

Reports from Grantees

Every group that is awarded a grant in the Open Meadows Foundation's granting cycles is asked to send a brief report describing their activities using the funds. With each Newsletter describing the grants, a few reports are highlighted.

The final report by **MuJER-Mujeres por la Justicia, Educación y el Reconocimiento** (Women for Justice, Education and Recognition) must be viewed as a report of great success. In January 2005 two undergraduate students: Ana Moraga and Tania Torres and their professor heard a report on National Public Radio about a group of prostitutes in Guatemala City, Guatemala. They heard the story of Susie Sika, a 41-year old mother of seven who said that her lifelong ambition was to learn to read. That story determined Ana and Tania to move to Guatemala City and found a literacy program in Guatemala City's red light district, known as La Linea, that would help all other women in those circumstances.

The grant from Open Meadows was for **MuJER's** Door-To-Door Empowerment Workshop Series for the women in Guatemala City's red-light districts and to purchase a banner and t-shirts for the November 25 Day of No Violence annual demonstration in Guatemala City. The workshops start a discussion whose theme is developed in the weekly visits during the month. Themes emphasized were: July - Sex Work and Dignity; August - Leadership; September - Women and Citizenship, October - Trafficking (as many of the women had been trafficked) and November - Violence Prevention.

On their door-to-door visits the women from **MuJER** give out fliers and when they see that the fliers are kept and read they give out little prizes, beauty items, or a bag of ten condoms. If the women visited show interest in becoming involved with **MuJER**, they are given general "presentation cards" with information, lists of vocational courses, lists of classes and times of literacy, jewelry making classes etc. address of **MuJER**. An average day of door-to-door visits usually means 65-75 women are contacted.

"We are also organizing a group of women from the different red light districts to participate with us in the November 24th annual demonstration, Day of No Violence. Each year we have had a few more women march with us." It is so satisfying to see the growth of this Women's Group from a small literacy center to this multi-faceted dynamic power center giving support and encouraging growth to women in the midst of Guatemala City.
<http://www.muJERguatemala.org/>

Trustees

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Beva Eastman
Di Eckerle
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Leota Lone Dog
Achebe Powell

NEXT DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS IS August 15, 2011

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

THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS WERE GRANTEES FOR THE SPRING 2011 CYCLE:

Choices | Control Academic Program, Inc.

Dayton, OH - \$1000

To support iHealth e-Girls - a health, literacy and media arts education program
<http://ihealthegirls.ning.com/>

dNaga

Oakland, CA - \$1000

To support *Reveal* - a dance choreographed to interviews of powerful elders who are women of color
<http://www.dnaga.org/>

Emerge Global

Cambridge, MA - \$1000

To support Beads-to-Business: Collaborative Capital Creation for Girls who have Survived Abuse in Sri Lanka
<http://www.emergeglobal.org/>

Fannie Lou Hamer Cancer Foundation

Ruleville, MS \$1000

To support We Too Can Make A Difference: training of high school females to identify women who have not been screened for breast or cervical cancer
http://www.fannielouhamer.info/cancer_foundation.html

GABRIELA USA

Carson, CA - \$800

To support travel expenses to attend the International Women's Alliance Conference in Manila
<http://www.gabusa.org>

Hollaback!

New York, NY - \$1400

To support the HollabackNYC Youth Leadership Project to stop street harassment of women
<http://www.ihollaback.org/>

LEAP - Learn-Empower-Act-Promote

Faisalabad, Pakistan - \$500

To support a matching grant for Empowerment Alternatives for Domestic Maids

New York Abortion Access Fund

New York, NY - \$1500

To support the purchase of infrastructure software and printing of outreach materials

Project Rage

Rancho Cucamonga, CA - \$1000

To support the "Stop Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation" Workshop
<http://www.projectrage.org/>

Save The Women Solidarity Forum

Accra, Ghana - \$1250

To support the Community Action against Acid Attacks on Women

The Sanctuary for Veterans & Families

Medford, OR - \$1000

To support the tour of *HomeFront 911: Military Family Monologues*
<http://sanctuaryvf.org/>

The Women's Theatre Project

Ft. Lauderdale, FL - \$600

To support the Ugly Ducklings Workshop: An Anti-Bullying Workshop confronting LGBTQ Teen Suicide
<http://www.womenstheatreproject.com/>

Treasure Coast Human Trafficking Coalition

Ft. Pierce, FL - \$1200

To support the printing of educational materials for the Human Trafficking: Saving Lives by Practicing Awareness Campaign
<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/initiatives/HumanTrafficking/>

The Ellen Dougherty Activist Fund for Young Women

Alliance for Girls

Prospect, KY - \$1400

To support the Louisville Girls Leadership Technology Component on using social media for advocacy work
<http://www.louisvillegirlsleadership.org/>

Jahajee Sisters:

Empowering Indo-Caribbean Women

Bronx, NY - \$1250

Young Women's Leadership Institute
<http://www.jahajeesisters.org/>

School Girls Unite

Kensington, MD - \$500

To support the National Day of the Girl: collective recognition of gender inequality in US and globally
<http://www.schoolgirlsunite.org/>

