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Funding Social Change Since 1967

RESIST

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A Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority

April 1996

The Politics of Welfare Reform:

Knowing the Stakes, Finding the Strategies

ANN WITHORN

The politics of welfare has taken on a life of its own.

The Republican Long March through the welfare state resumed in 1994, turning welfare reform into a perpetual Jumanji game. All you know is that the next roll of the dice will bring the threat of a new disaster.

Reforming Welfare Reform

It would be nice to give in to the fantasy that there are enough affordable jobs for every single mother. Then our line would be the old populist one: full employment for all, with some child care and health care thrown in for good measure.

But in our anti-capitalist hearts, we *know* this economy can't provide jobs at livable wages for all. As feminists we *know* that the work of care within families is profoundly competitive with the hours needed for breadwinners' wages. And the long lasting wounds from failed and battering relationships can leave women and their children unable to handle more than the tough job of holding body and soul together. We know too much not to see welfare reform as a deeply felt impulse to put bad women back in their place. Flawed and racist as welfare practice has been, as anti-racists we *know* that welfare is still an essential protection against an acutely racially strati-



"First they came for the Welfare recipients," warn women gathered at a rally in Massachusetts. Photo by Marilyn Humphries

fied economy. And exactly because as leftists we see the ultimate threat of right-wing political ideology, we see welfare reform as a wedge issue for the hard Right's entrée into mainstream politics.

Some states have already passed rules, with federal permission, that deny benefits to a child unlucky enough to be born to a

mother already on welfare. Many proposals deny disability benefits to those "using" a mental or addiction problem to avoid work. Laws that make legal immigrants unable to receive basic social protections destroy any semblance of an American Dream.

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Letters to the Editor

Throughout 1996, Resist will sponsor a series of articles in the Newsletter focusing on the meaning, significance and direction of the "Left" in the United States. This discussion in the Newsletter endeavors to foster creative, productive discourse about the direction and relevance of the Left today, as well as to examine various organizing strategies for social change. The following are two responses in that discourse.

Need to Fund Activism and Activists

In Louis Kampf's article, *Pushing the Boulder: Activism and Despair* (January 1996), his long-time activist friend, Lettie, asks: "Why haven't Resist and other progressive funders developed a strategy to take care of movement people who can't support themselves. I don't mean charity but developing projects through which activists could make a living." I think that Lettie raises an important question.

I've worked as a progressive fund raiser and funder for the past 20 years. I think that Louis Kampf is probably right, funders lack the resources to develop projects to supply jobs for all or even most of the activists who need them. However, while this may not directly address Lettie's point, I am dismayed by the distinction many progressive funders draw between funding activism and funding activists. These progressive funders provide vital support for hundreds of struggling organizations, but they shy away from supporting the *people* who do the work.

Progressive funders should work on breaking down this artificial distinction. We should be as willing to fund the salaries of community organizers as we are to fund the projects of community organizations. In the spirit of the civil rights movement's "beloved community" we must do what we can to take care of our own.

This letter can't even begin to address the issues and possibilities raised by the need to sustain those who wish to pursue a lifetime of activism, but I thank Louis Kampf and Resist for raising the critical issue. We, at the Rosenberg Fund for Children, are willing to join with Resist and any other like-minded progressives to work on developing the strategy Lettie proposed.

*Robert Meeropol, Executive Director
Rosenberg Fund for Children*

From the editor: Resist provides general programmatic support, including salaries for

organizers engaged in activist projects. Resist would be willing to join with other funders to discuss this issue.

Task of Humanizing Work

The question that Lettie posed to Louis Kampf should give those of us engaged in funding peace and social justice much food for thought. Not only because we have been remiss in responding to the Letties who take jobs that barely give them sustenance to give time to the movement, but because foundations on the left and Life Funds (which redirect war tax resistance moneys) have virtually ignored the entire domestic economic arena. By and large, the projects funded are directed to long-term education, socio-political and peace goals.

But what happened to the task of humanizing work, or developing work that is an integral part of our values, or shaping a more cooperative society—less harried and driven—with time for leisure and political and social activism?

It's apparent we have dropped many of the strongest threads of the 1960s.

