vision: to save Washington Park block by block. Once considered beyond repair, for years the Washington Park community was plagued by disinvestments, a severe population decrease, and high poverty and crime rates, but Father Tolliver and St. Edmund's Redevelopment Corporation (SERC) were determined to set Washington Park on a new course. Their vision, along with the passion of St. Edmund's Episcopal Church has ignited the community, winning back families and emerging victorious as one of Chicago's up and coming neighborhoods.



Annual Community Block Fest

St. Edmund's Redevelopment Corporation
Mission Statement:

Renewing the Washington Park community by developing quality housing and fostering community revitalization opportunities for all people.



*The Miracle of
Washington Park --
restoring community,
renewing hope*

St. Edmund's Redevelopment Corporation:

The Reverend Dr. Richard L. Tolliver
President & CEO

Mrs. Virginia Billings
Deputy Director

6105 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60637
PH: (773) 752-8893 FAX: (773) 752-8067

Housing: Building a Strong Foundation

The St. Edmund's Redevelopment Corporation (SERC) has breathed new life into Washington Park with its 424 new units of quality, affordable housing and a small commercial space, located in 13 buildings, that provide welcoming options for all potential residents. New housing is the core and foundation of the new Washington Park, and the St. Edmund's vision is not lacking in ambition: 179 more units are in the planning stages.



SERC's newest development is St. Edmund's Village, a formerly privately owned building that has been completely rehabbed and reinvented and is an anchor for the new Washington Park. A symbol of the quality growth and investment in the community, the 24-story, 230-unit Village includes 186 Section 8 project-based units, and 44 market-rate units. Its rehabilitation has been called "the Miracle on Michigan Avenue."



Another of SERC's developments, St. Edmund's Tower, is the first senior housing to be built in Washington Park in over a generation. The Tower has allowed long-time residents to stay in the community, and has invited others back to the neighborhood.



In January 2001, SERC began work on a new mixed-income housing development: St. Edmund's Manor, a 31-unit building. And St. Edmund's Meadows, a 56-unit complex formerly owned by the Chicago Housing Authority, is set to begin rehabilitation in October 2001. As with all of their projects, SERC is turning properties that were once blights on the community into developments of which residents can be proud.

Weaving the Web of Community



Quality, affordable housing has been the engine of Washington Park's revival, but the vision and scope of SERC's work has extended even further -- creating the programs and amenities that communities need to thrive. For example, St. Edmund's Church sponsors many programs serving the youth of the community. On July 1st 2000, Chicago International Charter School/St. Edmund's Campus opened, occupying space once used by the former St. Edmund's Academy. The current school, which has 150 students from kindergarten to fifth grade, is operated by the Chicago Charter School Foundation. It continues an educational tradition which St. Edmund's Church initiated in 1948 with the opening of the first St. Edmund's School, thus creating a rich educational and cultural environment for Washington Park's children. Residents are also partnering with the Chicago Police Department to keep their neighborhood safe with a strong CAPS program, and have formed the Washington Park Residents' Block Club, which meet each month in St. Edmund's Church. Programs for local seniors give them not only an opportunity to meet and socialize, but access to shopping, medical care and other assistance. And that's not all -- SERC serves Washington Park residents as a link to social, employment and economic resources, further complementing their commitment to the community.

