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Funding social change since 1967

RESIST

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A Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority

February/March 1999

Keeping the Vision Alive

RESIST Celebrates Largest Grant-Making Year

JUNE LEE

1998 is a difficult year to forget—or to describe. The year ended with the two major political parties functioning only as the butt of countless jokes. While everyone might have an opinion on what is right or wrong in Sexgate '98, it became clear that most politicians considered “protecting the party” their entire job description. Poverty, education, health care, labor, peace—to judge by the media—were just sidebars worth an occasional mention.

Not true for progressive activists, however. They continued their work demanding social change, even while “inside the beltway,” everyone seemed endlessly caught up in the impeachment proceedings. Struggling to rescue an agenda for justice, RESIST’s grantees worked diligently to counteract punitive welfare reform programs; prevent environmental degradation; confront the expansion of the military; and to demand full rights for immigrants, people of color, gay men and lesbians, and low-income people. This issue of the newsletter celebrates 156 groups who received grants from RESIST in 1998, RESIST’s biggest grant-making year ever.

Aware that political organizing has become more challenging and expensive, RESIST doubled its maximum grant in 1998—from \$1,000 to \$2,000. As a result of this increase, RESIST’s applicant pool rose to one of the highest levels in its histo-



Native American children join a blockade at California’s Ward Valley. *Photo by Molly Johnson*

ry. By the end of the year, RESIST awarded more than \$250,000 in grants and a loan to activist organizations (see page 8 for a summary).

The Political, and Economic Context

RESIST’s grantees organize in a difficult—and increasingly conservative—context. Nationally, 1998 may have seen the lowest unemployment rate in many years, but “free market” ideology reigned and most of the new jobs created were low-wage positions without benefits, leaving more working people struggling in poverty. While the stock market continued

to climb, the gap between the rich and the poor widened as fast as merging mega-corporations could lay off workers.

In Massachusetts, where I live, the year came to a close with families on public assistance losing their cash benefits as a two-year time limit on welfare benefits took effect. The state, however, has done little to create accessible, stable jobs that pay a living wage to low-skilled workers transitioning off welfare. Low-income families throughout the country are experiencing similar struggles as welfare “reform” forces people into minimum

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wage, service sector jobs.

Thus, even as the politicians and the mainstream press judged the nation's economic success by the wealth of corporations and those making significant gains in the stock market, the situation of low-income people became more precarious. As a result, RESIST found activist groups increasingly seeking funding for projects focused on economic and workplace justice. In Michigan, RESIST supported the Ann Arbor Tenants Union, which is organizing nonstudent low-income communities to gain power for tenants. Members of the Coalition for a Sweatshop-Free Albuquerque used RESIST funds to highlight the substandard conditions under which workers produce consumer goods in New Mexico, while Southerners for Economic Justice in Durham, North Carolina, was awarded an emergency grant to mount a statewide mobilization of welfare recipients to attend a public hearing on the state's plan for welfare reform. RESIST also supported the efforts of Project Uplift, in Great Falls, Montana, to demand justice for low-income families made more vulnerable by changes in the welfare program.

Another area in which RESIST contin-

PLANNED GIVING TO RESIST

For more than 31 years, RESIST has relied on the support of donors to maintain our grant-giving program to grassroots groups. There are many ways to extend that support, including:

1. Make a tax-deductible contribution.
2. Join the pledge program.
3. Donate stocks or other securities.
4. Include a bequest to RESIST in your will or life insurance policy.
5. Designate RESIST as a beneficiary of an IRA or pension plan.

For more information about these and other options, contact RESIST, 617/623-5110.

ues to see growing interest among activists is working with youth. By supporting youth organizing, we are inspiring a new generation of progressive/left activists without whom movements for social change could not survive. Since 1993, RESIST has steadily increased its funding in this area. This year, RESIST again funded the School of Unity and Liberation (SOUL), in Oakland, California, which has a learning center for youth to study, analyze, and discuss important social movements and issues. SOUL also links progressive history and current activism by plugging youth into on-going organizing projects in the area. Philadelphia's Urban Retrievers, another RESIST grantee, empowers middle- and high-school students to develop new educational models that reflect the need for social change. These are just two of the many exciting youth-lead projects supported by RESIST.