Another issue of great importance, untouched or barely touched upon by movement groups, is that of creating an environment conducive to employee well-being. A goodly number of progressive employers not only fail to live up to their verbalized idealism, but create expectations that are impossible to fulfill, which is easily done since the "cause" itself has a radiance and employees are caught up in its aura. Working conditions, benefits, as well as monetary compensation, are subjects rarely discussed, and they should be—honestly, openly, and with good will toward finding acceptable solutions. The paradox of living in a society whose values are foreign to our own, yet being influenced by the very standards we seek to replace, is ever-present.

However, the issue of funding projects that deal with setting up alternative forms of work is, in my opinion, essential to the

introduction of change into the American economic system now dominated by a "survival of the fittest" mentality. Understandably, Life Funds and foundations prefer to deal with long-term visionary socio-political and education projects. They may be fearful, or too overwhelmed, to put the issue of work high on their list of priorities; or they may lack ideas and imagination to deal with the hard facts of life, namely: work for most movement people is eight hours spent daily doing something they would rather not do; that they collect paychecks, usually inadequate, with few, if any, benefits so they can do the real work they want to do; and that this condition contributes to the fragility and fragmentation of the movement.

I agree with Lettie: it's time for funding groups to address the issue of work!

Sallie Marx

*Member of the Board of New York City
People's Life Fund*



For information and grant guidelines,
write to: Resist, One Summer St.,
Somerville, MA 02143

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Progressives have no choice but to stick with the welfare reform issue and to defend welfare recipients from the abuse of their human rights that is built into the reforms. Beyond defense, the continued conflict presents us with an opportunity. The left has a chance to recreate a political vision, to remind people that we *all* need a dependable state. Bleak as the current situation is, I do think that change will come when a movement emerges that allows

is a dangerous time for the real women who are real welfare recipients. Progressives need to be there as allies and witnesses to what is coming down, for without scrutiny and whistle-blowing, women's lives will be increasingly destabilized as state after state competes in the bizarre race to be "toughest on welfare." We can now take the lead from veterans of poverty groups which fight against punitive measures and provide popular education and coalition-building experience.

issue. Battered women's coalitions nationally and in many states have seen the threat to women's safety that occurs when women can't take the time they need to recover from the trauma of abuse. In Massachusetts, the Women College Presidents group took a strong public stand in support of women's rights to attend higher education while remaining on welfare. In short, the time to forge the long-hoped for alliance between feminists and women from the welfare rights movement is at hand.

Several barriers need to be overcome to form such coalitions. Not all women on welfare see child care, education, or even health insurance as their primary obstacles to employment, yet many middle-class women will assert this without learning how recipients prioritize their own needs. This can create distrust within coalitions and can push welfare rights groups to think they must go it alone.

Similarly, poor women often view abortion as a profound threat. When abortion is presented as a better choice than poverty or single motherhood, many women on welfare hear their very own lives being challenged and will, consequently, distrust pro-choice allies.

We know too much not to see welfare reform as a deeply felt impulse to put bad women back in their place.

middle- and working-class people to *identify with* welfare recipients, to admit that: "I could be next, I could lose my job, my marriage might break up. I could need welfare. It could happen to me."

For me, the best result of the terrible last two years has been that more people have come to see welfare reform proposals as wrong, and even begun to see themselves as protected by social programs. Over the past few years, I have worked in coalitions and spoken to scores of labor groups, women's organizations, church groups, student and civic groups. I have found folks more sympathetic than ever before in my 25 years of talking about welfare. I know that many people, across many boundaries, can come to think—with the introduction of a few facts and many examples of the realities we are being seduced into denying—that we have "gone too far." The task of progressives, as always, is to keep multiplying the doubts and to offer strategies and tactics to sharpen arguments and mobilize folks.

Building Coalitions

Jump-started by the Contract with America, differing communities of progressives have been slowly brought into the welfare rights scene through a range of local, state, and national coalitions. Through such formations, leftists, feminists, and progressives of various stripes can increase our efforts to affect the politics of welfare.

These coalitions are crucial because it

The National Welfare Rights Union has been growing since it emerged in 1987. Many states have independent organizations, like the Coalition for Basic Human Needs (CBHN) in Massachusetts or Welfare Warriors in Wisconsin, through which recipients provide support for each other, lobby for change, and try to build alliances.

Welfare reform is a wedge issue for the hard Right's entrée into mainstream politics.

Survival News, a national newspaper published by a collective of low-income people and friends in Boston, offers an update on activism around the country.

