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Achebe Powell

**NEXT DEADLINE FOR
PROPOSALS IS
February 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

Groups that are awarded a grant by Open Meadows are asked to report on what the grant was used for, what happened, what worked, what didn't. It is not possible to describe at length what is achieved, but we do try to suggest the outcome of the grant.

Reports from Grantees

Mothers Among Us is a program of **The Prison Birth Project** at the Western Mass Regional Women's Correctional Center in Chicopee, MA and is the only support group for incarcerated post partum mothers in Western Massachusetts. Mothers Among Us offers incarcerated women the opportunity to discuss issues of parenting and identity in non-judgmental group sessions at six-week intervals throughout the year.

On account of the social stigma of incarceration, women are not usually given the space and freedom to talk together about issues of parenting. One goal of the sessions is to encourage mothers to maintain a relationship with their children and to continue mothering even while incarcerated. All mothers at W.C.C. are welcome but pregnant and post-partum women are given priority. Women are expected to attend the full six sessions and to help create a positive environment for all women. After that they are free to attend the group throughout the year for as many group meetings as they wish.

Mothers Among Us provides an important link to women on the outside, by giving peer support during transition after incarceration and birth. In the time between sessions, women inside the prison can continue to meet and provide peer support, guidance and work collaboratively with women on the outside on issues that they identify. The leadership of these groups is drawn from members of the previous sessions who showed leadership qualities. Over 65 women in the year 2010 have attended Mothers Among Us.

The grant to the **Umoja Wa Akina Mama** in Rhode Island was for a tailoring project and covered the costs of both sewing education as well as stipends to each participant for attending at least % 50 of the classes. All other classes are provided free of charge as well as the space, materials and equipment. The training also included 8 hours of ESL, covering basic language skills, 10 hours of basic business education, math literacy, business and math related ESL, and 8 hours of fashion and marketing education, and clothing design.

THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS WERE GRANTEES OF THE SPRING 2010 CYCLE:

AndersonGold Films, Inc.

Brooklyn, NY - \$1000

To support the finishing costs of the film:

Passionate Politics: The Life & Work of Charlotte Bunch.

<http://www.andersongoldfilms.com/>

Filipinas for Rights and Empowerment

Brooklyn, NY - \$1500

To support Diwang Pinay: Stories Across Generations, Linking Up to Move Forward: an educational and organizing workshop series for Filipina domestic workers.

<http://www.firenyc.org>

**Kigando United Women
Against Poverty and Hunger**

Kampala, Uganda - \$1100

To support the Campaign against Abortion by Wire Hanger.

Kore Press

Tucson, AZ - \$1000

To support Coming in Hot: The Civil Discourse Tour to promote awareness for and discuss issues that women face in the US military.

<http://www.korepress.org>

Life Cycles Center

Buffalo, NY - \$1300

To support the Buffalo Supported Birth Initiative of doula training in image materials and different languages.

<http://lifecyclescenter.org/>

Midwives Alliance of West Virginia

Morgantown, WV - \$1000

To support the Midwives Alliance of WV Community Based Education Initiative concerning choices in childbirth, including risks associated with c-section and labor induction.

<http://www.friendsofmidwives.com/>

Oxib Batz/Tres Hilos/Three Threads

New Bedford, MA - \$1000

To support the translation and transcribing of oral histories of the Maya K'iche women migrants.

Prison of Peace

Calabasas, CA - \$1000

To support the Peacemaker training and leadership program for women serving life and long-term sentences in the Valley State Prison.

<http://prisonofpeace.org/>

RADAR Productions

San Francisco, CA - \$1400

To support the tour of Sister Spit 2011, which presents the art of queer female writers.

<http://radarproductions.org/>

San Quentin Media Project

Berkeley, CA - \$1300

To support the development of web site for the multimedia project: ***Breaking the Silence*** on the impact child sexual abuse has on emotional health.

<http://www.traceyquezadaproductions.com/>

Shades Retreat

Jacksonville, FL - \$1100

To support the campground space rental for the Shades Retreat: ***Personal, You for LGBT Women of Color.***

<http://www.shadesretreat.com>

Third Coast Workers for Cooperation

Austin, TX - \$1000

To support the training and technical assistance to Yo Mama's Catering Cooperative: a women of color, worker-owned catering cooperative

<http://thirdcoastworkers.coop/>

The Jeanne Meurer Indigenous Women's Fund

Amerat of the Desert

Rahat, Negev - \$1300

To support the organizing campaign for Bedouin Girl's and Women's Right to Education

<http://amerat.org/>

The Kologi Sports and Recreation Fund

Girls Gotta Run Foundation

Washington, DC - \$1500

To support the transportation costs for bringing the Simien Girl Runners from the Simien Mountains region in northern Ethiopia to the Great Ethiopian Race, the biggest race in Africa with expected participation this year of 35,000.

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

The Edie Windsor Fund for Old Lesbians

Lesbian Aid and Service Society (LASS)

Chestnut Hill, MA - \$1000

To help with the support for old lesbians experiencing acute or chronic medical issues.