Acting More Locally than Globally

Following the trend of the last several years, RESIST received fewer applications from groups working exclusively on international or global justice issues, including peace and anti-militarism. In the late 1980s, RESIST funded, within one year, 59 groups working on issues related to the U.S. role in the Middle East, Central/Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. In contrast, this year RESIST funded 15 groups working specifically on international peace issues.

Robin Carton, who coordinates the Grants Program at RESIST, noted that as government spending on programs traditionally considered to be the "safety net" has declined, activists often have had to choose between focusing on domestic agendas or global concerns. As economic survival issues have become more urgent, organizing efforts have shifted in that direction; a number of groups that concentrated primarily on international solidarity issues, having lost many of their active supporters, closed their doors over the past few years.

Some progressive organizations, however, even as they focus on domestic organizing, continue to remind us that this is a global society and that U.S. national policies and issues directly relate to—and affect deeply—what happens abroad. These grantees incorporate international issues in-

to their local work, particularly in relation to labor and immigrant rights issues.

For example, many groups are working to stop sweatshop labor conditions both in the U.S. and abroad. Projects funded by RESIST, such as Justice, Do it Nike! in Portland, Oregon, and Sweatshop Watch in San Francisco, California, connect globalization, labor, corporate greed, and worker safety. RESIST also supported several groups engaged in cross-border solidarity projects, including US/Guatemala Labor Education Project and STITCH (Support Team International for Textileras). These groups link U.S. workers with their counterparts in Guatemala.

For the past several years, the rights of immigrants have been under attack, as evidenced by voter initiatives such as California's Proposition 187. In 1998, RESIST funded the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (Oakland, California) and Somos Un Pueblo Unido (Santa Fe, New Mexico) to organize their

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For information and grant guidelines, write to: RESIST, 259 Elm Street, Suite 201
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communities to stop INS workplace raids. The Political Asylum Project of Austin, Texas, received funding to work with immigrant and refugee communities in Central Texas.

Special RESIST Grants

Each year RESIST awards grants in honor of three special individuals: Arthur Raymond Cohen, Freda Friedman Salzman, and Mike Riegle. The Cohen award supports the causes to which Arthur Cohen was committed: "opposition to the arms race, the cold war, and American intervention abroad; and support for civil liberties, the fight against racism, and the struggle of workers and unions at home." Tonantzin: Boston Committee to Support the Native Peoples of Mexico received the Cohen award in 1998. Its work focuses on a campaign in response to the December 22, 1997, massacre of indigenous people in Chiapas and the increased militarization and paramilitary violence in the area.

The Freda Friedman Salzman Memorial Endowment Fund "is dedicated to the purpose of supporting organized resistance to the institutions and practices that rob people of their dignity as full human beings . . . [giving] a high priority to the efforts of Native American peoples to resist cultural as well as actual genocide." In 1998, three organizations received Salzman awards: ADAPT of Texas, Community Alliance of Tenants, and *Hard Hat Construction Magazine*. ADAPT of (Austin) Texas used their award to hold a rally and press event to publicize the ten worst states providing home- and community-based attendant care services for people with disabilities. Community Alliance of Tenants, based in Oregon, is developing a Tenant Organizing Institute focused on working with low-income tenants and tenants of color. *Hard Hat Construction Magazine*, from San Francisco, California, seeks to help workers in the building trades regain control of their unions and to promote a diverse construction industry.

The Mike Riegle Tribute Grant is given in memory of the life and work of Mike Riegle, a Boston activist. Mike was a supporter of prisoners' rights, gay and lesbian liberation, and the radical movement for justice. RESIST gave the Riegle Tribute to the Coalition for Prisoners' Rights in Santa

Fe, New Mexico. In its monthly newsletter, the coalition challenges the social and economic injustice inherent to the so-called criminal justice system.

Additionally, many of RESIST's contributors made gifts to honor the lives or memories of friends, colleagues, mentors, and family members. A list of honorees is included in the box below.

Upcoming Grants Initiative

Also in 1998, RESIST made plans to introduce a new grant-making program. In response to input from several long-term grantees, RESIST will implement a multi-year, general support grant. This program will ease the application process for organizations that have received full funding from RESIST at least twice in the past five years. These multi-year grants, designed to support stability and longer-range planning, represent only a small fraction of RESIST's over-all grant-making and will not replace RESIST's regular grant program. The multi-year grants, however, pro-

vide an opportunity for RESIST to extend support to those groups that have continually done exceptional organizing. (For more information on the multi-year grant program and how to apply, contact the RESIST office at 617/623-5110.)