None of these groups is perfect; critics can always find fault and wish for a sharper analysis here, a wider coalition building effort there. But each has become a legitimate voice for organized recipients through great internal struggle and against formidable odds.

Women's Coalitions

Mainstream as well as more radical women's groups around the country have begun to see welfare as a central issue. There have been national meetings of women lawyers, activists, and professionals. NOW and the NOW Legal Defense Fund have both given high priority to the

Simple unawareness of class privilege harms alliances, with the result being that some women on welfare believe that "feminists still don't get it," and neither group demonstrates the necessary respect for strong coalition work.

Labor-Welfare Coalitions

Any fruitful discussion of women's poverty must include an analysis of the insecurities of the employment system, the inadequacies of benefits, hours and wages for so many families. In dialogue with unions, the most intriguing questions for movement building can emerge: how can we create security for all workers? Is it a system of wage subsidy, like an expanded earned income tax credit? Or is it a "basic income" scheme, in which all people would

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receive a basic grant, which would be supplemented by wages without penalty?

There is great hope for labor-welfare alliances, especially given new leadership within the AFL-CIO. Recently, the AFL-CIO has taken some fairly progressive stands on welfare reform. Public employee unions, especially SEIU, have been even more vocal in their support.

However, real problems for building alliances with unionists, especially with men, do emerge whenever welfare recipients raise the deeper discussion of valuing women's work in the home and insist that welfare be viewed as a positive response to barriers that keep them from employment.

Religious Coalitions

Liberal and mainstream religious groups, including Catholic bishops, have recently served a critical public role in insisting on government's moral obligation to protect children and mothers. In Boston, for example, the work of a religious task force on welfare reform organized a Mothers' Day insert for church bulletins, which slowed some of the worst welfare reform proposals. The untiring work of some ministers, rabbis, nuns, and priests has helped recipients to be heard by new audiences and to feel less demonized. Continuing to build coalitions between religious and welfare groups can help people see that "there but for fortune" they could be on welfare and that welfare rights are human rights.

Too much mail?

If you are currently receiving duplicate mailings from Resist, please let us know. Send us all the labels you receive, indicating the correct one. Help us save paper and postage.

Occasionally, Resist exchanges mailing lists with other organizations. This is a way we can expand our base of support. If you do not wish for your name to be shared, please let us know as soon as possible.

At the same time, people of faith must be pushed to portray recipients as neither victims nor villains. We need honest discussions about how to work together when single mothers do not choose to marry or are lesbians. Here many of the women who are redefining spirituality from a woman's perspective can be especially helpful.

Religious allies must be pushed harder to lead the challenge to the Religious Right. Often even the closest allies want to avoid

The congressional Republican Right understands this and is trying hard to bar any advocacy role not only for legal service corporations, but also any service agencies that received federal money. All of this should give coalitions of recipients and professionals special power and a sense of shared goals.

African American Coalitions

African-American groups have an especially critical role to play in regard to welfare reform. In early 1996, a coalition of national black organizations spoke out against the Governors' proposals. At several recent national conferences, African-American participants have expressed strong concern about what the assaults on recipients mean for their communities and have not been fooled by promises to get people off welfare and into work.

From my experience, spinning out guaranteed-income proposals or talking about the deep racism that taints even the less punitive "welfare reform" ideas is most fruitful when I'm addressing black audiences.

At the same time, black and low-income audiences don't let anyone romanticize recipients; they are angry at the crime and dysfunction within their neighborhoods, which they see as directly linked to destabilization by "the system," and the social workers who do not really help people in trouble.

Rhetoric of Welfare Expansion

Besides continuing to build and deepen coalitions, what else can self-consciously "progressive" groups and individuals do in their own name to engage further around the politics of welfare reform?

In addition to exposing the increasing disparity of wealth and reviving labor and grassroots demands for economic justice, the final imperative for progressives working hard to revive a viable left by is to build demands for an expanded welfare state into our rhetoric. Presenting everyone's need for welfare can allow us to sidestep the classic populist error of defining issues as



this fray—because they don't like to fight with other co-religionists, or because they fear losing support in their own communities, and perhaps exposing their own marginality. But alliances must be built that are close enough so that people can be pressured. The argument of a sympathetic minister that "my Bible says that mothers should be helped for bringing life into the world, not punished," may be far more effective than secular moral arguments.

