

Community Church of New York UU Announces the Doolittle Grant Recipients

The Ethelwyn Doolittle Justice and Outreach Fund Committee of the Community Church of New York UU (Manhattan) has awarded the following grants.

New Grant Recipients 2007-2008

African Activist Archive Project

\$5,000

www.africanactivist.msu.edu

The African Activist Archive Project, in cooperation with the African Studies Center at Michigan State University, works to locate and preserve the rich record of activities of U.S. organizations and individuals that supported African struggles against colonialism, apartheid and social injustice during the second half of the 20th century. Project director, Richard Knight, worked for more than two decades for the American Committee of Africa (ACOA), which initially had an office at CCNY and has had a decades long association with Community Church. Rev. Donald Harrington help found ACOA. A central part of the project involves building an extensive website as a key resource for scholars, students, teachers, activists and historians.

Healthcare Now

\$10,000

www.healthcare-now.org

Healthcare-Now is a national grass roots organization working for a single payer, guaranteed national healthcare system for everybody. Begun in 2004 , Healthcare-Now was created by activists, doctors, faith groups and labor leaders who want a non-profit healthcare system. In 2005 and 2006 they began to develop hundreds of Citizen/Congressional Hearings in cities and rural communities across the country led by local people in their communities. This grant will help support their new project initiative to expand efforts to reach out more broadly to the public with the newest forms of internet/interactive media.

Interfaith Task Force for Homeless LGBTQ Youth

\$4,500

Started in 2005, the Interfaith Task Force for Homeless LGBTQ Youth sets up nightly shelters for homeless gay youth in houses of worship with underused space. Its estimated close to forty percent of homeless youth in New York City are gay (LGBTQ), which means there are approximately 8,000 homeless LGBTQ youth in New York City each night. Due to a culture of ignorance and institutionalized homophobia this vulnerable population is overlooked and in need of social services. The Interfaith Task Force initiates contact with the church, establishes a working relationship, organizes legal and agreement aspects of the physical property, acquires needed furniture and purchases supplies. The Doolittle Grant will finance the initial set-up costs for a planned spring 2008 shelter.

New Jersey ACORN

\$10,000

Founded in 1970, the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) is the nation's oldest and largest organization of low and moderate-income neighborhoods. With

over 8,000 members, the ACORN chapter in New Jersey is dedicated to building power for low and moderate-income people and enhancing their ability to act on their own behalf on pressing issues. For over five years New Jersey ACORN has maintained a statewide and local organizing presence on education issues. It is a member of the New Jersey Education Organizing Collaborative which has successfully organized in Paterson, Jersey City and Newark to implement the *Abbott v. Burke* school funding and construction mandates. This grant will help New Jersey ACORN expand its advocacy and organizing efforts for public education improvement into Union City.

Prison Action Network

\$5,000

www.prisonaction.blogspot.com

Prison Action Network (PAN) is working to bring incarcerated New Yorkers, formerly incarcerated people, parolees, their families and advocates into a caring community which uses legal, electoral, and organizing tools to create positive change in the criminal justice and prison systems. This grant mainly will help finance PAN's Family Empowerment Day, an event whose primary purpose is to unite and educate family representatives of incarcerated people so together they can work for reform. It also creates community among people often isolated by the shame society places on association with those who have committed crimes. This year almost 300 people attended the event in NYC, Buffalo and Albany on three separate dates.

Grant Renewals

IndyKids

\$5,000 (2006-07 Grant - \$5,000)

www.indykids.net

IndyKids is a free newspaper aimed at educating children on current news and world events from a progressive perspective. Founded in June 2005 their goal is to inspire in children a passion for social justice and learning. Based and primarily distributed in New York City (7,000 to 10,000 copies), they aim to eventually reach a national audience through their paper and website. IndyKids is produced with the support of Indymedia New York City and private donations. This year's grant is a follow-through of last year's request for \$5,000/year for two years to hire much needed part-time administrative help during IndyKids startup.