The multi-year grant program, like the increased size of RESIST's grants, reflects RESIST's commitment to social justice. These funding changes come in direct response to the needs of organizations working for social change and are made possible by the commitment of individuals who fund progressive organizing projects. In 1999, with the continued commitment of RESIST's supporters, RESIST is sure to see the same persistent, inspiring and radical work from many communities across the country.

June Lee is a member of RESIST's Board of Directors and the Director of Grants Administration at the Boston Women's Fund.

Each year, many RESIST supporters honor their friends, colleagues, family and mentors by making a contribution in their name. As is our custom, RESIST acknowledges those individuals in the lists below.

In Honor of:

Jonathan Aubrey
Laurie & Phil Brimble
Maidel Cason
Pam Chamberlain
Evelyn Marie Dyer
Steve Einhorn & Kate Power
Harvey Epstein & Anita Eliot
Douglas Forman
Rachel Fruchter & Sam Horowitz
Rose & Sam Gershowitz
Buddy Gray
Clinton Michael Jencks
Terry Nash
Paul Ollswang
Grace Paley
Grace & Richard Parker
Puerto Rican Prisoners of War
SOA Abolitionists
Donna Sharer
Matthew Shepard
Saul Slapikoff
Martha & Barry Stahl
Amy Swerdlow

In Memory of:

Bernice Augenbraun
Etta Biblowitz
Donna Jean Cremans
Martin Diskin
Ellen Frankfurt & Igal Roodenko
Mitchell Goodman
Marilyn Harris
Larry Hirsch
Morris Milgram
Jim O'Brien
Carl Sagan
Ellie Schnitzer
Grace Sillanpoa
John Stack
Lily Stone
JoAnn Sussman
Rudolph von Abele
Barbara Waters

Beloved: Imperfect, But Worthwhile

Lessons from a Box Office Failure

FRAN WHITE

If you haven't been to see *Beloved*, you should try to find it. Many of my friends avoided going to see it because they expected another Spielberg extravaganza, such as *Color Purple* or *Amistad*. *Beloved* is a far better film than the Spielberg creations. This film has real substance. One might disagree with Jonathan Demme's interpretation of Toni Morrison's book—especially his interpretation of the title role, Beloved—but there is no doubt he has created a sophisticated film that doesn't talk down to its audience.

What *Beloved* is not is a film that could succeed in a mass market. (The \$80 million film was clearly a financial debacle for Disney.) It is not that slave history is impossible to tell through popular media; clearly *Roots* got it right. But Morrison's relentlessly bleak, unromantic view of slavery couldn't be communicated through the mass media. Once the producers and directors decided to be faithful to the book, they had inevitably made the choice to produce an "art" film. There is no getting around it, *Beloved* is a very difficult book to understand and is now a difficult film to grasp.

So, why go see this far-from-perfect film? To begin with, slavery receives too little attention in our society. When major voices of our time, such as Toni Morrison, Oprah Winfrey, and Danny Glover, come together to speak on slavery, we have important lessons to learn about both our history and the present. Engaging this film offers us all a chance to enter serious dialogues about a most serious topic.

There are reasons internal to the film that make it worthwhile as well. For example, much of the acting is superb. Oprah Winfrey's performance as the lead charac-

ter, Sethe, has been undervalued in the popular press. I was very taken by the way she resisted glamorizing her character. Her performance was part of what lent the film the feel of authenticity. She made it difficult for the audience to retain images in their heads of Oprah-the-alluring-and-attractive-talk-show-host.

Ironically, *Beloved's* dismal financial failure is due, in part, to Oprah's remarkable performance. In transforming herself into a believable Sethe, Oprah steered the film away from mass-market success. Morrison's Sethe is powerful but not really

from slavery. Paul D and Sethe need each other and want each other. But their attempt to recover what is missing inside themselves through an act of sex fails. They have been too wounded by slavery's assault on black sexualities to face freedom. They can't help but carry their traumas into their new lives.