Professional Coalitions

Professional advocates, especially lawyers, social workers, academics, and doctors, have been crucial to welfare support and defense efforts. Even as they themselves have been under severe attack, legal services attorneys have remained essential friends: by compiling and processing information on legislative proposals and actions; by discussing the uses and limits of legal strategies; by literally defending recipients from lawless bureaucrats.

"divisive" if they are seen as primarily affecting people of color, or women, or the very poor. In the heat of the recent welfare reform debate, this old pattern seems to have broken; let's keep it so. It would be terrible if, when some more "unifying" issue (like health care) becomes tactically critical again, women on welfare and their advocates were to find themselves, as before, relegated to the back table, deemed "important, but not a core concern."

We don't have any time to take this step backward again.

Ann Withorn, a long-time welfare activist, teaches social policy at the University of Massachusetts in Boston. Her new anthology, For Crying Out Loud: Women's Poverty in the U.S., co-edited with Diane Dujon, will be published this summer by South End Press.

Reform in Massachusetts

A Case Study in Transforming the Welfare Debate

BETTY REID MANDELL

The most repressive welfare bill in the country became law in Massachusetts on November 1, 1995. The effects have been devastating. The welfare rolls in Massachusetts have fallen 15.8 percent (from 105,000 to 89,000), double the average drop nationally and the third-largest plunge in the country. Although Governor William Weld credits the drop to "changing the cul-

ture of the dole, promoting responsible behavior and hard work," advocates suspect that the drop is due to the state's terrorist tactics of intimidating women.

The Massachusetts welfare reform package limits AFDC to two years and cuts the recipient's grant by 2.57 percent. Even before this cut, AFDC benefits were well below the poverty line. Additionally, under the new program, mothers of children over two years of age must either find a paying job or perform "workfare" after 60 days of being on welfare. If a woman has a child after enrolling on AFDC, she would have to go to work after the child was 3 months old and her newborn would not be covered.

Additionally, the Department of Transitional Assistance (formerly the Department of Welfare) required women who receive AFDC to identify fathers of welfare children, information which many women simply do not have. Saying that some young people have come to view parenthood as a "cheap joke," Governor Weld filed a bill that would take away the entire family's AFDC grant if mothers do not give required information about the fathers. Welfare rights activists have successfully challenged this in the courts.

We know from anecdotal evidence that many women and their families are facing desperate circumstances, with increased hunger and homelessness. While some women have found jobs,

others have left the state. Some needy women may have been discouraged from applying for AFDC benefits, been denied benefits, or had their benefits terminated. Others may have returned to abusive relationships. (Studies show that up to 60 percent of AFDC recipients have been abused.) The state admits that they do not know what has happened to former recipients.

Mothers under the age of 18 are being hounded to live with their relatives or in a supervised group setting, even if they already have a stable living arrangement. In 1995, the number of teenagers under 18 receiving AFDC dropped 36 percent, far more precipitously than the overall caseload. Deborah Harris of the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute said, "What is absolutely critical is to find out why that happened. There are hundreds of teen parents not receiving cash assistance and having no contact with responsible adults. This is a dangerous situation."

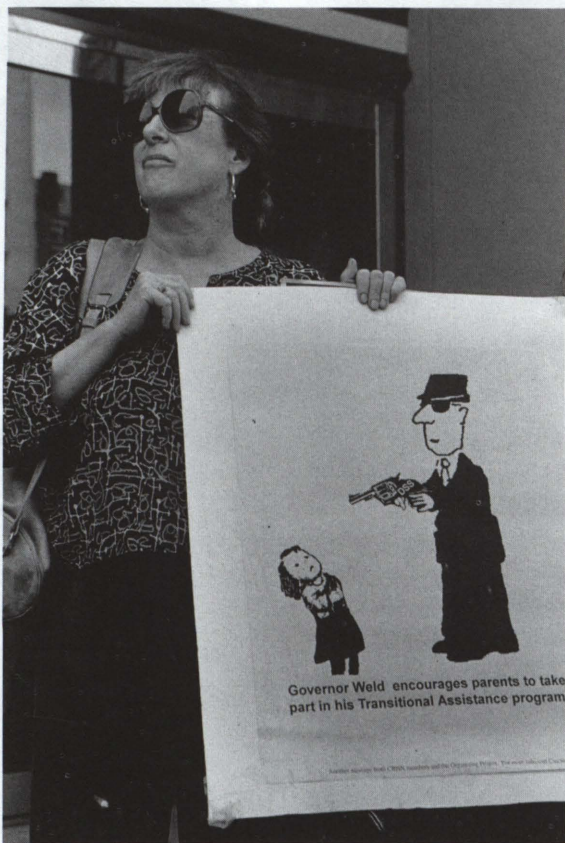
According to Joan Tighe, executive director for the Alliance for Young Families, studies have found that more than 60 percent of teenage parents have been previously abused or come from homes where there was substance abuse. Patricia Baker, a policy analyst at the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute expressed fear that teenagers, assuming they would not meet the new rules, may have returned to abusive relationships that are not healthy for them or their children.

