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Leota Lone Dog
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**NEXT DEADLINE FOR
PROPOSALS IS
February 15, 2010**

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

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

*Call us at 718-885-0969

*Email us at:
openmeadows@igc.org

* Write us at:
Open Meadows Foundation
PO Box 150-607
Van Brunt Station
Brooklyn, N Y 11215-607

Reports from Grantees

One of the pleasures of working at Open Meadows Foundation is receiving the accounts describing what groups did with the funds they were awarded. We select from among these reports three or four to present to the readers of our newsletters. One of the most unusual reports came from the **Southwest Panhandle Search and Rescue K-9/ Emotional First Aid Team. Inc.**

The all women **Search and Rescue Team** was granted \$1750 to purchase GPS Tracking Devices and Radios and immediately ordered One Garmin GPS Radio and K9 Tracking Collar Combo for \$480, One Hewlett Packard Printer at \$570, and one Hewlett Packard Laptop Computer for \$980. Each dog handler was equipped with a GPS radio, which is a device to record exactly where the radio is at any point. The GPS collar records the location of the collar as well. At the end of a search every step of the search has been recorded. The devices are downloaded into the laptop computer, printed, and a copy left for the law enforcement team working on the case. The Rescue Team reports a significant boost to their efficiency from their use of the new technology.

<http://www.swpansar.org/>

In 2006, **ASWAT (VOICES)** launched their web site and published 5 information papers 1 - The History of Sexuality in the Arab World, 2 - Lesbianism and Health, 3 - World Pride, 4 - Homosexuality and Lesbianism, and 5 - The Sexual Identity. The grant of \$1000 was to support the Information and Publications Project that produces and disseminates LGBTQI information in the Arabic language such as *LGBTI Glossary Terms in Arabic*, which emphasizes non-derogatory terms and a collection of articles by lesbians entitled: *Home and Exile in Queer Experience*. Before the conference of 2007 ASWAT (VOICES) was described as a "fatal cancer" that should be prevented from spreading within the Arab society. Despite that violent attack about 350 Palestinians and Israeli's attended the day of the conference.

The ASWAT women hired a security company to protect the conference. As a result of the conference, more and more people are referring to ASWAT for information about the gay community: more media are going to ASWAT for coverage of particular events, and more people are accessing ASWAT's web site. "The conference put ASWAT on the map of political and social change."

<http://www.aswatgroup.org/arabic/>
<http://www.aswatgroup.org/english/>

The following organizations were grantees for the Fall 2009 cycle:

Beauty for Ashes

Rancho Cucamonga, CA - \$750

To support necessary clothing and transportation for recently incarcerated women in the Re-entry Mentor Back to Work Program.

Club BrickHouse

Norfolk, VA - \$1000

To support the purchase of resources for the Females in Training (F. I. T.) for Life program for at-risk, overweight and obese girls.

Desipina Productions, Inc.

Brooklyn, NY - \$750

To support the Out of the Kitchen and Into the Fire Workshop Series, a year-long workshop of plays with South Asian/Asian American female protagonists and/or written by South Asian/Asian American/multi-racial women.

<http://desipina.org/>

Desiree Alliance

Henderson, NV - \$900

To support the conference fees for 6 members of the LGBTQ community to attend the Desiree Alliance International Sex Worker Conference, July 2010.

<http://desireealliance.org/>

Familias Triunfadores, Inc.

San Elizario, TX –\$1000 to be matched 1-1

To support the Colonia Women in Movement for Social Justice working on community organizing, training, and collective action.

Friends of Women with Disabilities

Kampala, Uganda - \$1000

To support the purchase of equipment and supplies as well as stipends for a Tailoring Skills Training and Development Project for Women with Disabilities.

Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees

Brooklyn, NY - \$1250

To support the Haitian Workers Project: "Language as Power," which organizes low wage Haitian women workers in adult literacy programs.

No More Tears

Plantation, FL - \$1250

To support the Move-In Assistance for immigrant, arranged marriages women who are Victims of Domestic Violence.

<http://www.nmtproject.org/index.php>

North Dakota Women's Network

Bismarck, ND - \$1500

To support "The Group that Opened the Box," which explores adolescent sexuality through theater arts, mental health and social justice.

<http://www.ndwomen.org/>

The Prison Birth Project

Amherst, MA - \$800

To support the purchase and distribution of books to mothers at the Regional Women's Correctional Center.

<http://thepriisonbirthproject.org/>

Rising Circle Theater Collective

Brooklyn, NY - \$1140

To support the stipends for 2 Lead Teaching Artists for Q UP, an arts intensive for young Asian American girls residing in Queens.

<http://risingcircle.org/>

Simone's Home

Little Rock, AR - \$750

To support the equipment, flyers, banners and supplies for the Girls Circle – a teen to teen mini conference.

Women's Empowerment Project

Providence, RI - \$1160

To support the stipends and tailor's salary for the job-training project: Umoja Wa Akina Mama Tailoring Workshop.

<http://wepri.wordpress.com/umoja/>

Women Forum Elbasan

Elbasan, Albania - \$750

To support developing Awareness of Young Girls aged 15-25 years through Workshops clarifying 2008 Domestic Violence Law.

Special Funds

The Jeanne Meurer Indigenous Women's Fund

Ababiri-Bantu Womens Group

Mbale, Uganda - \$1000

To support a Cassava Grower Project that improves nutrition and income for families with HIV.

The Kologi Sports and Recreation Fund

Reclaim Childhood, Inc.

Boston, MA - \$1380

To support a Saturday Sports Clinic Program for Iraqi refugee girls living in Jordan, run and operated by Iraqi women.

