

MORE HOLES IN THE SAFETY NET

The large majority of federal and state-funded programs for youth are considered discretionary, leaving our children especially vulnerable to program cuts during economic downturns. This year, reports the Foundation for Child Development, the Great Recession which began in 2007 will have erased virtually all progress made for children since 1975. This is measured by the rate of children living in families beneath the poverty line, median family income and secure parental employment. Specifically, 22 percent of youth are estimated to live below the poverty line in 2010 — the highest among America's peer nations.

Other key findings from the Foundation's report include:

- ▶ A substantial increase in the rate of youth aged 16-19 who are "detached" from key mainstream institutions because they will not be in school nor will they have a job. This will be particularly true for young African Americans, Latinos and Native Americans.
- ▶ An increase in risky behaviors as the detached youth created by the economic downturn are more likely to engage in risky behavior, including violent crime (both as victims and perpetrators) and illegal drug use.
- ▶ Though obesity has been on the rise for several years, it is likely to climb even higher as the recession drives more parents to rely on affordable, but unhealthy and inferior, cheap food.

Finding the right programs to turn things around, the means to intervene, and encouraging peer-to-peer youth organizing and leadership are significant challenges that are being met by a number of PDF grantees and donor activists.

Stepping up to provide funding for youth programs, PDF coordinated a partnership between a retreat center, donors and youth groups to ensure that two important summer retreats/camps could continue. The Director of Programs and Outreach for Wellspring Renewal Center, Laurie Adams, had always wanted to make Wellspring more accessible to urban, low income youth and asked for PDF's help. PDF contacted two youth groups, **Urban Peace Movement (UPM)** and **Leadership Excellence**. Both have annual summer camps for their youth, and both were about to cancel their respective camps this year because of lack of funds.

UPM's summer Turf Unity project brings youth together from different, rival neighborhoods to talk about violence in their communities and to make music together. They record a CD every year and throw a release party attended by more than 400 youth. Leadership Excellence's Camp Akili is one of their flagship programs. Young people spend a week working on leadership development, rites of passage, healing and political education. PDF was able to raise funds for these camps through our Donor Advised Funds program. Wellspring raised additional funds, enabling both programs to continue, and the young people were able to hold their retreats in the sort of space normally inaccessible to them.

"Widespread hopelessness among young urban people of color stands as a significant barrier to social activism in our cities," states UPM. "Violence has become a normal part of life." Courts in Pennsylvania sentence more youth under 18 to life without parole than any other state. Fighting this hopelessness, the **Youth Art and Self-empowerment Project (YASP)** in Philadelphia works to build a movement of young people to end the practice of trying and incarcerating youth as adults in Pennsylvania. Created as a project of the American Friends

Service Committee, it provides ongoing, weekly art and poetry workshops for youth under 18 in adult jails and supports leadership development for those coming home. YASP is led almost entirely by formerly incarcerated young people. Their grant from PDF will allow them to continue to advocate for more innovative, non-incarceration alternatives and community-based programs for young Philadelphians.

The **Nonviolence Legacy Project (NVLP)** invited civil rights activist Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr. to help launch a youth-led nonviolence training team for Tucson, AZ. Beside immigration and militarization of the border, gang and drug-related violence make the area explosive. "The human rights crisis on our border is akin to the deep south in the 1960s," NVLP says. "Our youth trainers live with this reality." They are using Kingian nonviolence training to address this pervasive violence, focusing much of their efforts in neighborhoods where drug abuse, gang violence and poverty prevail. With their grant from PDF, they can provide a range of nonviolence programs, including free trainings for at-risk youth, as well as youth-centered and family-centered events.

Combating the obesity epidemic, Springfield, MA-based **Gardening the Community** engages youth in revitalizing a vacant lot, learning how to garden and improving food availability. Like many low-income communities, Springfield is an urban "food desert," that leads to food insecurity, childhood obesity and high chronic disease patterns because there is little access to fresh produce, healthy foods and places to keep active and engaged. Springfield has some of the highest obesity levels in the state—in 2005, the local hospital found that 61 percent of seven to eight-year-old students were either overweight or obese—and it has the sixth highest child poverty rate in the nation.