Activist Responses

Welfare recipients are fighting back. Five welfare mothers and their children, assisted by the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, filed a class action lawsuit against the state of Massachusetts, accusing the Weld administration of illegally reducing welfare benefits for mothers who are unable to furnish detailed information about absent fathers. In March, 1996, the courts agreed to a temporary restraining order, restoring benefits prospectively to women who had been unjustly cut off by the state.

Activists in Massachusetts have also engaged in successful campaigns to overturn aspects of restrictive "workfare." For example, the Welfare Education and Training Access Coalition (WETAC), in conjunction with the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, fought to restore day care rights for children of welfare recipients at-

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A protester shows her opposition to Massachusetts welfare reforms. Photo by Marilyn Humphries

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tending four-year institutions of higher learning. This is a limited victory which applies only to women with a previously approved Employment and Training plan. Women who now want to enroll in college or community college programs are still ineligible for day care programs.

Other groups of activists are fighting the state's repressive welfare measures. For example, the Human Rights Project is gathering and publishing information on hu-

man rights abuses done to welfare recipients. Additionally, a group of academic activists in the greater Boston area formed the Academics' Working Group on Poverty. Members of the Academics' Working Group conduct research, write articles, give speeches, and support the efforts of the Coalition for Basic Human Needs, a statewide welfare rights organization. Some members of the Academics' Working Group submitted research to Donna Shalala at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, research that persuaded federal officials to refuse to sign-off on certain features of a waiver that the state sought in order to implement its welfare reform.

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Any strategy to influence public opinion must counteract the divide-and-conquer strategies of society's rulers by helping the working poor and the middle class to understand that their fate is entwined with the fate of welfare recipients. The shredding of the safety net hurts everyone except the rich. With that in mind, Survivors, Inc., is launching a project to organize low-income college students in Massachusetts. Our goal is to unite the welfare poor and the non-welfare poor into an activist group that will work toward increased access to higher education for *everyone*. We want to add the strength of low-income students to an emerging student movement that conducted a nation-wide teach-in against the Contract With America last year. We will use work-study students, social work interns, and committed students to

organize on many Massachusetts campuses, and perhaps some New Hampshire and Rhode Island campuses as well. We plan to publish a special student issue of *Survival News* to help in this organizing. The Center for Campus Organizing has placed welfare rights on its activist agenda. Survivors, Inc., has also formed a speakers' bureau on welfare to help inform the public about welfare and poverty issues. We generally speak in teams of at least two people, usually including a current or

former welfare recipient who is a welfare activist. The other speakers come from a variety of backgrounds, including board members of Survivors, Inc., community activists, and the Academics' Working Group on Poverty.

Welfare is one of the most divisive issues that politicians can use. By focusing people's anger on women who are defined as "dependent" (despite the fact that they are caring for children), by implying that these women are to blame for people's economic insecurity, and by implying (contrary to facts) that most of these women are black, the politicians have used "welfare mothers" like a lightning rod to draw people's anger away from the real villains, the rich and powerful elite.

Welfare rights activism had been dormant since the demise of the National Welfare Rights Organization in the early 1970s. But it is gathering steam again. The National Organization of Women (NOW) has put welfare rights high on their agenda. The National and the Massachusetts chapter of the Welfare Rights Union are organizing. Academics are engaging in more activism than they ever did before, and students are on the move to reform welfare reform in Massachusetts.

Betty Reid Mandell is the director of Survivors, Inc., a national welfare rights organization which received a Resist grant in 1995.

Welfare Rights Organizations

Many grassroots organizations are working to stop the attack on welfare programs. A few are listed below. For more information, please contact these organizations directly.