Morrison uses sexuality to explore how deeply black people were affected by the lack of freedom that slavery imposed on them. She places major emphasis on black people's loss of control over their own sexuality. Sethe's back is beaten until a tree grows

on it, but she is most devastated by being treated like a milking animal by her owner's sons. In the end, Paul D fails Sethe because he cannot recognize or face this reality. The consequence of his failure for this film is that there is no romance to carry its audience through the presentation of the harsh aspects of slavery. *Titanic* is a great example of a story about a disaster that appealed to a mass

audience because of a simple romantic tale. Attention to historical detail alone would not have carried a large audience; Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet's affair were essential to the film's financial success.

One character in *Beloved* seemed designed for mass appeal: Baby Suggs, played by Beah Richards. She has played this kind of role for decades. Everyone seemed to be able to relate to Baby Suggs, even reviewers who didn't like the film. They all noted the strong performance by Beah Richards, but I felt like the role had been lifted from *Green Pastures*. A stereotyped black female prophet leading a loose congregation in emotional praise seduced these critics and much of the audience. The performance made our connection to black religious life of the 19th century easy, perhaps too easy. Unfortunately for the financial success of the movie, Baby Suggs dies early in the film.

The most difficult character to move

When major voices of our time, such as Toni Morrison, Oprah Winfrey, and Danny Glover, come together to speak on slavery, we have important lessons to learn about both our history and the present.

appealing. She faces a horrifying choice that none of us would want to confront and then she holds onto memories of the past in a way that threatens the lives of her other children. She chooses death for her daughter Beloved rather than seeing her recaptured into slavery; she knows that she cannot choose life and freedom. But despite the courage to choose death for her children, she remains locked in her memories of what led up to the choice and the realities of her daughter's death in a way that prevents her from moving on to a real life of freedom. Oprah manages to bring out the complexities of this courageous but deeply troubled character.

Danny Glover is also brilliant as Paul D. I felt as if I could read the complex history of slavery and its immediate aftermath in his face. He enters the film as an attractive character, but the sex between Glover and Oprah lacks an edge of passion and intimacy—as it must have for so many just freed

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from book to screen was Beloved. Our film culture is particularly impoverished when it comes to portraying the supernatural—a fact that has always intrigued me given that most Americans say they believe in spirits. But the issue here is not whether we ourselves believe in a spirit world; most African Americans of the 19th century did. We need some way to portray worlds where ghosts are experienced as a part of everyday life.

Needless to say, Demme and Thandie Newton didn't get it right. A number of reviewers have pointed out that the character seems like a humorous take off on *The Exorcist*. The humor only serves to further confuse the audience. It is often unclear whether to laugh or to look on in horror. Beloved is distracting to the film's characters and to the audience; in fact, she is so distracting that many people missed the value in the film.

Thankfully, Beloved is upstaged by the extraordinary performance of Kimberly Elise, in the role of Denver. The choice of a young black girl as the key to the movie's (and the book's) dramatic structure, however, creates another barrier to the film as a popular culture success. Denver manages to extricate herself from the mire of the destructive relationship between Sethe and the memories embodied in Beloved. She is the generation that does not have to live with memories of slavery. She is the embodiment of hope as she reaches out for help from the community of black women. In the book, the black women respond to her in part because they feel guilty for not having warned Sethe that her slave catchers were on her trail; they were caught up in jealousy at Baby Suggs's power and good fortune. This nuance is left out in the movie, giving "community" a more positive meaning than Morrison seems to have intended. The moment of exorcism when the women come to rescue Sethe and Denver from Beloved is a welcome relief for the characters and the audience.

Unfortunately, for the film's pretense

towards financial success, Kimberly Elise is cute but no JonBenet Ramsey. Elise lacks the culturally-imposed glamour necessary to carry so much dramatic weight in a popular culture film. Despite Oprah's cross-over success, most African-American females—and certainly little known young black girls like Elise—cannot expect to engender mass appeal in a serious role.

In an ironic twist, Oprah Winfrey faced a difficult choice: she wanted to lend her popular star prestige to the project of exposing a wide audience to Morrison's work but she also wanted to produce and act in a film that resisted using popular conventions to get the work across. It turns out that she could not do

both simultaneously. Her prestige brought with it certain expectations that were not met by sticking faithfully to the book's difficult narrative. Much of her audience reacted in disappointment or confusion.

