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Jewelle Gomez
Leota Lone Dog
Achebe Powell

**NEXT DEADLINE FOR
PROPOSALS IS
AUGUST 15, 2009**

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

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.

Open Meadows Foundation helped to fund the INCITE Women/Transpeople of Color Track at the Tenth Annual Allied Media Conference in Detroit, Michigan. The INCITE Women/Transpeople of Color Track of sessions focused on using media to end violence against women/Transpeople of Color. The Speak: Media Skills Trainings for Women/Transpeople of Color offered 8 stations: zine-making, blogging, writing for social change, stenciling and textile design, graphic design, photo editing using free software and video making using free software. The three-hour workshops taught the women who attended how to use the media by clear step-by-step formulae that they could share with others. The INCITE! Track offered Transporting Silenced Voices through interviews for Film/Video, another three hour workshop that included Tiona McClodden's film *black/womyn:conversations with lesbians of African Descent* followed by a workshop on conducting an interview. Lunchtime offered opportunities for caucuses used by The Disabled Women of Color Organizing and Building Community Caucus. The Cyber Quilting Caucus discussed the Cyber Quilting Experiment, which aims to teach women of color the cyber tools needed for social change. Other sessions included Justice and Zine Making, Media Coverage, and Grassroots Organizing.

Unlike the previous year (2008), the Arab and Muslim women were much more active. Groups of women from AWAY (Arab Young Women Activists) and AWAAM (Arab Women Active in Arts and Media) contributed generously. AWAAM members shared skill in stenciling and textile design in the session called The Future of Censorship where they spoke out about the criminalization of Arab/Muslim people's art.

The **INCITE! Women of Color/Transpeople** recorded a collection of poems, music, action alerts, and blog posts. They are planning to sell the CD's to cover travel and child care costs. It is exciting to learn that a recent article in the **UTNE READER** referred to the organizers of the Allied Media Conference as among the "50 visionaries who are Changing the World."

<http://www.alliedmediaconference.org/node/2132>

THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS WERE GRANTEES OF THE SPRING 2009 CYCLE:

Autumn Gem

Santa Clara, CA - \$1000

To support sound post production costs of documentary *Autumn Gem: the life of china's first feminist*

<http://www.autumn-gem.com>

Comunidad Hispana

Merrill, WI - \$1920

To support the Casa de la Cultura bimonthly gatherings

NGO Provincial Women

Bryansk, Russia - \$1000

To provide travel stipends for the STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN program.

PA Immigrant & Refugee Women's Network Enola, PA - \$1500

To support the production of the *Story Circle: Immigrant & Refugee Women's Health Stories* at their Annual Women's Health Conference

<http://pairwn.org>

Southwest Panhandle Search & Rescue K-9/Emotional First Aid Team

Foley, AL - \$1750

To purchase GPS Tracking Devices and Radios for the women handlers to monitor their location.

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

Transitional Life Connections, Inc.

Indianapolis, IN - \$1500

To support Project CAREER: Education and Employment Empowerment program for homeless young women.

UpStage Theatre Company, Inc.

Baton Rouge, LA - \$1100

To support A Season of Women: two stage productions that focus on women's issues.

<http://www.upstagetheatre.biz/>

VP Foundation, Inc.

Moscow, ID - \$1750

To support the expansion of Yin Radio's weekly program: Women's Voices and Women's Stories

<http://vpfound.org/yinradio/index.html>

Women of Color Quilter's Network

Lawrence, KS - \$1250

To support Visual Literacy: a non-school intervention program for at-risk female students.

http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2007/dec/02/sewing_seeds/

Special Funds

The Ellen Dougherty Activist Fund for Young Women

New Voices Pittsburgh: Women of Color for Reproductive Justice

Pittsburgh, PA - \$2000

To support the LGBTQ Women of Color Reproductive Justice Series.

<http://www.myspace.com/newvoicespgh/>

The Jeanne Meurer Indigenous Women's Fund

Indigenous Women's Network, Inc.

Elmo, MN - \$700

To support the Indigenous Women's Leadership Project – a gathering of 30 Texas-based activists focusing on issues of immigration, environmental justice and Native Sovereignty

<http://indigenouswomen.org/>

The Kologi Sports and Recreation Fund

Diva Adventures

Wolcott, VT - \$1000

To support the summer program: Dirt Divas, an adventure-based experiential education of mountain biking

<http://www.girlsmovemountains.org>

Donor Directed Funds

The PatsyLu Fund for Women's Music

Paicho Women Choir Group

Gulu, Uganda - \$500

To support the purchase of acoustic instruments for the Pakwelo Parish Women Choir Group

Girls Rock Philly

Philadelphia, PA - \$400

To support the purchase of instruments for special needs girls at the rock n' roll summer camp

<http://www.girlsrockphilly.org>

Music on a Mission, Inc.

Avon Lake, OH - \$800

To support the project: Kids in Tune, which takes the early childhood music program to Genesis House domestic violence shelter.