"These children are already on a lifelong track for health problems by the time they enter Kindergarten," says new grantee, Gardening in the Community. "We think that gardening with youth and their families can be a significant deterrent to these trends: creating more physical activity and providing non-processed food options for families." PDF's grant will help continue after-school programs and full-time summer employment for youth aged 13-16.

Integrating youth with their communities and culture is another strategy used by PDF grantees to reduce the impact of the Great Recession. Half of the Board of Directors of the **Al-Awda NY: the Palestine Right to Return Coalition** are youth, as are more than half of the core volunteers, thanks to their Youth Leadership Education Program in Brooklyn, NY. Al-Awda actively integrates youth into full decision-making and planning, realizing that the issue requires a long-term, multi-generational commitment. "Our vision requires prolonged organizing, political education, nourishing and transmission of culture and personal comradeship." They believe

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I was preparing to announce to the community that Camp Akili would not happen for the first time in 20 years when I responded to the email from PDF looking for agencies that would like to bring a group of youth to Wellspring Retreat Center. Leadership Excellence is grateful and appreciative to receive this level of support in this economic time. Our faith in community is strengthened and we are reaffirmed that our focus on serving the youth is a needed and valued community service. Thank you.

A. Saleem Shakir
Executive Director
Leadership Excellence

Recent Grants

(A STAR DENOTES A NEW GRANTEE)

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING GRANTS

- ★ Al-Awada: The Palestinian Right to Return Coalition, Brooklyn, NY
www.al-awdany.org
- ★ Austin Immigrant Rights Coalition, Austin, TX
www.austinirc.org
Coalición de Derechos Humanos, Tucson, AZ
www.derechoshumanosaz.net
Community Media Organizing Project, Knoxville, TN
- ★ Direct Action Welfare Group, Charleston, WV
www.wvdawg.org
- ★ Families for Freedom, New York, NY
www.familiesforfreedom.org
- ★ Gardening the Community, Springfield, MA
www.nofamass.org/gtc
- ★ GenderJUST, Chicago, IL
www.genderjust.org
- ★ Latino Advocacy Coalition, Hendersonville, NC
www.elcentrohvl.org
- ★ Nonviolence Legacy Project/Culture of Peace Alliance, Tucson, AZ
www.cultureofpeacealliance.org
The Prison Birth Project, Northampton, MA
www.theprisonbirthproject.org
- ★ Umatilla Morrow Alternatives, Hermiston, OR
www.umalt.com
- ★ Urban Peace Movement, Oakland, CA
www.urbanpeacemovement.org
Veterans Education Project, Amherst, MA
www.vetsed.org
- ★ Youth Art and Self Empowerment Project, Philadelphia, PA
http://apps.facebook.com/causes/410839

NEW FISCAL SPONSORSHIPS

- ★ afghans for Afghans, San Francisco, CA
www.afghansforafghans.org
- ★ Alliance for a Better District 6, San Francisco, CA
www.allianceforabetterdistrict6.blogspot.com
- ★ BAY-Peace: Better Alternatives for Youth, Oakland, CA
www.baypeace.org
- ★ Bell Project, San Francisco, CA
www.brucehasson.com
- ★ Break the Silence Mural and Art Project, San Francisco, CA
www.breakthesilencearts.org
- ★ Community ORV Watch, Landers, CA
www.orvwatch.com
- ★ Development Executives Roundtable, San Francisco, CA
www.dersf.org
- ★ Friends of Golden Gateway, San Francisco, CA
www.fogg.us
- ★ Heart and Hand Fund, Half Moon Bay, CA
www.kerrylobel.typepad.com/heart_and_hand_fund
- ★ Helping American Veterans Endure, Santa Rosa, CA
www.have-vets.org
- ★ Ignite, San Francisco, CA
www.igniteca.org
- ★ Insight Garden Program at San Quentin, Berkeley, CA
www.insightgardenprogram.org
- ★ National Legal Sanctuary for Community Advancement, San Francisco, CA
www.legalsanctuary.org
- ★ Out4Immigration, San Francisco, CA
www.out4immigration.org
- ★ West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project, Oakland, CA
www.woeip.org
- ★ Women, Action & the Media, Cambridge, MA
www.womenactionmedia.org



Writings from 'Mothers Among Us'

A PROJECT OF
THE PRISON BIRTH PROJECT

Dear Daughter,

If you were to ask me what my ideal gift for the holiday would be, I would have only three requests (I know, I always ask so much – ha ha)

1. Do not judge another human being. You do not know their story, maybe they can teach you something.
2. Always look for the good in any bad situation. Remember thunderstorms are followed by rainbows.
3. Always speak up for yourself. Your Voice is your #1 asset.

