

SOME PAST REPORTS

Organizations awarded grants are asked to report to Open Meadows on their success 6 months after the event. It is interesting to follow-up our grantees to learn the results of their projects. Of course, we love to see their successes, but often their struggles with reluctant success teach us how deep their triumph truly is. Last year the Open Meadows' reviewers were impressed by **Bright Move Network**, a new not-for-profit organization in Cedar Falls, Iowa founded "to help refugees and immigrants adjust to life in Iowa." The modest grant of \$750 was used by the Women of Care Program of the Bright Move Network as they helped immigrant refugee women make their transition into their new culture.

They became resources for each other and other women in the community. They took trips together, learned new skills or improved on ones they already had, taught each other traditional songs and dances, cooked together and shared cultural foods, invited speakers to the group, offered to be a cultural resource for the community and the school, participated in local round table discussions on topics such as child rearing practices and traditional health practices. They compiled and published an International Cookbook: *Everyone Is At The Table*, taught cooking classes, and learned how to plan and implement a support group. For more information: <http://brightmove.org>



Every school, community,
and family is different.

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Ugly Ducklings Campaign

The Ugly Ducklings is a surprising and remarkable story. "Studies across the nation report high rates of harassment and violence directed at lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth." (p.4) This bullying and harassment formed the background of Carolyn Gage's award winning play *Ugly Ducklings* set in a girls' summer camp. In the fall of 2005, Hardy Girls Healthy Women and Greater Waterville's Communities for Children and Youth came together to produce *Ugly Ducklings*, along with an educational documentary film directed by Fawn Yacker, winner of two Academy Award winning films. Out of this cooperation, a Community Action Kit was developed to be used in the schools to educate children and adults, parents, and educators.

The booklet that is included in the Community Action Kit is packed with information, definitions, historical background, and relevant statistics. For example, "In a 14-city study, 80% of lesbian, gay and bisexual youth reported verbal abuse, 44% reported threats of attack, and 33% reported having objects thrown at them." (p.4) "Conservative estimates suggest that LGBTQ youth are 2 to 5 times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers." (p.4) The booklet is well written and engaging, written with segments containing activities, insights, and information directed to parents, educators, and youth.

Trustees

Marianne Brown
Nancy Dean
Beva Eastman
Sandra Lara

Community Board Members

Julia R. Cohen
Angela J. Hadwin
Melanie Hope
Andrea Lepcio
Emma Moreno
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Advisory Board Members

Rosío Alvarez
Jewelle Gomez
Leota Lone Dog
Achebe Powell

**NEXT DEADLINE FOR
PROPOSALS IS:
AUGUST 15, 2007**

For more information about the Open Meadows Foundation and its application form and process, please:

*Visit our website at:
<http://www.openmeadows.org>

*Call us at:
718-885-0969

*Email us at:
openmeadows@igc.org

THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS WERE AWARDED GRANTS IN THE SPRING 2007 CYCLE:

Awareness for Evaluation, Harmony & Development

Faisalabad, Pakistan - **\$1000**

To support a campaign to achieve better working conditions for female workers at the brick kilns.

Azerbaijan Youth Union

Ganja City, Azerbaijan - **\$1000**

To support the establishment of sewing training for women victims of sex trafficking who have been able to return home.

Central Missouri Girls on the Run

Clinton, MO - **\$1000**

To support an after school program that uses running as a tool to teach life skills, promote a healthy lifestyle, and increase self-esteem for girls 3rd - 8th grades.

Community Based Integrated Rural Development

Kampala, Uganda - **\$1000**

To support the Nakaseke Women Empowerment Program by introducing a piggery keeping project for four village development groups.

Girls Inc. of Westchester County

Hastings-on-Hudson, NY - **\$500**

To support the development of program materials for two all-day communication building workshops, Growing Together, for preadolescent girls and their mothers in high-need areas of Westchester County.

For more information: <http://girlsincwestchester.org>

Golden Gloves

Brooklyn, NY - **\$1000**

To support the final music editing of the documentary film, *Golden Gloves*, presenting the discrimination that women boxers face.

Mujeres Caminando Unida

Tijuana, Baja California - **\$1000**

To support transportation costs for women to attend week-long Health Workshops on topics such as: Nutrition, Obesity, Diabetes, Hypertension, Cholesterol, HIV, etc.

Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project

San Francisco, CA - **\$1000**

To support the fall QWOCMAP Training Filmmaking Workshop Program for queer Asian Pacific Women.

For more information: <http://qwocmap.org/>

2nd Chance Counseling, Inc.

Jacksonville, FL - **\$1200**

To support the REAL Program Pre-pilot Evaluation, a 3 day focus group workshop for women who have previously undergone unsuccessful treatments for trauma and substance abuse. The results from the pilot project will then be incorporated into a 17-week program.

For more information: <http://2ndchancecounselingcenter.com/>

The Ivy Theatre

West Hollywood, CA - **\$500**

To support outreach and publicity for the production: *Throwing Rubies* - a lesbian play.

For more information: <http://theivytheatre.org>

VIDA

Lima, Peru - **\$1500**

To support the development of education materials and pamphlet for the "No A La Homofobia" project

Women in Islam, Inc.

