

Trustees

Marianne Brown
Nancy Dean
Beva Eastman
Di Eckerle
Sandra Lara

Community Board Members

Diane Bratcher
Sangeeta Budhiraja
Mercedes Cano
Julia R. Cohen
Angela J. Hadwin
Emma Moreno
Di Eckerle

Advisory Board Members

Rosío Alvarez
Jewelle Gomez
Andrea Lepcio
Leota Lone Dog
Achebe Powell

**NEXT DEADLINE FOR
PROPOSALS IS
August 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 for a brochure at:
Open Meadows Foundation
PO Box 150-607
Van Brunt Station
Brooklyn, N Y 11215-0607

GREEN! GREEN! GREEN! SAVE THE TREES! THIS will be OUR last set of reports presented in the old technology. "Hard copy" is easy to file and to handle for research, but it is expensive, and uses forests per day that take generations to grow. All newsletters are and will be available on the web site as pdf files. (http://openmeadows.org/grants_cycle.htm)

Before we embark on our next years of development we want to thank the generous activists who brought us this far. Unpaid volunteers all, they gave hours of their critical judgment researching proposals, considering budgets, and inquiring about mission statements. We want to express our gratitude to these women who gave and are giving so generously of their time to Open Meadows. Each woman named served at least one year, some gave as much as 20 years of service to Open Meadows, and some are serving now: Rosío Alvarez, Diane Bratcher, Marianne Brown, Sangeeta Budhiraja, Mercedes Cano, Julia R. Cohen, Nancy Dean, Janis Astor del Valle, Sue Eastman, Di Eckerle, Donna Goodleaf, Jewelle Gomez, Lucille Field Goodman, Sarah Grant, Angela Hadwin, Catti James, Suzanne Henry, Melanie Hope, Ira Jeffries, Sandra Lara, Andrea Lepcio, María Limón, Beverly Little Thunder, Leota Lone Dog, Jeanne Meurer, Emma Moreno, Patsy Rogers, Achebe Powell, and Edie Windsor.

Reports from Grantees

At this point in our 29th year Open Meadows announces that we are on the look-out for politically activist projects like the Women's Activist Gathering, PAIRWN, and Stop Violence Against Women described in this issue.

The **Women's Activist Gathering** was held at the Alma de Mujer Center for Social Change on the weekend of July 31 - August 2, 2009. As their report informs us, "The purpose of the Women's Activists Gathering is to bring together Native American/Indigenous women to have a critical dialogue and to reflect on their work from across different sectors of our movements. In particular, the women we brought together in 2009 are women whose work is based in struggles for Native sovereignty, environmental justice and/or immigration. "Through critical dialogue and exchange the Gathering aims: to strengthen our collective capacities, our social and political networks, to promote resource sharing and community building, to provide a place of rest and healing for hard working women." 33 registrants, 12 volunteer-participants and four Council members present plus 6 staff member participants made for a total of 55 participants. A community-based planning committee was formed with members from respected organizations like PODER: People in Defense of Earth and Her Resources, AFSC: American Friends Service Committee, and ALLGO: a statewide people of color organization.

The following organizations were grantees of the Spring 2010 cycle.

Alaska Birth Network

Anchorage, AK - \$1500

To support the training in the Girlfriends (Doula)

Labor Support Project.

<http://alaskabirthenetwork.org/>

Busymoms Telecons

Eden Prairie, MN - \$2000

To support Marriage Matters: a series of teleconferences/webinars.

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

Consortium Congo Development

Bujumbura, Burundi - \$1650

To support the development of a cooperative chicken farm for Rural Women's Economic Development.

GuerillaGirlsBroadBand

New York, NY - \$1000

To support Cartographies of Choice which maps the relationship between access to abortion and reproductive health and the US political and social debates around reproductive justice.

<http://ggbb.org/>

Mineral King Productions

Arlington, MA - \$1000

To support the distribution costs of the documentary: *Thy Will Be Done* - the story of a Male-to-Female transsexual and her dream of becoming an ordained Minister in the Presbyterian Church.

<http://mineralkingproductions.com/thy-will-be-done.htm>

MuJER - MUJERES por la Justicia, Educación y Reconocimiento

Guatemala - \$1600

To support the Door-To-Door Empowerment Workshop Series for the women in Guatemala City's red-light districts.

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

The Press Institute for Women in the Developing World

Alameda, CA - \$1950

To support specialty-reporting training in the Reporting Gender Justice program in Nepal.

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

SAFER (Students Active for Ending Rape)

New York, NY - \$1100

To support the data entry of 1000 campus sexual assault policies and analysis in the Campus Accountability Project.

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

Women's Health Free Clinic

New York, NY - \$1500

To provide travel stipends transportation costs to promote replication of the model of the Women's Health Free Clinic.

<http://www.med.nyu.edu/nycfreeclinic/>

Special Funds

The Ellen Dougherty Activist Fund for Young Women

UWP Society of Women Engineers

Platteville, PA - \$1000

To support the Sky's The Limit program introducing young women to the careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics with a solar oven project.

<http://www.uwplatt.edu/wep/programs/>

The Jeanne Meurer Indigenous Women's Fund

Busyangwa Rural Support Centre

Bukoba, Tanzania - \$1500

To support the Obstetric Fistula Campaign.

The Kologi Sports and Recreation Fund

Sporty Girls, Inc.

Atlanta, GA - \$1200

To support the summer sports camp: "Camp Elite," a sports camp, targeting minority girls (40 girls age 10-16). The sports emphasized will be golf, tennis, aquatics, and soccer.