The Jeanne Meurer Indigenous Women's Fund

Associação das Mulheres Indígenas do Alto Rio Negro

Manaus, Brazil - \$1500

To support the development of new revenue
<http://amarnmanaus.blogspot.com/>

Solidarity for Advancement of Women's Agenda

Nairobi, Kenya - \$1150

To support adopting use of Reusable Sanitary Towels to curb school absenteeism

The Kologi Sports and Recreation Fund

Throwing and Growing Foundation

Jennings, MO - \$1100

To support an after school program of exercise and introduction to shot put and discus
<http://www.throwingandgrowing.org/>

The PatsyLu Fund for Music Projects

Anna Crusis Women's Choir

Philadelphia, PA - \$750

To support the production and distribution of **Musical Musings** - a 2 CD set of original compositions by Judith Palmer for feminist, historical, and political organizations for their records, libraries, and distribution

<http://annacrusis.com/>

The Women's Building

Albany, NY - \$1000

To support the **Wielding Words and Songs Tour** with ensemble Taina Asili y la Banda Rebelde and Climbing PoeTree of free performances and workshops to organizations working for social justice along the East Coast

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

Women Singing **OUT!**, Inc.

Portsmouth, NH - \$1000

To support **Natural Woman**: a multi-sensory concert series that explores our connection to flora, fauna, and to each other as female humans

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

The Susan F. Eastman Fund for Environmental Activism

3rd Revolving Fund Initiative

Gulu, Uganda - \$1000

To support the Green Women Trees & Fruits Growing Unit

Donor Gift

Children of Promise Development Series

Detroit, MI - \$1200

To support the Sounds in the Woods: A Chamber Music Experience in Nature

The India Fund

Grace Trust

Madurai, India - \$1150

To support the Economic Empowerment of Disadvantaged Dalith Women and Girls Through Computer Education and Skill

Indira Female Peer Educators Collective

Chennai, India - \$1740

To support the improvement of defense skills for children of sex workers in Chennai

India Fund continued

Welfare Organization for Rural Development

Dharamsala, India - \$1700

To support the Empowerment of Women on Political Governance and Gender Justice

REPORTS ON PAST PROJECTS continued

The **Ababiri-Bantu Women's Group** on their implementation of Cassava growing in Kachuru Parish, Pallisa District, Uganda began a Cassava plantation and was funded for business training and group risk management from the Gender Integrated Development Program.



One of the group members shows one of the ways to dry Cassava using dry-flat rocks.

The Ababiri-Bantu Women's Group was given skills to improve their harvest, and during the training shared experiences in Agriculture and Group Administration. Many challenges existed including poor weather conditions, high expectations by the community despite insufficient funds, management difficulties in accounting for domestic workload, distances, etc. GIDP plans to continue monitoring the group until harvest time, to prepare more training both for improving productivity and to enable women to improve their living conditions, and to build capacity for the group to sustain itself after withdrawal of the funders.

The grant to **BusyMoms Telecons** supported a webinar series: "Marriage Matters." The series ranged in topics from "Navigating through the different stages of a marriage" to "Dental Care in Children: Infants through Teens." Material and presentations from past webinars can be found on their web site along with the calendar of future webinars. Recently, they added an audio section to the website with topics such as: "Befriending Conflicts: A creative approach to a stronger relationship."

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

A grant of one thousand dollars was given to **Mineral King Productions** to be used toward the documentary: **THY WILL BE DONE: A transsexual woman's journey through family and faith**. The film starts with Sara Herwig's youth as a young man, his attendance at a Christian college in Kansas, his study at a seminary, his marriage ensuing divorce, the male-to-female transsexual journey, and later a lesbian marriage. The film is unusual in its full expression of opinion from all sides excepting that of the Presbyterian Church, which refused to appear in the film.

Mike Furches reviews the film in his blog: and praises the Director of the film, Alice Bouvrie, for her filming technique and for the remarkable fairness displayed throughout in attempting to bring out all the differing attitudes within the church. The reviewer says, "A tribute to this film is the willingness of all parties to share open and honest opinions."
(<http://mikefurchesreviews.blogspot.com/2010/10/thy-will-be-done.html>)

Each screening of the film is followed by a Q & A discussion with both Alice Bouvrie and Sara Herwig. For a list of upcoming screenings and festivals, visit the web site:
<http://mineralkingproductions.com/>

The undergraduate **UW-Platteville section of the Society of Women Engineers** was funded by the Ellen Dougherty Activist Fund for Young Women to conduct an outreach program for young women ages 13-17 (grades 8-12), **Expanding Our Borders: The Sky's the Limit**. The program was a competition to make the most efficient solar oven that had the capacity to heat water to a pasteurization temperature of at least 160 degrees Fahrenheit. This UW-Platteville section of the Society of Women Engineers also has an initiative to become more global and plans to take the design and examples of the solar oven to Ghana. The winning solar oven was a collapsible oven, permitting it to be easily transportable.
<http://www.uwplatt.edu/wep/programs/skysthelimit.html>

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.