New York, NY - **\$500**

To support Building Women Friendly Mosques in New York City, an advocacy program for Muslim women concerning their rights in the mosque.

For more information: <http://womeninislam.org/>

Jeanne Meurer Indigenous Women's Fund

Mapuche Campaign for Self-Affirmation Wefkivletuyin

Buenos Aires, Argentina - **\$1000** (\$250 from the Jeanne Meurer Indigenous Women's Fund was supplemented by \$750 from the general fund).

To support Mapuche Theatre Trans-Wajmapu Tour of *Pewma (Dream)*, an original show based on Mapuche women's memories and dreaming in Mapuche communities throughout the Wajmapu (Mapuche Historical Territory), as part of ongoing community organizing and development work.

For more information:

<http://hemi.nyu.edu/cuaderno/wefkivletuyin/index.htm>

Thoz Womenz, Inc.

Alturas, CA - **\$1000** (\$250 from the Jeanne Meurer Indigenous Women's Fund was supplemented by \$750 from the general fund) in support of a 2-day Native American Women's Drum Retreat to reconnect with language and culture and provide cultural leadership training.

For more information: <http://thozwomenz.org/>

Ellen Dougherty Activist Fund for Young Women

Aswat Palestinian Gay Women

Haifa, Israel - **\$1000** (\$500 from the Ellen Dougherty Fund matched by \$500 from the general fund)

To support the Information and Publications Project that produces and disseminates LGBTQI information in the Arabic language.

For more information: <http://aswatgroup.org/>

Donor Directed Funds

The Susan F. Eastman Fund for Environmental Activism

Begum Rokeya Girls' High School

Rangpur, Bangladesh - **\$700**

To support the PEACE - Primates, Environment, and Conservation Education - program for 7th, 8th, and 9th grade girls with the goals of promoting appreciation and concern for the natural world.

The Water Front

Montreal, Quebec - **\$1000**

To support a coordinated outreach strategy around the documentary *The Water Front* to strengthen the Detroit groups, led by women protecting sustainable access to safe and affordable water.

For more information: <http://redlizardmedia.com/website/>

The PatsyLu Fund for Women's Music Projects

Anna Crusis Women's Choir

Philadelphia, PA - **\$1000**

To support the free fund-raising performances for music workshops for women inmates of the Philadelphia Correctional Facility.

For more information: <http://annacrusis.org/>

Juxtab Music

Acton, MA - \$1500

To support performances in educational and community settings of "One Blazing Glance" song cycle of seventeen poems describing women's life cycle events from childhood through maturity by composer Beth Denisch. Poets are: Zi Ye, Ana Blandiana, Delfy Gochez Fernandez, O'dham, Lucille Clifton, Sappho, Rosie Rosenzweig, Genevieve Taggard, Kim Nam-Jo, Susan MacDonald, Naomi Replansky, Pasha Gertler, Allison Joseph, Maryanne Hannan, and Ethel Fortner.
For more information: <http://bethdenisch.com/>

Slanty Eyed Mama

New York, NY - \$1300

To support the development of the song cycle "Americasiana" that is based on contemporary oral histories from the Asian American experience. Phase II of the project will rehearse the cycle, adding multimedia elements, ie video, dance, and design.
For more information: <http://slantyevedmama.com/>

Sounding Out

Baltimore, MD - \$1500

To support funding for DVD project, *Sounding Out*, by lesbian composers Madelyn Byrne, Renee Coulombe, Linda Dusman, Mara Helmuth, Kristin Nordeval, and Anna Rubin presenting works which focus on some aspect of identity and integrity related to the composers multifaceted gender/sexual/creative identities.

For more information:
<http://www.ccm.uc.edu/computermusic/soundingout.html>

Women's Audio Mission

San Francisco, CA - \$1000

To provide the travel monies from California to New York for two students to attend the Audio-Engineering Society conference.
For more information: <http://womensaudiomission.org/>

WO30 Records

New York, NY - \$1000

To support the initial "Rock the Boat" Fundraiser launching the company's curriculum providing female artists professional support services and after-school music education workshops for young girls from low-income families.
For more information: <http://wo30records.com/>

The India Fund**Bharathi Educational Society**

Kavali, Andhra Pradesh, India - \$1778

To support a mushroom culture enterprise for 150 Yenadi tribal women from 5 different remote villages that ensures a steady high quality of nutritional resources to reduce maternal and child morbidity.

Community Development Society

Cuddapah, Andhra Pradesh, India - \$1520

To support a micro-economic sustainability project of candle making for 2 groups of physically handicapped women, who will then establish a cooperative for candle making -production.

Paneer HIV Positive Women's Network Trust

Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu, India - \$1554

To support the HIV-Widows' vocational training program, raising goats to develop economic sustainability.