The cynic in me wants to ask, what did she expect? Did she really think that the mass media could take a progressive look at

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our nation's past? Shouldn't we just leave Hollywood alone to make palatable stories about slavery, the Holocaust, deindustrialization, or whatever? Such questions reflect judgments that I have ultimately concluded are too harsh. A serious group of political intellectuals took on Hollywood and they failed to make a profit. That they had the courage and resources to try is hopeful. Their failures and their success at producing a thoughtful film tell us that we should continue to support art films as alternatives to dominant visions of the world and press Hollywood for films that tell hard truths. In some ways this financial failure will make it difficult for the next serious film on African-American life to be made; investors will be suspicious of future projects. At the same time, however, the lessons learned from this project can be put to good use by our political artists.

It is easy for me to use the advantage of hindsight to point out the impossibility of Oprah's project. I commend her for her high ideals and brave effort. Unfortunately, her desires to tell a complex black story and to appeal to a mass market were irreconcilable.

Author's note: My thanks to Ellen Eisenman for her thoughtful reading of an earlier draft of this piece.

Fran White, a member of the Resist Board of Directors, is Dean of the Gallatin School at New York University.

Join the RESIST Pledge Program

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

Pledges account for over 30 % 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 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.

Yes! I'll become a RESIST Pledge.

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

[] Enclosed is an 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 _____

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Donations to RESIST are tax-deductible.

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1998 RESIST Grantees by Category

Central & Latin America and the Caribbean

Carolina Interfaith Task Force on Central America (Raleigh, NC) \$2,000 to fund the Media Alert Project, which educates activists and provides tools for taking action.

Central America Solidarity Committee (Baltimore, MD) \$1,000 to fund a Citizens Truth Commission, which will continue to investigate the CIA's connection to drug trafficking and expose the negative consequences of the "War on Drugs."

Chiapas Schools Construction Teams/ San Diegans for Peace in Mexico (San Diego, CA) \$1,000 to create schools led by indigenous people and to organize for peaceful, political solutions to the conflict in Chiapas.

CISPES-Bay Area (San Francisco, CA) \$800 for *Creative Tactics for Organizing*, a

teach-in that brought together activists involved in the global economy, sweatshops and immigration issues.

Committee on Solidarity with Central American People (CISCAP) (Eugene, OR) \$2,000 to fund bookkeeping assistance, the publication of the newsletter *El Aviso*, and filing for tax-exempt status.

Inter-Religious Task Force on Central America (Cleveland, OH) \$2,000 to upgrade computer equipment to support advocacy and organizing related to a range of activities in Central America.

Tonantzin: Boston Committee to Support the Native Peoples of Mexico (Somerville, MA) \$1,210 for a campaign in response to the massacre of indigenous people in Chiapas and increased militarization and paramilitary

violence in the area. (Cohen Memorial Fund Grant)

Witness for Peace-MidAtlantic (Lewes, DE) \$1,500 to staff on-going projects, which attempt to change U.S. policies that contribute to poverty and oppression in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Witness for Peace-Southwest Region (Los

Cape Codders Against Racism (East Dennis, MA) \$1,000 for general support for organization that examines issues of racism on Cape Cod.

Coalition for Bilingual Education in Massachusetts (Cambridge, MA) \$300* to hold a rally opposing local plans to weaken bilingual education.

Coalition for the Human Rights of Immigrants (New York, NY) \$2,000 to confront immigration policy by directly challenging the INS over workplace raids.

Community Alliance of Tenants (Portland, OR) \$2,000 for a tenant organizing institute designed to develop leadership skills of low-income tenants and tenants of color. (Salzman Memorial Fund Grant)