Anonymous



LET ME BE A MOTHER

I wish no women had to be in jail for the birth of their child.

Thank You. Not only from me but from every woman that is and has been in jail.

Anonymous

The writings are done by members of the group, Mothers Among Us, at Westfield Community College, Chicopee, MA and published with permission of the authors.

Mission Statement

THE PEACE DEVELOPMENT FUND works to build the capacity of community-based organizations through grants, training, and other resources as partners in the human rights and social justice movements. As a public foundation, we nourish, foster, and encourage the diverse, self-sustaining and economically viable communities that are essential to building a peaceful, just and equitable world.



BASE Engages with the EPA

BUILDING ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTS (BASE) member **Harambe House/Citizens for Environmental Justice** organized a community meeting this spring with Mathy Stanislaus, Assistant Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response. Mr. Stanislaus is responsible for EPA's programs on hazardous and solid waste management, hazardous waste cleanup, and Superfund and federal facilities cleanup and redevelopment. Nominated to the position by President Obama in 2009, Mr. Stanislaus has two decades of experience advocating for environmental justice in both the public and private sectors. Most recently, he led New Partners for Community Revitalization, a nonprofit dedicated to renewing New York City's low- and moderate-income neighborhoods through the redevelopment of "brownfield" sites – contaminated areas awaiting restoration. He is directly responsible for the clean-up of toxic waste for many of the communities where BASE membership resides.

Recognizing the significance of this meeting, the BASE Leadership Circle decided that it would be critical to have representatives from BASE communities around the country present at the meeting. In addition to representatives from Harambe House/Citizens for Environmental Justice, other BASE members included PDF Board President, Teresa Juarez, representing the **New Mexico Alliance**; Paul Haible, Executive Director of PDF; Earl Tulley from **Diné CARE**; and two youth members, Miguel Moreno from **Product of Aztlan** and Crystal Yanez from the **Northwest Social and Environmental Justice Institute**.

The meeting with Mr. Stanislaus was very productive. He was impressed with the work of the BASE Initiative, and is committed to building an ongoing relationship with our members, as well as re-establishing what used to be a valuable relationship between federal agencies and grassroots communities forged during the Clinton Administration. In his testimony before Congress this June regarding Superfund clean-up, Mr. Stanislaus noted, "While Superfund continues to make progress cleaning up hazardous waste sites, we still face numerous challenges. One such challenge involves ensuring that our cleanup activities are conducted in an accountable and transparent fashion so that communities have the information they need to be active and engaged participants in the cleanup process."

EPA is currently working on the final report from that meeting, on which BASE members will have an opportunity to comment, and then Mr. Stanislaus will host a follow-up meeting in Washington, D.C. this fall with other Federal Agency representatives and BASE members. ■



MORE HOLES IN THE SAFETY NET

CONTINUED FROM COVER

that the combination of youth leadership and the experience of community elders—including the young people's own parents—is key to their organizing. A civil liberties/rights resource center will be supported with PDF's grant.

Despite the economic downturn's effect on schools, youth programs and poverty-stricken neighborhoods, PDF grantees show they can organize and thrive with grants that help with after-school programs, summer employment and camps, leadership training and cultural opportunities. Our grantee partners' vision is to build better cities and neighborhoods for our youth, so that in the words of YASP, "All young people grow up with the same choices, opportunities and access to power." ■

DEVELOPING PEACE MEANS ...

Determining who the affected parties of any conflict may be, therefore who needs to be at the table, and who has what rights in preparing any agreements.



A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY

PDF's PROGRAM DISCRETIONARY GRANT FUND continues to provide timely, small grants with a quick turnaround that allow Program staff to build relationships, support strategic opportunities and connect on different levels with our grantees. With just a little over \$4,300 in grants this year, it definitely paid dividends for PDF's programs.

