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**NEXT DEADLINE FOR
PROPOSALS IS
FEBRUARY 15, 2008**

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 for a brochure at:
Open Meadows Foundation
PO Box 150-607
Van Brunt Station
Brooklyn, N Y 11215-607

Reports from Grantees

Everyone who receives a grant from Open Meadows is invited to send in a report telling how the grant was implemented, so we can pass along the good news to other applicants and potential applicants. As it happens the outstanding grant reports this time were mainly in the field of arts.

It is a pleasure to report on the tremendous success of "Speak Out!" the creative writing program held for ten weeks in the spring of 2006 at the Larimer County Detention Center in Colorado. "Why write and publish in jail?" friends and acquaintances of incarcerated women often ask. The primary philosophy of the workshop facilitators: Randi Depriest, Tobi Jacobi, Sarah Robirds, and Laura VanEtten is that "everyone has a story to tell; each has words that are valuable and necessary."

Over forty five women met once a week to "write and share poetry, short stories, and other pieces of writing inspired by our lives, each other, and examples of published work by writers such as Marge Piercy, Maya Angelou, Denise Levertov, Joy Harjo and Ntozake Shange." Out of their intensity of experience the work of thirty-five of the participants was published in a collaborative booklet entitled, Imprisoned Voices.

Reading the pieces in this collection is visiting other lives, so familiar yet different. The women's comments on their own experience is fascinating, "When you are incarcerated writing down your thoughts, feelings are one of the best ways to express yourself and start self-healing." One of the writers said of her discovery of writing, "Now that I have started, at first it was to get rid of frustration, and now it feels good. Sometimes I don't want to stop. It's like a water fountain stuck on "on." Every writer who has known the pain of "writer's block" can rejoice with the woman whose "fountain is stuck on " "on."

<http://literacy.colostate.edu/speakout.html>

In the field of filmmaking, Tania Cypriano worked with the editor filmmaker, Mary Patierno to create the fast paced, funny documentary, "My Grandma has a Video Camera," which premiered at Lincoln Center.

The film presents 16 years of family video exploring the parallel stories of transnational immigration. Examining issues of dual nationality and the conflicts of loyalty to a country, the film presents the complexities of social dynamics from the point of view of three generations of women within one family.

<http://grandmahasavideocamera.blogspot.com/>

reports continued on page 3

THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS WERE GRANTEEES OF THE FALL 2007 CYCLE:

Appalachian Women's Alliance

Floyd, VA - \$1250

To support the organizing and action project for voter education and registration.

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

CC Angels Double Dutch

Columbus, OH - \$600

To prepare young women to compete with USA Jump Rope by supporting the costs of bringing an USAJR instructor to CC Angels Practice.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Clearwater Chapter

Clearwater, FL - \$1300

To pay the bus rental costs for 25 minority young women to participate in four college tours in Florida.

<http://clearwaterdst.org/>

Guerilla Girls on Tour

New York, NY - \$700

To support travel to Japan to learn women's kabuki techniques from Nagoya Musume Kabuki, the only all female kabuki troupe in Japan.

<http://guerrillagirlsontour.com/>

GEEZ Louise!

Des Moines, IA - \$1300

To support Yes! You Can! - a 20 week group for young women involved with the Polk County Juvenile Drug Court.

<http://geezlouisie.org/>

HERvoices

Newton Center, MA - \$800

To support the travel to Kenya for Research for the Wajir Peace Group Presentation. The indigenous Somali women of the Wajir Peace Group successfully stabilized a warring region by implementing a community-wide non-violent peace process.

<http://hervoices.org/>

MotherWoman, Inc.

Amherst, MA - \$1500

To help support the salary of a child-care provider to the Postpartum Depression and Anxiety Prevention Program

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

Pandora's Box Productions

San Francisco, CA - \$1200

To support the finishing costs for *Moms Living Clean*, a film about drug policies impacting mothers living with substance abuse issues.

<http://momslivingclean.org/>

Pureland Pictures

Brooklyn, NY - \$1000

To help with finishing costs of *Mehret*, a documentary film about the startling increase of HIV/AIDS among African- American Women and their counterparts in Ethiopia.

<http://purelandpictures.com/>

Rompiendo el Silencio

Santiago, Chile - \$1000

To pay for graphical design costs and the photography in the implementation of the printed version of a Lesbian Culture Magazine.

<http://rompiendoelsilencio.cl/>

The Women's Jericho House/ J&J Missions

Ludington, MI - \$1200

To pay for the Replacement/Renovation of the windows in the Women's Jericho House, a refuge/resource center for homeless and disenfranchised women striving to change their lives.

Women in Transition

Louisville, KY - \$1500

To pay for the publication of *Know Your Rights*, a booklet to educate women about their rights regarding procedures and policies by specifically defining terms used by Child Protective Services and Family Court.

<http://www.witky.com>

The Ellen Dougherty Fund for Activist Women

Voces de Cambio

Quetzaltenango, Guatemala - \$750 of which \$500 from the Ellen Dougherty Fund was supplemented by \$250 from the General Fund.

To support the Young Women's Network - a writing and photography program for teenage girls.

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

The Jeanne Meurer Fund for Indigenous Women

Happy Mother - Happy Child Organization

Sironko, Uganda - \$890 of which \$500 from the Jeanne Meurer Fund was supplemented by \$250 from the General Fund.

To support training of 20 traditional birth attendants on labor birth management.

Donor Directed Funds

The Edie Windsor Fund for Old Lesbians

Temple of the Great Mother, Inc.