Lower Eastside Ecology Center

\$7,500 (2006-07 Grant - \$10,000)

www.lesecologycenter.org

The Lower Eastside Ecology Center grant will be used to support programs in the areas of community based recycling, environmental education, and stewardship for public open space. The organization works toward a more sustainable New York. Among its many projects, LESC sponsors quarterly pickups of usable and non-usable electronics in all five boroughs, retrieving and distributing items that are still usable and disposing of the rest in the least harmful way to the environment. LESC maintains a pickup station at the Union Square Greenmarket for vegetable scraps which are composted and resold to gardeners at a modest price.

Mujeres en Cambio / Women for Change

\$3,000 (2006-07 Grant - \$5,000)

Targeting disadvantaged women from rural communities near San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, Mujeres en Cambio provides stipends for girls and young women who want to pursue and increase their education. Secondary education in Mexico involves fees which poor families find

difficult to afford and most parents are likely to provide these fees for their sons only. Mujeres en Cambio provides funds for deserving young women. In 2007 171 students were enrolled in the program and each student's progress is carefully followed. Almost all contributed funds go directly to scholarship recipients.

New York Immigration Coalition

\$5,000 (2006-07 Grant - \$7,500)

www.thenyic.org

The New York Immigration Coalition has requested funds to support its base-building work around comprehensive immigration reform. The NYIC is an umbrella policy and advocacy organization for more than 180 groups in New York State that work with immigrants and refugees. The NYIC has become a leading advocate for immigrant communities successfully bringing together multi-ethnic, multi-racial and multi-sector constituencies to pursue a common agenda. This agenda includes: Advocating for equitable immigration policies, improving immigrants' access to service and public agencies; combating discrimination and ensuring civil rights protections; drawing attention to human rights issues such as detention and deportation by the US government; and educating the public about immigration issues.

New Yorkers for Verified Voting

\$5,000 (2006-07 Grant - \$10,000)

www.nyvv.org

NYVV is a non-partisan, not-for-profit corporation of New York State, dedicated to free, fair, accessible and accountable elections which accurately reflect the intentions of voters. It focuses on educating the public; local, state and federal officials; and the media on New York voting technology issues and free and fair elections in the 21st Century. NYVV has maintained a consistent presence in Albany to keep citizen concerns on the table and respond to timely information about potential threats to our elections. This grant is for general operating support--primarily travel, web site, phone and office costs.

The Innocence Project

\$5,000 (2006-07 Grant - \$7,500)

www.innocenceproject.org

The Innocence Project (IP) was founded in 1992 at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and established by civil rights attorneys Barry Scheck and Peter Neufeld to assist prisoners whose chances of being proven innocent through DNA testing are high. Since its inception, 208 people have been exonerated, including 15 who were on death row. The IP was either the attorney of record or assisted in the majority of cases. This grant will go to the Exoneree Emergency Fund which provides direct support to exonerees for a range of financial needs.

The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond (NYC)

\$5,000 (2006-07 Grant - \$5,000)

www.pisab.org

The mission of the People's Institute is to build a movement for social transformation to end racism and other forms of oppression. This grant will subsidize *Undoing Racism* training fees for local Master's degree students whose studies are primarily in social work and education programs. The 2-day trainings help participants internalize anti-racist principles so that they will become more effective leaders in the movement for justice and equity. Last year's grant helped the People's Institute Northeast Region extend its organizing efforts in 2007, reaching more than 1000 people through over forty *Undoing Racism* workshops and presentations. *Note: Each 3rd*

Friday of the month between 25 and 50 students who have taken the training and visitors gather to network about their activities. Community Church has provided space for the monthly Potlucks gratis for over two years and church members are welcome to participate.

WBAI - Pacifica Foundation

\$10,000 (2006-07 Grant - \$10,000)

www.wbai.org

WBAI is a New York, listener-sponsored, non-commercial radio station committed to world peace and social justice. It often provides the only media coverage of matters affecting underrepresented communities and progressive movements. WBAI does not depend on corporate support thereby having the freedom to voice what other media outlets often cannot broadcast. Last year's grant allowed WBAI to purchase mobile equipment needed to dramatically reduce the expense of remote broadcasting and help reverse this impediment to broadcasting directly from varied communities. This year's grant is for purchasing recording and editing computer equipment that would enhance WBAI's ability to record and archive stories and interviews for its listeners.