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**NEXT DEADLINE FOR
PROPOSALS IS:
AUGUST 15, 2006**

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

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

*Call us at:
718-768-2249

*Email us at:
openmeadows.org

* Write for a brochure at:

Open Meadows Foundation
PO Box 150-607
Van Brunt Station
Brooklyn, N Y 11215-607

As we announce the winners of Open Meadows' Grants for Spring 2006, we celebrate our twentieth year of grant-giving. Our first funding cycle, dated November 1986 supported 11 varied women's organizations alphabetically listed from **Buffalo Robe Lodge**, a healing center in northern Alberta, Canada serving Native American women from the nations of western Canada and the United States to **Women and Disability Awareness Project of Educational Equity Concepts** of New York City, supporting workshops on disability awareness within youth-serving agencies in New York City. That first cycle supported groups now well-known, like **Lesbian Herstory Archives**, **Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press**, and **Smile** in Apopka, Florida in support of **The Network of Employable Women**, as well as **Deaf Women United** of Washington, D.C., **Mountain Women's Exchange** of Jellico, Tennessee and **Syracuse Cultural Workers** of Syracuse, New York. We still support activist women-led organizations that are inclusive and non-discriminatory with respect to age, race, sexual orientation, and ability and twenty years after our founding we now include an international outreach.

SOME PAST REPORTS

Organizations awarded grants are asked to report to Open Meadows on their success 6 months after the event.



used by permission of Welfare Warriors
<http://www.welfarewarriors.org>

In Milwaukee, women describing themselves as "Welfare Warriors" produced a very useful document called "Welfare Warriors Moms W2 Survival Guide." Each page is packed with information concerning W2 eligibility, W2 grant levels, job access loans, Employment Skills, Important Numbers, Advancement Programs, plus "Ten Facts Everyone should know about Welfare."

**The basic theme is "Welfare Warriors are here to help you!"
Call the MOM's Line (414) 342-6662.**

The efforts to suppress violence against women continue, represented by three programs with quite different approaches.

Sisters Offering Support, founded in Hawaii in 1995, focuses on combating sexual exploitation through education, prevention, active case management and legal reform. Their letter reporting on 2002 says, "We served 4,251 students through our Youth Prevention Program, took in 110 emergency calls through our 24 hour crisis hotline, provided 23 community presentations to over 1,900 people, and actively assisted 14 young individuals escape prostitution." **SOS** believes that involvement in any form of Commercial Sexual Exploitation often stems from a perceived 'lack of choice,' rather than from choice. **SOS** strives to increase awareness of choices in conjunction with developing options concerning situations of sexual exploitation.

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THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS WERE AWARDED GRANTS IN THE SPRING 2006 CYCLE:

Allied Cleveland Tradeswomen

Cleveland, Ohio - **\$1200**

Non-traditional building tradeswomen: carpenters, electricians, plumbers work with **Allied Cleveland Tradeswomen** in this project creating a data base of building tradeswomen and their resumes to serve as a resource for construction contractors.
<http://www.actw.org/>

Brown Lady Productions

San Francisco, CA - **\$800**

Brown Lady Productions is producing a three-part documentary on the lives of young Black women. In Vol. 1 "**On the Outside, Looking In**" the troubling issues of skin color, hair, and body image are treated. The grant helps to fund film distribution costs.

Education for Quality Living

LAS VEGAS, NV - **\$900**

Education for Quality Living works to provide appropriate health promotion, disease prevention, research and evaluation to federal, state, and local governments as well as community-based organizations. The grant supports **Girls Get Fit**, an obesity prevention pilot project that targets African American and Hispanic middle/junior high school aged girls 9-14.

Gender Integrated Development Program (GIDP)

Pallisa, Uganda - **\$827**

GIDP is a community-based organization of women in Pallisa where the HIV rate is 35% among women, the school drop-out rate for girls is 45%, early marriage among girls 15-17 years of age is 28%, and the poverty rate for women is 68%. The grant will cover the construction of poultry sheds for 200 chicks, the purchase and transport of 200 chicks and their feed for one year.

Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys (GABWA)

Atlanta, GA - **\$1000**

GABWA, through **CPP, The Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents**, assists incarcerated mothers by providing seminar training, direct legal services, and access to important resources, forms and information from the Fulton County Family Law Information Center. **CPP** is the only organization in Georgia that provides civil legal services to incarcerated mothers. The grant is for the updating and publication of the CPP Resource Guide.