Center on Social Welfare Policy and Law

275 7th Avenue, Suite 1205
New York, NY 10001

Coalition for Basic Human Need

54 Essex Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

Institute for Women's Policy Research

1400 20th Street NW, Suite 104
Washington, DC 20036

JEDI Women (Justice, Economic Dignity & Independence for Women)

347 South 400 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Massachusetts Human Services Coalition

37 Temple Place, 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02111

National Welfare Rights Union

10 Glendale, Suite 109
Highland Park Community College
Highland Park, MI 48203

NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund

99 Hudson Street, 12th Floor
New York, NY 10013

Reform Organization of Welfare

5300 Delmar Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63112

Welfare Rights Committee

3109 E. 38th Street, #206-A
Minneapolis, MN 55409

Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition

2212 S. Jackson
Seattle, WA 98144

Welfare Warriors

2711 W. Michigan
Milwaukee, WI 53208

Women's Committee of One Hundred

750 First Street NE, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20002

Grassroots Fund Raising Resources

CAROL SCHACHET

Few things are both as difficult and as crucial for grassroots groups as raising money. Fortunately, resources exist to help organizations that do not have the staff or budget for expensive development training or consultants.

Video Series

The secret of raising money is asking for it, according to fundraising expert Kim Klein. Sounds simple, right? Raising money does sound easy when you listen to "The Grassroots Fundraising Series," a two-part video series featuring Klein. Author of *Fundraising for Social Change* and editor of the *Grassroots Fundraising Journal*, Klein knows how nonprofit organizations operate, and she definitely knows how to raise money.

In this series, Klein outlines key elements to successful fundraising in clear, non-threatening language. In the first part of the series, Klein covers: Basics of Fundraising, Role of the Board, Asking for Money, and Major Gifts. The second part focuses on Direct Mail, Special Events, and Donor Loyalty.

With good humor and seasoned advice, Klein offers solid suggestions for developing a well-rounded fundraising campaign, outlines the pros and cons of various strategies, and keeps raising

money in the context of working for social change. She glides from subjects as diverse as what not to eat during lunch with a major donor to overcoming societal taboos regarding asking for money to effective ways of expanding your donor base.



The video is a project of the Headwaters Fund and is available for one percent of an organization's budget (minimum

\$25). For more information or to order the video series, contact the Headwaters Fund, 122 Franklin Avenue, Room 518, Minneapolis, MN 55404; 612/879-0602.

Finding Funding

Are you lost in the foundation maze trying to raise money for an organizing project? Where can you go to learn more about the types of funds available?

Resist offers a pamphlet entitled "Finding Funding: A beginner's guide to foundation research." The guide presents basic steps to finding appropriate funding sources, lists foundations by issue area and geographic region, and includes a bibliography of fundraising resources. "Finding Funding" is available for one dollar from Resist, One Summer Street, Somerville, MA 02143.

Carol Schachet is the fund raiser and newsletter editor at Resist.

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solutions to the problems facing inner city youth of color.

Women's Voices for the Earth

127 East Main Street, Suite 319
Missoula, MT 59802

At the first annual *Finding Common Ground: Gender, Justice and the Environment* workshop in Missoula, Montana, participants explored how women activists could help shape a society that is environmentally sustainable and socially just. From discussions at the conference, however, it became clear that conservation groups in the Northern Rockies rarely elect women to leadership positions or work with other non-environmental progressive groups. As a result, Women's Voices for the Earth (WVE) was formed in 1994 to provide women with leadership opportunities and

to create a forum in which diverse constituencies could work together.

Currently, WVE is organizing to eliminate dioxin contamination, which is linked to a host of serious health problems, including breast and testicular cancer and reproductive disorders. Dioxins are produced when pulp and paper mills, among others, use chlorine to bleach pulp or burn PVC plastic waste. The Stone Container plant, the world's largest liner board mill, is located in Missoula and has a long history of environmental pollution.

Utilizing a \$1,000 grant from Resist, WVE seeks to: 1) educate paper workers and their families about the health dangers from dioxins; 2) bridge the gaps between environmental and labor activists to forge stronger working relationships; and 3) counteract the stereotypes and myths found in the "jobs v. the environment" rhetoric.

Q: How does a progressive organization organize a firing squad?

A: They form a circle.