Examples from this year include:

- ▶ A grant to the **National Day Laborer Organizing Network** to support a national, emergency gathering to protest the treatment of immigrant inmates held by the infamous Maricopa County Sherriff, Joe Arpaio.
- ▶ A grant to **Legal Services for Prisoners With Children** to pay for posters, stickers and other outreach materials for a demonstration against Oakland, CA's gang injunctions. This rally coincided with the court hearing. The coalition would not have been able to print any materials without this support.
- ▶ A grant to the **Oakland Museum of Children's Art** to support *What the World Needs Now*, which displays art by children with a focus on what we can do to make the world a better, more peaceful place. PDF sponsored a beautiful, large peace mural and presented two awards during the event.
- ▶ Small grants to two organizations to support relief work after the January earthquake in **Haiti**.
- ▶ Two grants to help **The Prison Birth Project** and **Iraq Veterans Against the War—Miami Chapter** travel to the U.S. Social Forum.



TOP: Ray Santiago presents awards at the Oakland Museum of Children's Art

ABOVE: NDLON protest march in Arizona

A total of nine grants were made. To make your gift in support of this nimble fund, contact Ray Santiago, ray@peacefund.org, or call 800-424-3557 x101. ■



Many thanks to former Board member **Vanessa Ramos** (above) for her service to PDF. An attorney, she is also the Deputy Director for Policy at The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families in New York City. Said PDF Board President, Teresa Juarez, "Vanessa brought a sharp legal mind and global perspective to the Board. We are very grateful for the time and energy she devoted to PDF." Vanessa is currently the President of the American Association of Jurists, an NGO in consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council.

Executive Director, Paul Haible, and Board member, Ali El-Issa, attended the **Peace and Security Policy Briefing: A View from Europe** in Brussels, Belgium, a conference sponsored by the Peace and Security Funders Group and the European Foundation Centre. More than 50 European and North American funders met for an in-depth look at Europe's foreign, security and peace policies and capabilities. The briefing offered a rare opportunity for funders on both sides of the Atlantic to come together and to discuss with policy makers, policy analysts and practitioners how they, as funders, can work more effectively on these issues. Most of the participants at this conference were from Europe, and PDF was one of the few grassroots funders attending.

Paul Haible has also been participating in the creation of a new **Criminal Justice Funders Network**, along with members of the Ford Foundation, Open Society Institute (OSI) and the Women Donors Network. He is part of a leadership committee with Deborah Drysdale from the Women Donors Network, Kirsten Levingston from the Ford Foundation and Lenny Noisette representing OSI. They are collecting data from almost 100 funders and have surveyed about 100 grantee grassroots groups to date on criminal justice philanthropy.

Twelve new Fiscal Sponsorship groups attended PDF's Open House in San Francisco to welcome them as partners in this program. All had been affiliated with the **Agape Foundation**, which after 40 years, closed its doors this past spring. PDF is pleased that the legacy of the Agape Foundation, including fiscal sponsorship participants, has found a home within PDF. The Agape Fund of PDF, advised by stakeholders from the former Agape Foundation, will continue the tradition of the Agape Foundation grantmaking under PDF. "We are honored to help continue this rich history of social justice funding through our Community Advised Fund Program," states Paul Haible.

Next year marks **PDF's 30th Anniversary**, and planning is well underway for events in San Francisco and Amherst as well as an oral and written history project. Interns from Amherst College, Emily Shinay and Christopher Erickson, spent the summer combing through PDF files for stories of grantees, donors, staff and special events (remember the Great Peace March?) to share with PDF's constituency over the coming year. This meant several weeks leafing through back issues of *PeaceDevelopments* as well as Annual Reports, Exchange Project Newsletters, photo albums, newspaper clippings, old thanks you notes and dozens of boxes of archival material from the Amherst office's attic. Printed articles were digitally transcribed and scrutinized for an extensive timeline of PDF's history. They scanned images into a digital format, compiled the grantees list from the last three decades and created a full roster of groups trained by PDF's Exchange Project. While Chris was busy compiling this research, Emily shifted gears to work on the Social Media aspect of her internship, setting PDF up on Facebook, creating a revised email newsletter format and a "30 Years of Peace Development" anniversary blog (<http://peacedevelopmentfund.wordpress.com>). To read an interview with Emily and Chris about their summer work, go to www.peacedevelopmentfund.org. If you have something you'd like to share about how PDF has had an impact on the social justice and peace movements, your life, your work or your community, please email tony@peacefund.org or call 800-424-3557 x112. ■

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Leave a Legacy for Peace and Justice

A simple bequest written into your will can help ensure the future of the Peace Development Fund. Together, we can strengthen the social justice movement to create the new systems and institutions essential to building a peaceful, just, and equitable world.