Girls Write Now

New York, NY - **\$500**

Girls Write Now is a mentoring organization that matches teenage girls from underserved high schools in New York City with professional writers to develop the natural writing talents of the young women through workshops, mentoring sessions, and special events. The grant will support an anthology of original writings presented in the **Girls Write Now Reading Series** this year presented in collaboration with the **New York Writers Coalition** monthly "**Writing aloud**" series.
[http://www.girlswritenow.org./](http://www.girlswritenow.org/)

Juneteenth Legacy Theatre

Louisville, KY - **\$1000**

Juneteenth Legacy Theatre derives its name from the traditional African-American holiday when, on June 19, 1865 slaves in the Western Territories learned of their freedom. **JLT's** mission is to educate and empower communities through the telling of stories about the African-American experience in historical and contemporary context. This grant supports the production of **Motion and Location**, at the Fringe Festival in August in New York City, a play about a teen-age African American girl who struggles with sexual identity issues.
<http://www.juneteenthlegacytheatre.com/>

Movimento Lésbico de Campinas

Campinas, SP, Brazil - **\$500**

MO.LE.CA. is an activist organization specifically for lesbians working on issues such as racism, sexism, and homophobia. The grant goes to support the publicity for the 3rd Exposition of Lesbian Art in August 2006.

Red Tent Women's Project

Brooklyn, NY - **\$1200**

The **Red Tent Women's Project** is establishing a women's community center for women of all backgrounds in a city, which has no community space for women that is not attached to a specific service, school, religious institution, race or ethnicity. The grant provides initial start-up costs for the women's center.
<http://www.redtentwomensproject.org/>

Sisters Who Are Powerful, Inc. (SWAP)

Inkster, MI - **\$1000**

SWAP is an organization for the education, empowerment, support and well-being of young African-American women ages 12-18. **T.A.S.T.E., Teaching Adolescents Success Through Education**, enriches its members' experience by providing monthly support groups, life-skill workshops, and field events that involve the young women in community activities. When young women are educated about programs, services, and resources in their community they are empowered to re-examine their belief systems and involve themselves positively in their communities. The grant provides start up funds for developing new projects.

Uganda Women Development Footsteps

Nasenyi Village, Uganda. - **\$870**

Uganda Women Development Footsteps focuses on leadership and income generation projects among rural women. In Nasenyi village 98% of the women are illiterate compared to 60% of the men. The grant supports: **Girl Child Scholastic Program** for 30 girls through the purchase of school uniforms, exercise books, pens, colored pencils, and classroom sets.

Women Make Movies

New York, NY - **\$1200**

Grandma has a Video Camera presents 16 years of family video exploring the parallel stories of transnational immigration and examining issues of dual nationality and the conflicts of loyalty to a country, as well as, the complexities of social dynamics from the point of view of three generations of women within one family. The grant supports distribution costs.

Women's Coffee Connection

Rochester, NY - \$1000

The Women's Coffee Connection is a social service business that provides the coffee suppliers in Peru, with a just and fair price and improves the economic stability of disenfranchised Rochester women whose lives are complicated by problems associated with unemployment, poverty, addiction, domestic violence, and displacement. The grant is for the installation of a commercial coffee roaster in the present site.

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

Jeanne Meurer Indigenous Women's Fund

Wisdom of Grandmother's Beauty (WOMB)

Costa Mesa, CA- \$1000.

WOMB preserves and protects indigenous cultural identity by promoting cultural exchange and awareness of Indigenous Wisdom. The grant will help support an indigenous women's gathering on sacred lands of Indigenous women of all ages from all over the world.

Ellen Dougherty Activist Fund for Young Women

The Literacy Project

Stanford, CA.- \$1000

The Literacy Project involves the intersection of race, class, and gender as it relates to literacy: who is literate and who is not, and how literacy can be brought to all people. The grant is to support retelling of the story of the Cuban Literacy Campaign of 1961, widely considered the most successful literacy program to date in which the illiteracy rate was lowered from 20% to 3% because 268,000 volunteers went into the countryside to teach rural families to read and write. The grant supports the oral history documentation survivors of that memorable campaign.