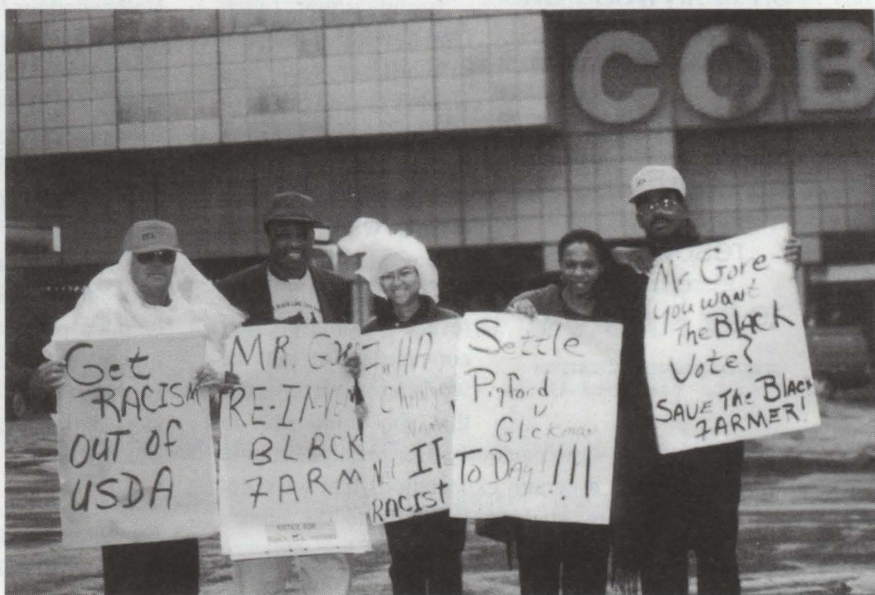
EmPOWERment, Inc (Carrboro, NC) \$2,000 to support Neighbors United for Justice, an organizing campaign to bring together working-class communities to combat gentrification.

Fight Back Now! (Burlington, VT) \$2,000 for The Powerhouse, a community center that provides a shared environment for activism, advocacy, community building and outreach efforts.

INVERT (Monroe, ME) \$1,500 for an organizer training program that brought together a range of activists to enhance organizational development and coalition building skills.

Land Loss Fund (Tillery, NC) \$2,000 for the Black Land Loss Summit and to develop a newsletter exploring land loss issues among Black farmers.

Lawrence Grassroots Initiative (Lawrence, MA) \$800 to upgrade computer equipment for community-based organization using a range of social justice campaigns to improve the quality of life in their local area.



Members of the Black Farmers and Agriculturalists and the national Land Loss Fund picket Vice President Al Gore as he addresses the Economic Club at the COBO Center in Detroit, Michigan. Photo courtesy of Land Loss Fund/Gary Grant

Angeles, CA) \$2,000 for an Internship Program to assist with legislative campaigns, publications and outreach.

Community Organizing/Antiracism

Appalachian Focus (Middlesboro, KY) \$2,000 to bring together groups in the Central Appalachian coalfields to begin to develop networks to address longstanding economic and environmental regional issues.

Appalachian Peace and Justice Network (Athens, OH) \$500 for a membership drive, which will strengthen the organization by increasing local representation and input.

The Black Radical Congress (New York, NY) \$2,000 for a conference to encourage coalition building within the Black Left and develop a strong progressive movement.

* indicates an emergency grant

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Maryland Coalition to End Hunger (Columbia, MD) \$1,500 to cover the expenses of a founding meeting and a rally around issues related to hunger, poverty and economic injustice.

Men's Rape Prevention Project (Washington, DC) \$2,000 to work with local youth, especially young men, to develop the knowledge and skills to prevent sexual violence.

National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (Oakland, CA) \$2,000 to support the National INS Raids Task Force and its campaign to end immigration raids.

Organization for Black Struggle (St. Louis, MO) \$2,000 to prepare 50 people to attend the Black Radical Congress.

Peace House (Ashland, OR) \$1,000 to staff meals program for families in need, with a goal of using meal program as potential site for organizing in the homeless community.

Political Asylum Project of Austin (Austin, TX) \$2,000 to upgrade computer hardware and software to enable better communication and access to information on immigrant and refugee communities in Central Texas.

Rogers Park Community Action Network (Chicago, IL) \$2,000 to purchase a high quality/volume photocopier for groups involved in organizing around tenants' rights, affordable housing, jobs and sustainable communities.

Rural Organizing Project (Scappoose, OR) \$1,750 for *Organizing for Power: Rural Caucus and Strategizing 1998*, a conference to develop social and economic justice campaigns for the upcoming year.

Somos Un Pueblo Unido (Santa Fe, NM) \$2,000 to support the Raids Awareness Campaign, which highlights abusive and discriminatory INS practices in workplace, park, and apartment raids.