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

Donor Directed Funds

The PatsyLu Fund for Women's Music

The Concord Women's Chorus, Inc.

Concord, MA - \$1000

To support the concert "American Women of Note," which will highlight works by American women composers.

<http://www.concordwomenschorus.org/cms/>

Voices Rising: Women Building Community through song

Jamaica Plain, MA - \$1000

To support the concert "Shall We Dance" celebrating the diverse lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and women's communities for Boston Pride 2010.

<http://voicesrising.org/>

Rock Camp 4 Girls Appalachia

Harts, WV - \$1000

To support the free week long, volunteer run summer camp "Rock Camp 4 Girls Appalachia."

<http://rockcamp4girlsapp.blogspot.com/>

The PatsyLu Fund for Music Projects (continued)

S'Cool Sounds

New York, NY - \$1407

To support the purchase of percussion instruments for a children's music education program and of a video camera to document the activities.

<http://gemsny.org/scoolsounds.html>

The Susan F. Eastman Fund for Environmental Activism

Elephant Energy

Denver, CO - \$1000

To support the Women's Energy Action Project developing a model to help meet the energy needs of rural women in Namibia using renewable energy technologies such as solar lighting, crank radios, and solar chargers for cell phones.

<http://elephantenergy.org/>

The India Fund

Feminist Approach to Technology

New Delhi, India - \$1750

To support the cost of a trainer at a center offering technical education to girls living in the slums of Lajpat Nagar.

<http://www.fat-net.org/>

Society for Health, Awareness and Rural Education

Ottankaduvetty, India - \$1200

To support micro-entrepreneurial trades for young trafficked women survivors.

Tibetan Women's Association

Dharamsala, India - \$1000

To support the Tibetan Women's Settlement Officer Training program.

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

Association for Widows Welfare

Rathapuram, India - \$1700

To support the fish production for Widows Economic Security, Empowerment, and Freedom.

Rural Development Society

Pathur, India - \$1276

To support the Awareness, Training, and Policy-making of an Anti-Trafficking program and Income Development for 25 rescued trafficked women.

REPORTS ON PAST PROJECTS continued

After working in the large group giving introductions and values crucial to their work, they broke into small groups that focused on specific questions such as, "what in her life led her to focus on the specific issues she addresses through her work? What strategies does she utilize to address the issues affecting her community? What are some of the obstacles that she has had to confront and how have these been dealt with?"

For the final dialogue on Sunday morning participants broke into pairs and answered questions such as: "Who do I carry in my blood? What political choices do I make about what I choose to reveal, how do I come to that choice and how do I tell that story? How do I assert authority along the lines of race/gender/sexual/orientation/ethnicity/age/class." The women told of their wish to be with other activists, how they are restored by the wisdom from other activists, by seeing that the work they do is valued.

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

We are glad to present the report from the **NGO Provincial Women** concerning their project: "STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN." Their central achievement was the creation of a crisis center especially for rural women.

Between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. on working days, they provide a confidential phone line with individual psychological advice, legal advice, medical assistance given anonymously and free of charge.



The activist women prepared two information pamphlets. "*How can you protect Yourself against Violence*" which was made available from libraries, doctors, emergency rooms, and social services. The other information pamphlet for rural groups, "*Making local police services aware of the occurrence of domestic violence*" stimulated women to supervise actions of the police against the perpetrators.

They published and distributed 75 copies of a tool kit for professionals, containing acts and regulations, target areas, advice and guidance. About 45 leaders participated in workshops where concepts about gender rights, violence, and community responsibility were discussed. Forty community leaders including street leaders, local police militia and professionals from local cultural authorities offices participated in a Community Activism Course that focused on "Understanding Domestic Violence in a Rural Community." Each leader developed an Action Plan to influence practice within her work environment.

reports continued on page 4→

Mission Statements are notoriously difficult to express and to carry out, but **PAIRWN** expresses its controversial intentions with grace and clarity, and carries them out with artistry and sympathetic energy. Their mission statement says:

"THE PENNSYLVANIA IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE WOMEN'S NETWORK (PAIRWN) was created to honor and enhance the lives of immigrant women in Pennsylvania.. Our mission is to help refer, advocate, network and empower these women to live to their fullest potential. We also strive to educate others about our cultures and our contributions to American society." Their mission statement describes how they carry out their mission, "PAIRWN:

1) PROVIDES HELP AND SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE WOMEN AND CHILDREN, 2) PROMOTES UNDERSTANDING, RESPECT, AND FRIENDSHIP AMONG DIVERSE ETHNIC AND CULTURAL GROUPS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS; AND 3) PROVIDES LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND MENTORING FOR IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE WOMEN."

Open Meadows supported their 7th Annual Women's Health Conference featuring a play entitled *Magnificent Healing*, fashioned by Lori Myers from interviews with refugee survivors: Bell from Ecuador, Zohreh from Iran, Madina from Somali.

Bell has borderline diabetes, which is not helped by the American diet of sugar. Zohreh was born in a small town about 8 hours from Tehran. She was in constant pain and cried desperately. She ran a high fever, and finally a doctor diagnosed polio. Madina was born in Somalia, East Africa and tells the audience about "female circumcision," a procedure that has no religious or scientific significance but serves as a means to keep women from wanting to have sex outside of marriage because intercourse is so painful.

At the end of the play the women say, "Are you listening doctor? Our stories heal our souls, but only you can heal our minds and our bodies. Let's heal each other." And the women dance. Madina says, " Allow the healing to begin and it will be wonderful."

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.