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

Donor Directed Funds

PatsyLu Fund for Women's Music Projects

OJALÁ

San Leandro, CA - \$1500

Ojalá (Spanish for hope) is a music group of seven working class women, five of whom are lesbians, six of whom are women of color, who play and sing Afro-Cuban Folkloric music. The grant is to support completion of their recording project: a CD of Afro-Cuban songs.

<http://www.CarolynBrandy.com>

Susan Glaser

Madison, NJ - \$1000

Susan Glaser, an advocate for women composers, is a renowned flutist with a long history of commissioning and premiering works by women composers, performing and recording their compositions in major concert halls and on major labels. Jennifer Higdon is a lesbian and an accomplished composer whose music with this recording will reach a large audience and will advocate for the greater recognition of women composers. The grant to record the flute works of Jennifer Higdon will be matched by the Argosy Foundation.

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

Susan F. Eastman Fund for Environmental Activism

Musoma Woodworks Enterprises

Musoma Mara, Tanzania - \$1000

Musoma WoodWorks Enterprises works with extending the use of Biogas charcoal stoves to resist environmental deforestation. The grant is for a leadership-training program for girls in the making of the Biogas stoves as well as the processing of fruits and food products.

India Fund

Institute of Women's Banking

Nellore, India -\$1528

The **Institute of Women's Banking** is actively involved in programs of urban health and staffs an Urban Health Centre. The grant is to support 30 2-day workshops for adolescent girls living in 12 slum pockets in Nellore City on issues of health, hygiene, and nutrition to be followed up with outreach services by 2 qualified nurses.

Social Service Society

Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh, India - \$1979

The spread of naxal terrorist operations in the Guntur District has made tribal women especially vulnerable and victimized. The grant is to develop Mahila Sanghas (women self-help groups) in 10 villages in an entrepreneurship development program offering productive skill training, advocacy, self-management credit and thrift skills, and banking practices as well as education on women's rights and training in local governance for political participation.

Working Group for Women and Land Ownership

Ahmedabad, India - \$1851

Land rights for women is a critical issue, since land is one of the main sources of livelihood, as well as the basis of political power and social status in India which is a predominantly agrarian economy. The grant will cover the costs of the function, Celebration of Women Exercising their Rights to Agriculture Land Ownership, for 400 rural women in Gujarat, India to distribute the Khedut Pothi (women's land rights book) followed by educational sessions related to government procedures about land documents and land rights.

SOME PAST PROJECTS continued

Students Active for Ending Rape (SAFER) is a national non-profit organization which holds colleges responsible for sexual assault in their on and off-campus communities. Through workshops involving lectures, discussion, role-playing, and group exercises students develop effective campus assault strategies. **SAFER** has begun to develop workshop materials focused on particular campus communities. e.g. (people of color, women of color, transgenders only, straight men, etc.).

The Victims' Intervention Program in Honesdale, PA conducted a Domestic Violence Support Group, open to any female victim of domestic violence. Nineteen topics were discussed in group sessions, including: The importance of confidentiality in group, What is considered abuse?, Safety planning, The characteristics of an abuser, Structured exercises in stress management, Recognition and understanding of others needs, Healthy relationships, Guilt versus Shame, Denial, Managing money, Single parenting, Trust, Alone versus lonely, Identification of skills, talents, and interests, Building a support network, Working through anger, Building self-esteem, Boundaries, Discovering feelings. Five to eight women were in attendance each week.

These glimpses of the varied ways that the problem of domestic violence is being approached suggest how difficult it is to change patterns and how creative and flexible workers in the field must be. We are grateful for the time and effort grant winners expended in reporting to us their difficulties and successes. We need to share insights just as we share information.

For more information about any of the projects, e-mail Nancy Dean, the editor of this newsletter, at enndean@mindspring.com

DEADLINES FOR APPLICATIONS ARE FEBRUARY 15 AND AUGUST 15

Place
Stamp
here

Open Meadows Foundation
P.O. Bo 150-607
Van Brunt Station
Brooklyn, NY 11215-607

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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.

Open Meadows Foundation 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 funding. Organizational budget should not exceed \$150,000.

!Organizations not previously funded by Open Meadows Foundation have funding priority!

**Small and/or start-up
organizations are strongly
encouraged to apply.**