**The Susan F. Eastman Fund
for Environmental Activism**

Lapeta Charity Vocational Training Centre
Gulu, Uganda - \$1000
To support the Unyama-Pokotweya Women
Afforestation Project.

The PatsyLu Fund for Women's Music Projects

Cappella Clausura
Newtonville, MA - \$1250
To support the performance of a contemporary
interpretation of Hildegard von Bingen's medieval
morality play: **Ordo Virtutum**.
<http://www.clausura.org/>

Cortes Island Museum & Archives Society
Cortes Island, BC, Canada - \$1000
To support the Klahoose First Nation's Song
Writing Project uniting the elder women's drum
circle with community members of all ages.
<http://www.cortesmuseum.ca/>

Ensemble Pi
New York, NY - \$750
To support the commission of **Echo System**,
a new work by lesbian composer Kristin
Norderval on the theme of corporate greed and
environmental disaster.
<http://ensemble-pi.org/>

Melodia Women's Choir of NYC, Inc.
New York, NY - \$1000
To support the creation and performance of
a new choral work composed by Christina Whitten
Thomas with poetry by NY lesbian poet
Pam McAllister.
<http://www.melodiawomenschoir.org/>

New Native Theatre
Saint Paul, MN - \$2000
To support Elizabeth Jaakola (Anishinaabe,
enrolled member of Fond du Lac band of Lake
Superior Ojibwe) in composing the music for the
community play: **The Dreaming Bundle**.
<http://newnativetheatre.org/>

Women's Philharmonic Advocacy
Waltham, MA - \$1000
To support the digitizing of public domain
orchestral scores by women composers.
<http://www.rebeccaclarke.org/wophil/>

The India Fund

Educational Concern Organisation
Kanai, Tamil Nadu, India - \$1920
To support the Computer Education program for
Women and Girls.

The India Fund continued

Sree Padma Rani Mary Mahila Mandali
Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh, India - \$1600
To support the Empowerment of Dalit Women
Scavengers through self-help projects.

Women Development Welfare Society
Karinmagar, Andhra Pradesh, India - \$1500
To support the eradication of the practice of
dedicating young girls to the Hindu Deity (The
Mathamma/Jogini Practice).

Youth for Youth
Salem, Tamil Nadu, India - \$1694
To support YOUTH SMILE: a training program for
young women in Cell/Mobile Phone Software
Repairing/Services.

REPORTS ON PAST PROJECTS continued

Over the 12-week session, the **Umoja Wa Akina
Mama** Tailoring project followed a schedule that gave
the 9-11 hour slot to business education, sewing
tailoring, and fashion marketing. The 11-1 time slot
was used for practicing sewing skills, basic ESL, and
sewing/tailoring.

The goal was to give the participants the skills they
need to market their own products or businesses.
The evaluations from this pilot project will be used to
make changes as the project moves to a long-term,
self-sustaining program for refugee women.



Sporty Girls, Inc. CAMP ELITE PROGRAM in
Atlanta, Georgia aims to foster young female athletes
through training four hours daily in non-traditional
sports. The first session June 6 – 11 with 11
participants focused on golf and tennis and the
second session June 13-18 with 14 participants
focused on swimming and soccer. The girls ate their
meals and spent the nights in the college dormitories
of Clayton State University. They were given the
experience of college life and encouraged to see
themselves positively as “talented” and “responsible”
women with “optimistic futures.”

The Report from **Desiree Alliance** was very successful. They reported “great strides toward our goals.” The grant was to support a Scholarship program for their Leadership Development Project aimed at providing leaders from historically underrepresented groups in the sex worker rights movements, such as street based sex workers, LGBTQI, people of color, and those formerly incarcerated. The Scholarship program is on schedule with applicants from across the United States gaining the opportunity to take part in the leadership project and to pass along new skills to their own communities when they return.

Desiree Alliance teamed up with the Sex Workers Outreach Project for Dec. 17 International Day to End Violence towards Sex Workers. They held a national rally in Arizona to call attention to the unjust laws and cruelty that sex workers encounter daily. Their report states: “We protested the unjust incarceration and death of Marcia Powell who died in an outdoor holding cage from heat exhaustion and dehydration while serving a 27 month felony sentence for prostitution at the Arizona State Prison Complex,”

DA is collaborating with other harm reduction groups like the Best Practices Policy Project with which they are producing “a four page report to the UN Human Rights Committee for their periodic review of human rights violations in the United States.” They are extending fund-raising support to Women with a Vision in New Orleans, which is starting a “campaign to stop the sex offender registration for people arrested for sex work.” They have collaborated and cooperated with other rights groups such as: The Real Costs of Prisons, Free Marica Powell, and Arpaio Watch. And one of their main goals this coming year is to increase outreach to sex workers with little or no phone or internet access.

Once again the reports on the grants show an interesting variety of activities as women learn tailoring in order to develop their financial well-being, as they share knowledge and insights concerning parenting and child rearing, as young women develop character and leadership qualities through sports and other organized activities and as women organize around unpopular issues.

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.