<http://reclaimchildhood.com>

Donor Directed Funds

The Susan F. Eastman Fund for Environmental Activism

Egulansi Kayinza Women Farmers Association
Busia, Uganda - \$1000

To promote the use of and training about Solar Pineapple Driers.

The Edie Windsor Fund for Old Lesbians

Bless Bless Productions

New York, NY - \$1000

To support the outreach and organizing around the rights of same sex marriage as seen in the documentary: *Edie & Thea: A Very Long Engagement*.

<http://blessblessproductions.com/>

The PatsyLu Fund for Women's Music Projects

Astoria Jazz Band

Astoria, NY - \$500

To support the concert and panel: *Women Composers of Queens*, to be performed at the SAGE Senior Center.

Nine women composers are included.

<http://sudhalter.com/astoria-big-band/>

NANABABIES

Union, NJ - \$1000

To support the musical educating assembly program:

Feminine Forces, for an underserved school. The program is about unsung heroines whose accomplishments caused paradigm shifts in our nation and our world.

<http://www.nanababies.org/>

North American Guqin Association

Fremont, CA - \$500

To support the multidisciplinary, multimedia performance: *From Beijing to San Francisco*, by Fei Wang, a noted Chinese woman guqin player, who brings this ancient art form to American audiences.

<http://www.chineseculture.net/guqin/>

Vox Femina Los Angeles

La Crescenta, CA - \$1000

To support *Celebrate the Power of Women Through Song*, in which six all-women high school choirs from underserved communities and members of the Vox Femina ensemble will participate in a March 20, 2010 choral workshop and festival.

<http://www.voxfeminala.org/>

Association of Torah and Arts

Brooklyn, NY - \$750

To support the music component of the ATARA Conference: *Jewish Women in the Arts*, for Torah observant, gifted women, who, in adherence of Jewish laws, do not perform before a mixed gender audience.

<http://www.artsandtorah.org/>

The India Fund

Women's Path

Aniladi, India - \$1800

To support the establishment of the Women's Rights Awareness Library.

Foundation of Rural Development

Karaikudi, India - \$1700

To support Leadership Development of Young Women and Adolescent Girls in dealing with the Domestic Violence Act of 2005.

Village Community Development Organisation

Gingee, India - \$1800

To support the sericulture technique in the development of a silk thread production cottage industry for 50 women.

Srimathi Gurram Subbamma Educational Academy

Vedayapalem, India - \$1600

To support the legal training and implementation of the Tribal Women's Rights Assurance Program for Dalit women.

REPORTS ON PAST PROJECTS cont.

DIVAS (DIGITAL INTERACTIVE, VISUAL ARTS SCIENCES) FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

"aims to bridge the digital divide by combining media literacy and cultural awareness along with a vast understanding of technology to encourage young women of color to pursue careers in computer science and new media." DIVAS for Social Justice collaborated with the Brooklyn Young Mothers' Collective in *Through My Lens Project*, a collaborative media program to produce four documentary style Public Service Announcements of concern to young mothers of color in "underserved communities."



The grant of \$1600 was to produce 4 Public Service announcements presenting the opinions on what reproductive justice means to a woman in the Brooklyn Young Mothers' Collective. They emphasized the importance of Education to women to achieve economic independence. They presented positive depictions of young fathers to counteract the negative view so often presented in the media. They pointed out the need for emotional support for the pregnant teen mother who needs help in making the wise decisions for herself. As Clarisa James reports, the Collective "was able to purchase equipment for the program, workshop materials, and provide lunch and metrocards to constituents in need of travel money to attend the program." The, " *Through my lens*" project was screened at the Grassroots Media Conference on May 30, 2009.

<http://divas.shashafeng.com/>

The **Jeanne Meurer Indigenous Women's Fund** of Open Meadows contributed support for the **Mapuche Theatre Project 2008**, a Trans-Wajmapu Tour of the Mapuche historical territory. The original plan was to visit seven communities across the vast Wajmapu territory between Argentina and Chile, performing "Pewma" (Dream) an original production based on the dreaming of Mapuche women. Two grants: \$932 from Open Meadows and a research grant of \$370.00 from the University of Buenos Aires helped to support the tour.

Pewma was performed before 400 people, half of them women. The first stop was Barrio Vitgen Misionera, a poor neighborhood with a large Mapuche population. A community leader, Maria Rankewe invited community musicians to join the visitors. The audience was "intergenerational, multi ethnic, and multi gendered." They felt honored and appreciated when a group of "Old Mapuche women" came up to thank them.

The second stop was the Barrio El Frutillar in a school, with an audience of 60, a large number of children and their mothers. The third was the school of Canadon Chileno," a rural spot on the Patagonian desert."

The fourth stop was the school of Pilquiniyeu del Limay a community with a "history of displacement." During the 1980's the state built a dam in the Limay River and flooded the original lands where the community was settled. When the story of displacement was told it was found that the men wanted to move to the cities and the women would not accept money for land. Only land was acceptable to the women.

As a result of their tour in the historical lands, their archives were increased, and their audio collection was augmented, " The pride of Mapuche women of different communities has grown through the acknowledgement of the ancient knowledge that their dreams have been keeping across generations."

These reports in their variety and depth suggest the seriousness of purpose and industry of women across the world.

For more information about any of the projects, please 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, particularly those from vulnerable communities. Open Meadows Foundation funds projects that do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, gender identity and expression, sexual identity and expression, age or ability. It 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 gender, racial, social, economic and environmental justice; and
- * Have limited financial access or have encountered obstacles in their search for funding.

Organizational budgets should not exceed \$150,000.

!Small and start-up organizations are strongly encouraged to apply!

Proposals from organizations not previously funded by Open Meadows have priority.