<http://www.musicmissioninc.com>

Sounds of the Northway

Willsboro, NY - \$1200

To support the production of the CD: *Herstory in Song: A Musical Women's History Anthology*, a multiple-period, international music about icons and issues.

<http://soundsofthenorthway.com>

The PatsyLu Fund for Music Projects (continued)

Community Women's Orchestra

Berkeley, CA - \$1500

To support the commissioning and production of pieces by Martha Stoddard, Mary Watkins, and Hilary Tann in celebration of the Community Women's Orchestra 25th anniversary

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

ARTREACH, INC.

Philadelphia, PA - \$500

To support the project: Go Girls of Imbabura, Ecuador in a week of music, photography and dance presentations.

<http://dariamusic.com/>

Traprock Center for Peace and Justice

Greenfield, MA - \$1000

To support a songwriting/CD recording workshop for peace and social justice for women struggling with those issues in their lives.

<http://www.awomansvoice.net/>

The Edie Windsor Fund for Old Lesbians

Peace Encampment Herstory Project

Nunda, NY - \$1000

To support the production of 500 copies on the DVD: *Every Woman Here*, a recording of the women who participated in the Seneca Encampment between 1983 and 2006. The DVD will be sent to 350 public access stations across the US and 150 county public libraries in NY, PA, and MA.

<http://www.peacecampherstory.blogspot.com>

The Susan F. Eastman Fund for Environmental Activism

Islands First

Brooklyn, NY - \$1000

To support the production of the documentary: *The Next Wave* which follows the relocation of one of the world's first climate change refugees, the Carteret Islanders – a matrilineal society of 3000 people living on a chain of low-lying islands in the South Pacific Ocean.

<http://www.nextwavefilm.com>

The India Fund

Centre for the Development of Rural Women

Eggur, India - \$1900

To support an educational/training program for 50 girls of Tribal Servant Maids to empower the girls through awareness, skill training, and career guidance.

MANUSHI

Kulathur Taluk, India - \$1600

To support the Women Empowerment Program for socio-economic environmental justice and equity through the development of bio-intensive gardening for 50 women in 10 villages in a drought-prone area.

Society for Village Women

Kalitheerthall Kuppam, India - \$1200

To support education, leadership development, and a Legal Aid Camp around issues such as Dowry Atrocities, Child Marriage, and Dowry Death.

Integrated Rural Women & Girls Welfare Social Service Society

Kadapa, India - \$1500

To support the Promoting Equity Opportunity of Women project through the establishment of a legal aid cell.

REPORTS ON PAST PROJECTS continued

A grant of \$800 to the Internally Displaced Peoples Resettlement Association, Gulu, Northern Uganda gave 60 women who were returning to their villages each a set of the hand farming implements: a long-handled hoe, a pang (short-handled hoe) and a rake. The pang is sometimes called the 'chop-down-and-pull' type, used for weeding and other work. An IFAD/FAO/Government of Japan study on agricultural implements used by women stated "women farmers spend a considerable amount of time on agricultural tasks and are taking over an increasing share of farm work." The report on Women's Farm Implements in Uganda can be found at:

<http://www.ifad.org/gender/learning/sector/agriculture/69.htm>



Brevard County Starlings showing their winning medals

A \$400 grant permitted the Brevard County Starlings, Cocoa, FL to purchase tee shirts and participate in two volleyball tournaments for the 10 and 12 year olds. Established opposing teams were heard to say, "Who are these Starlings and where did they come from?" - a question asked after the Starlings had won several tournaments. Two more squads for 14 and 18 year old girls were added to last year's roster of teams. Their program: to provide activity for at-risk girls, was accomplished with great success. Girls were heard to say, "This is the first time I've ever won anything!"

<http://www.brevardcountystarlings.org/BCSVC/Home.html>

This project was supported by the new special fund: The Kologi Sports and Recreation Fund.

reports continued on page 4→

Mujeres Unidas de Idaho “brings Latinas together, develops leaders and values every woman.” The grant of \$950 was used to support their mini-conference, which provided workshops in Early Childhood Education, especially for Spanish speaking women who wished to earn a living providing child-care in their homes. A high demand for quality child-care in Idaho exists among working families with children under 6, because 63% of the young children have 2 working parents.

The two objectives for the conference were: 1) to learn about brain development and language learning in early childhood and 2) to learn how to connect families with local resources to learn English and seek support services in their primary language. By the end of the conference, 35 early child-care providers had received the training and certification, which permitted them to be listed in the registry of the Idaho Child Care Providers.

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

The **Pacific Northwest Lesbian Archives** used \$1000 in grant money to purchase acid-free storage boxes, document boxes, photograph-negative enclosure, acid-free file folders and processing tools to preserve the historical records documenting lesbian life in the Pacific Northwest – mostly Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Idaho and southwestern British Columbia.

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

We thank those women who reported so specifically on the activities of their award winning groups and wish them all success in their next ventures.

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 girl, 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 budget should not exceed \$150,000.

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

Proposals from organizations not previously funded have priority.