You may leave your gift to general support, endowment support, or a specific purpose that fits within PDF's Mission, Vision, and Goals—to provide grants, training, and other resources in partnership with communities, organizations, trainers, and donors with whom we share a common vision for peace and social change.

For more information about leaving a bequest to PDF and specific wording, call 800-424-3557 x101, or email ray@peacefund.org.

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Peace through Justice



LEFT AND MIDDLE: BACAF community meetings
RIGHT: Urban Peace Movement

MAKING AN IMPACT:

**Bay Area
Community
Advised Fund**

One of PDF's biggest accomplishments this past year was the creation of the Bay Area Community Advised Fund (BACAF) in California. The recent closing of the Agape Foundation, and other changes in the Bay Area's foundation community, created a gap in Northern California social justice philanthropy. This left many grassroots organizations and donors without institutional support.

BACAF began with two community meetings, attended by dozens of donors, organizers and community leaders. These meetings introduced PDF to new supporters, helped create the program's design, built new relationships and a social network. PDF discovered that people were interested in creating a regular informal space for the Bay Area social justice community to gather and build relationships. BACAF presented the opportunity to bring the community together around a common purpose, to utilize the diversity and expertise of the group to learn from each other, and to create grantmaking structures that are transparent, efficient and accountable to community groups, donors and the public.

Enthusiastic participants formed an Organizing Committee of three donors, three organizers and PDF staff. This Committee served as the first organizing and grantmaking committee, awarding four \$5,000 grants in its first cycle. Our grantmaking goal is to award \$80,000 in two additional cycles for a total of \$100,000 in the first year of BACAF.

PDF's presence continues to grow nationally and internationally, as the go-to foundation around issues of peace and social justice. The BACAF is the latest success story, where PDF donor activists can make a positive impact in their communities.

Recipients of the first BACAF grants included:

- ▶ **Cielo Azul Farm** of Santa Rosa, CA, a new grantee for PDF. In 2007, day laborers from Mexico and Central America began organizing in Fulton for more dignified and sanitary working conditions. These leaders recognized the need for more sustainable economic independence, and partnered with the Santa Rosa Alliance Church to open Cielo Azul Farm, a cooperatively run business. The Church provides two acres of rent free land and the farm is run by eight low-income Latino immigrants. The farm provides fresh produce for the workers and their families and allows the workers to learn how to run a cooperative business. They also sell produce at the farmstand and donate vegetables to local food pantries.
- ▶ **Intertribal Friendship House (IFH)**, Oakland, CA. IFH is one of the oldest urban Native community centers in the country. Founded in 1955 by the American Friends Service Committee to counter the lack of services and programs for recently relocated Native families, IFH is a critical institution for the Bay Area Native community. From incubating many of the Native social service agencies to organizing cultural, educational, ceremonial, celebratory and health-related events and programs, IFH serves as the "living room for the Bay Area Native Community."
- ▶ **One Fam**, Oakland, CA. As grassroots as grassroots gets, One Fam and its leaders have a long history in the youth justice movement in the Bay Area. Founded by formerly incarcerated organizers, One Fam works to build the leadership of formerly incarcerated and gang-involved youth. Working without a budget, office, or paid staff, One Fam is always in leadership positions around issues in Oakland that impact youth, such as the Oscar Grant movement and the campaign to stop the gang injunctions. One Fam recently opened a social enterprise bike shop, Bikes 4 Life, which provides job training, and addresses health and transportation issues by making bicycles more accessible to urban low-income youth, while financially supporting their organizing work.
- ▶ **Urban Peace Movement (UPM)**, another new PDF grantee, of Oakland, CA (see accompanying article "More Holes in the Safety Net"). The Ella Baker Center's Silence the Violence program was one of the Bay Area's largest and most recognized youth-oriented violence prevention programs, working with partners such as the Oakland Athletics and the Mayor's office. The leaders of Silence the Violence realized that in working with at-risk youth, they need to focus strongly on personal development and healing before moving them into the world of community organizing. UPM was created to help young folks heal through ceremony, art, and culture, and works to build bridges between warring groups as well as between youth and public institutions. ■