Rural Development Women Welfare Society

Yerraguntla, Andhra Pradesh, India - \$1355

To provide the start-up funds for the empowerment of rural poor women through the development of a pickle-making program.
For more information: <http://rdwvs.org>

Sannihita

Hyderabad, India - \$1500

To support Jhari (the Wave) program that works to eliminate Violence against Women and Girls through counseling, training, building awareness, and providing legal aid to women and girls.
For more information: <http://sannihita.org>

REPORT ON PAST PROJECTS continued

"Ten Things an Educator can do" contains segments like "Do not Assume Heterosexuality," "Create a Safe Environment," "Be a Role Model." "Some Advice for Parents" includes topics like "Start Early," "Teach your child how to be assertive," "Stop bullying and harassment when you see it." "Understanding Youth Suicidal Behavior" is one of the strongest sections, brief as it is. Drawn from National Mental Health Association sources, it lists risk factors, protective factors, and warning signs associated with "increased suicidal potential."

The *Ugly Ducklings Community Action Kit* has been so successful in giving communities, schools, and organizations the tools they need to create safe environments for GLBTQ teens that every school in Maine has been provided with a kit. **Ugly Ducklings** now constitutes "A National Campaign to Reduce Bullying and Harassment of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth." It stands with other projects mentioned here to show how much that is creative and inspiring can be achieved with thoughtfulness and positive will and very little money.
For more information: <http://uglyducklings.org>

In Cleveland, Ohio there are two major building projects at this time: the Cleveland Clinic Heart Center and the Cleveland Museum of Art. Both projects hire females and minorities but contractors are not required by law to provide this data. The Allied Cleveland Tradeswomen Employment and Retention Project has committed itself to preparing a database of available, eligible females to fill construction positions. ACT is now collaborating with Hard Hat Women to help publicize ACT's efforts. The Cleveland Women's Journal will advertise the ACT's Employment and Retention Project. The Construction Employers Association (CEA) now lists ACT as an affiliated organization for which numerous services will be provided, such as helping tradeswomen become and remain employed. Difficult as it is to put together this database; through cooperation the women are getting it done!
For more information: <http://actw.org>

The Red Tent Women's Project in Brooklyn, New York received \$1200 in seed money to help the new organization initiate a variety of activities. Thirty events were held between May and October, in addition to Open Community drop-in hours on week-days and week-ends. A listing of the topics covered suggests the range of issues treated and the creative techniques involved. Women might attend "Non-Violent Communication 101" in May at which they were given tools to communicate their needs "without feeling guilty." Following Marshall Rosenberg's delineation of non-violent communication, people learn to make requests without demanding, receive critical messages without taking them personally, "giving up or giving in."

Later in May "Demystifying Body Obsessing" considered the links between "patriarchy, depression, and women's empowerment." In June "Imprisoned: formerly Incarcerated Women Speak Out," a panel discussion explored the connection between violence in women's lives and their incarceration. "The Clothesline Project," a visual exhibit illustrates violence against women and girls.

Beginning May 6th a Women's Writing Group that meets every other Saturday was initiated and in October "Show and Tell," a monthly artists salon was begun. There is much more to say about this creative group that examines all issues freshly no matter how intellectual the topics are. 400 people have visited the Red Tent in its first few months, and considering its wide-ranging interests, and fresh minded approach, that is not surprising.
For more information, contact: <http://redtentwomensproject.org>

Not all the groups take the Red Tent's wide-ranging approach. Most focus on a particular interest. For example, a group in Rochester, NY that now calls itself "The Coffee Connection" focuses on women's working to control their drug and alcohol addiction as they develop a coffee supply business. Using the Open Meadows' grant, the group purchased a digital scale that they use to weigh their green and roasted coffee, Mylar.

As they report, "The women are now learning coffee roasting techniques, flavoring techniques, packaging, wholesaling, and marketing skills. Our business has doubled and the women have been able to increase their multi-tasking abilities." They have acquired a contract with the food service agency of the University of Rochester, Aramark, to provide two cafeterias with their coffee.

Now Coffee Connection trainees wear a uniform, which heightens their sense of proprietorship at the coffee shop. So the twelve participants per year in the Coffee Connection's W.O.W. (Women's Opportunity for Work) Program make steady advances toward independence and health.
For more information: <http://womenscoffeeconnection.com>

"I learned that I still have some skills. You forget that when you have been in the darkness for so long."

-Annie Roberts

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<http://womenscoffeeconnection.com/wcc/women.php>

For more information about any of the projects,
e-mail Nancy Dean, editor of this newsletter,
at enndean@mindspring.com

DEADLINES FOR APPLICATIONS ARE FEBRUARY 15 AND AUGUST 15

Open Meadows Foundation is a grant-making organization for projects that are led by and benefit women and girls.

Open Meadows Foundation funds projects that do not discriminate on the basis on race, religion, national origin, sexual identity, age and ability.

Open Meadows Foundation offers grants up to \$2000 to projects that:

- Are designed and implemented by women and girls:
- Reflect the diversity of the community served by the project in both its leadership and organization:
- Promote building community power:
- Promote racial, social, economic, and environmental justice:
- Have limited access or have encountered obstacles in their search for funding. The organization's budget should not exceed \$150,000.

!Organizations not previously funded have funding priority!

**Small and/or start-up
Organizations are strongly
Encouraged to apply.**