Mentone, AL - \$1000

This grant is divided with \$500 to support creating an access roadwork to the riverside camping area and \$500 to support the attendance at the Eden Eldercare conference.

The PatsyLu Fund for Women's Music Projects

Calliope Women's Chorus

Minneapolis, MN - \$1000

To support two December 2007 concerts, *Star Light, Star Bright: Connected by the Light*, that shows how the multi-cultural, multi-ethnic community in the Twin Cities is connected by light through the dark half of the year.

<http://calliopewomenschorus.org/>

Shepards Fold

Cornelius, NC - \$500

To support a voice program for Special Needs Teens and Young Adults.

Tapestry

Cambridge, MA - \$1910

To support the women's vocal ensemble performing with the Latvian Women's ensemble, Putni, in an international festival held in Latvia. Tapestry will also lead workshops on both historical and contemporary women composers.

<http://tapestryboston05.com/>

The Susan F. Eastman Fund for Environmental Activism

Women's Protection Society

Pallisa, Uganda - \$1000

To support the construction, training, and use of a Bio-Sand Filter to provide the community with water security.

The India Fund

Development Society for Women Needs

Ongole, Andhra Pradesh - \$1550

To support the organizing and education of women around a potential Government order to have a HIV/AIDS test before marriage for both the bride and the bridegroom

Creative Action for Rural Development

Pedakakani, Andhra Pradesh - \$2000

To support Fights for Rights, a collective action by 11 women's NGOs around such issues as gender equality, trafficking of women and the girl children, and early marriages.

Help Trust

Ambathurai, Tamil Nadu - \$1088

To support the purchase of equipment to establish a self-employment tailoring training center.

PARWAZ Muslim Women Lawyers Forum

Bodakdev, Ahmedabad - \$1000

To support the Muslim Women Lawyers' Forum who work with the status of Muslim women in India on such issues as the uniform civil law versus the personal law, human rights and Muslim law, and choice and equality in marriage.

Sneha Mahila Mandali

Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh - \$1376

To provide the capital investment required to purchase the equipment for a pickle-making program and to provide the initial revolving loan to purchase the raw materials of fruit and spices.

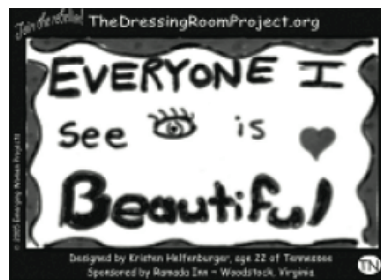
REPORTS ON PAST PROJECTS cont.

Winner of the Best documentary at the Roxbury film Festival, Faith Pennick's "Silent Choices," was the official selection at the African American Film Festival, Martha's Vineyard and the Black Harvest Film Festival and Charlotte Film Festival and was named best documentary at Reel Sisters of the Diaspora Film Festival in Brooklyn.

This film about the politics of abortion and its effect on the lives of African American women places the African American women in the center of this analysis of abortion and reproductive issues.

<http://silentchoices.com/>

The Dressing Room Project is an initiative of the Emerging Women's Projects, a non-profit organization for teen girls' empowerment. It is part of a "girl-powered rebellion to free girls and women from the bonds of media-imposed standards of beauty!" DRP supporters post their "girl-designed cards" in women's dressing rooms and gyms everywhere to help "girls and women feel more comfortable in their uniquely beautiful bodies. Join the rebellion."



The colorful cards are free, downloaded from <http://www.thedressingroomproject.org/> and may be stuck on school bathroom mirrors, telephone

poles... wherever, to challenge definitions of beauty: "Everyone I see is beautiful," "You look beautiful and gorgeous, wonderful, great, great and wonderful," "Be happy that you are your unique self. "

Recipients are invited to register first as a DRP Action team, and be part of a powerful social change movement, help effect a positive shift in cultural attitudes towards beauty, and receive the Dressing Room Project Action Kit. Their emphasis on the positive gives a delightful light heartedness to their whole project.

MO.LE.CA., standing for Movimento Lesbico de Campinas, Brazil, is an activist organization specifically for lesbians working on issues such as racism, sexism and homophobia. A five hundred dollar grant supported the publicity of their Third Exposition of Lesbian art, given in August 2006. The theme of the Exhibition was the cultural contributions of lesbians and bisexual women through history and countries. In the plastic arts artists were invited to explore the "female power of creation." Artist Andrea Cristina Eduardo created an installation for the event depicting lesbians and bisexual women who lived between 600B.C to the early 20th century.

The exhibition had Adeise Pinez, Alexandra Martins Costa, Ana Vilaneuva, Chessler Moreira, Dellano, Dio Penez, Jacob Jose de Lima, Mauro Machado,

Mirela Vio, Narege and Patricia Melo as selected artists. Cristina Alvares Beskow, Egas Francisco and Patricia Linhares participated as invited artists. Adeise Pinez received a critical award and Dio Pinez received a public award "coincidentally mother and son. "

The winning play was "As Sereias da Rive Gauch"("The Mermaids of the Rive Gauch") written by Vange Leonel about lesbian and bisexual artists and intellectuals who introduced lesbian issues to France in the beginning of the 20th century.

The Cinema exhibition featured four films, "Better than Chocolate," "The incredible True Adventure of Two Girls in Love," "Saving Face," and "Imagine Me and You."

The range of successful work that our reports record was so creative and interesting that we look forward eagerly to see what the next group will bring.

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. Open Meadows Foundation funds projects that do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, 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 racial, social, economic and environmental justice;
- * Have limited financial access or have encountered obstacles in their search for funding. Organizational budget should not exceed \$150,000.

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

Proposals from organizations not previously funded have priority.