ICLC Featured on NPR's Marketplace

Please click here to listen to the Thanksgiving edition of NPR's Marketplace highlighting the challenges faced by tenants living in rental homes that are being foreclosed upon.

The story features Elva Moran, an ICLC client living at 1139 East Adams Boulevard, about 25 blocks south of ICLC's office. Since foreclosing on the three-unit Adams property in May of 2011, Fannie Mae has refused to make necessary repairs to the building, harassed and tried to illegally evict tenants. As a result, Elva and the other families in the building have been living in deplorable conditions. In June of 2013, ICLC filed suit on behalf of the tenants against Fannie Mae to force them to eliminate the severe slum conditions.

Inner City Law Center has been partnering with our colleagues at Strategic Actions for a Just Economy to advance the rights of these tenants.

Happy Thanksgiving for Needy Families

We are thankful for your support that has allowed us to help low-income tenants tackle slum housing; help families stay together and avoid homelessness; and help homeless veterans get off the street.

In conjunction with Inner City Law Center, the law firms of Khorrami Boucher Sumner Sanguinetti, LLP and Kiesel Law LLP sponsored a Thanksgiving Drive to provide 33 impoverished clients living in a building not far from ICLC's office with the essentials for a Thanksgiving Dinner. The
tenants at this building sometimes need to choose between eating or paying rent.

The building, located at 68th Street, has egregious living conditions and health code violations. During her first visit, our Senior Tenant Organizer Amelia Fay-Berquist immediately smelled mold in the building and found numerous units with bathroom walls completely covered in black fungus. After being there for an hour, Amelia had to leave because the smells and allergens were overwhelming to the point that her nose began to bleed. During our follow-up visits, we found that raw sewage was draining into their backyard. In addition to the stink, tenants could not open their windows because the flies and roaches that were harboring in the sewage would creep into their units.

We are working with tenants to file a case against the landlord to demand repairs and to recover any losses or damages.

About Inner City Law Center

Inner City Law Center is the preeminent housing and homelessness legal-services organization working on behalf of poor people in Southern California. As the only provider of legal services located on Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles, ICLC combats slum housing throughout Los Angeles and develops strategies to end homelessness.

Each year, ICLC's staff of 40 (including 22 attorneys) provides free, high-quality legal representation to thousands of low-income tenants, working-poor families, immigrants, people who are homeless or disabled, and veterans. Driven by the fundamental principle that every person should always be treated with dignity and respect, ICLC works for long-term, positive, and meaningful change.