**SOUTHERN
EXPOSURE**

special issue

Falling Apart/Coming Together

Find out how we hurt ourselves and what we can do about it

Southern Exposure is published four times a year and is available with a membership of \$24 to the nonprofit Institute for Southern Studies, P.O. Box 531, Durham, NC. 27702. Special issue is \$5. Place credit card orders by mail, fax (919-419-8315), or phone (919-419-8311 ext. 45).

GRANTS

Each issue of the Newsletter highlights a few recent Resist grants to groups throughout the United States. This month, we feature grants awarded in February and March. For more details about these groups, please write to them directly at the addresses below.

ADAPT of Texas

1313 Lamar Square Drive
Austin, TX 78704

ADAPT's parent organization, the Atlantis Community, was created in 1973 to liberate people with disabilities from nursing homes and to provide them with attendant and independent living services. ADAPT of Texas was formed in 1984 and was part of a national network which sought to mandate that wheelchair lifts be put on all new buses (ADAPT then stood for American Disabled for Accessible Public Transportation). This campaign eventually succeeded with the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. ADAPT now seeks to empower people with disabilities to advocate and organize for change around disability issues. As part of that process, ADAPT is currently organizing against the insurance industry's preference for warehouse-

ing people with disabilities in nursing homes or institutions, rather than giving an option for at-home attendant services. In congruence with its new campaign, ADAPT now stands for American Disabled for Attendant Programs Today.

Resist's Accessibility Grant of \$960 will fund literature and sign language interpreters for a national ADAPT demonstration in Houston in support of home- and community-based attendant services. The event will include workshops and "on-the-job-training" in organizing, leadership development and fundraising.

Middle East Peace Coalition

56 Crescent Street
Northampton, MA 01060

The stimulus for the formation of the Middle East Peace Coalition was the Intifadah, the popular uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Beginning in 1988, the Coalition has sponsored a variety of activist and educational activities regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including vigils, letter-writing campaigns, film festivals, and material aid campaigns. Since the Oslo and Cairo agreements, the Coalition

has entered a new phase of its work, seeking to educate those who mistakenly believe that the Israeli-Palestinian conflicts have been resolved. The Coalition now seeks to build institutional support for the ongoing grassroots activism, particularly among women, in Palestine and Israel through collaborative work with groups in their area.

Utilizing a \$960 grant from Resist, the coalition will hold a week-long series of events entitled *Palestinian and Israeli Women's Activism: The Struggle for Health and Human Rights*. The event will highlight two women deeply involved in these issues, Palestinian physician and activist, Dr. Salwa Najjab-Khatib, and Israeli physician and activist, Dr. Ruchama Marton.

People Organizing to Demand Environmental Rights (¡PODER!)

474 Valencia Street, Suite 155
San Francisco, CA 94103

In response to the complex issues affecting the Mission District's low-income residents and people of color, ¡PODER! was formed in 1991. ¡PODER! initially organized around urban environmental hazards faced by residents in this area, specifically lead paint poisoning. After successfully winning the implementation of a Lead Poisoning Prevention ordinance, ¡PODER! surveyed 400 hundred local residents to determine their primary concerns. As a result of this survey, ¡PODER! has begun two new campaigns that will focus on the twin goals of community safety and development.

In conjunction with the Youth Uprising Coalition, ¡PODER! seeks to find real solutions to youth crime by training and working with high school through college-aged residents to develop economic, social, and political power.

A Resist grant of \$1,000 will support youth organizing trainings in which teens learn how to plan, organize, and implement campaigns advocating for positive

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Join the RESIST Pledge Program

We'd like you to consider becoming a RESIST Pledge.

Pledges account for over 25% of our income.

By becoming a pledge, you help guarantee RESIST a fixed and dependable source of income on which we can build our grant-making program. In return, we will send you a monthly pledge letter and reminder along with your newsletter. We will keep you up-to-date on the groups we have funded and the other work being done at RESIST.

So take the plunge and become a RESIST Pledge! We count on you, and the groups we fund count on us.

Donations to Resist are tax deductible. Make checks payable to Resist.

Yes! I'll become a RESIST Pledge.

I'll send you my pledge of \$ _____
every month/two months/
quarter/six months (circle one).

☐ Enclosed is initial pledge contribution of \$ _____.

☐ I can't join the pledge program now, but here's a contribution of \$ _____ to support your work.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____