SPARC: Sparking Powerful Anti-Racist Collaboration (Boston, MA) \$1,000 for an intensive community building and cross-difference training for the organization's Accountability Council.

Speak Out (Emeryville, CA) \$1,000 to counter right-wing activism on college campuses and to assist students participating in progressive activism.

Texas Alliance for Human Needs (Austin, TX) \$2,000 for general support for organization representing the interests of low- and moderate-income people in Texas.

Utah Progressive Network (Salt Lake City, UT) \$1,068 to develop a web page that would link diverse progressive groups in Utah in an effort to

tion drive seeking to establish criteria under which scarce tax revenues would be doled out in corporate welfare programs.

Contact Center, Inc. (Cincinnati, OH) \$1,775 for 2nd annual Statewide Grassroots Welfare Empowerment Conference.
End Corporate Domination Alliance (Fossil, OR) \$1,100 for a regional con-

Thanks so much for your confidence in our work!

This grant comes at a very important time—

it will allow us to build and expand

resistance to racist immigration policies.

Coalition for the Human Rights of Immigrants

share strategies for change and encourage leadership development.

Wisconsin Research Center (Milwaukee, WI) \$1,500 to hold a series of public events and promote written responses to counteract literature disseminated in African-American communities in Wisconsin by the religious right.

Economic Justice

Ann Arbor Tenants Union (Ann Arbor, MI) \$2,000 for staff training and expenses associated with organizing non-student low-income communities.

BreakThrough: Education for Economic Action (St. Louis, MO) \$2,000 to pay stipends for community-based facilitators who participate in outreach, planning and presentations of economic literacy workshops.

Central Brooklyn Financial Freedom Campaign (Brooklyn, NY) \$300* to organize a meeting aimed at creating a plan to return the Central Brooklyn Federal Credit Union to community control before the National Credit Union Administration moved to dismantle the organization.

Coalition for a Sweatshop-Free Albuquerque (Albuquerque, NM) \$1,600 for outreach materials highlighting substandard conditions under which workers produce consumer goods.

Committee to Stop Corporate Welfare (Belfast, ME) \$1,000 to support a peti-

ference to address dismantling the mechanism of corporate control over communities and ecosystems.

Eviction Free Zone (Cambridge, MA) \$2,000 to support the Cambridge Campaign for a Living Wage.

Manhattan Alliance for Peace and Justice (Manhattan, KS) \$1,000 to organize a living wage campaign in conjunction with five local unions.

Maryland United for Peace and Justice (Bowie, MD) \$1,500 for *Economic Justice: Challenging Corporate Power*, a conference focused on national and multinational corporate power.

Neighborhood Economic Development and Advocacy Project (New York, NY) \$2,000 for the New York City Community Reinvestment Task Force, which works for economic justice in low-income communities and neighborhoods of color.

People Opposing Welfare Rollbacks (San Jose, CA) \$1,000 for a campaign to document human rights violations and a community tribunal to heighten public awareness of economic human rights violations.

Project Uplift (Great Falls, MT) \$1,500 for general support for a grassroots coalition of low-income residents and concerned citizens working to counteract the effects of welfare reform by engaging in proactive strategies for low-income people.

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Rogue Valley Oregon Action (Medford, OR) \$2,000 for Living Wages Jobs Project, which seeks to bring together a broad coalition to combine community experiences with research and organizing.

Southerners for Economic Justice (Durham, NC) \$300* to support a statewide mobilization of welfare recipients to attend a public hearing on North Carolina's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families State Plan.

Washington Peace Center (Washington, DC) \$2,000 to support the expansion of the Economics for the People! Project to bring together domestic and internationally focused organizers to examine the interconnections between local, national and international economic issues.

Welfare and Low Income Support Network (WeLISN) (Santa Cruz, CA) \$2,000 for the welfare rights project Motivate, Organize, Mobilize (MOM), which works with low-income families and their allies to fight for more realistic and humane welfare reform.

Welfare Education Training Access Coalition (Waltham, MA) \$1,000 to expand outreach program by hiring low-income women to organize in their communities.

Working for Equality and Economic Liberation (WEEL) (Missoula, MT) \$2,000 for general support for welfare rights organizing and activism.

Working Massachusetts (Boston, MA) \$1,000 to support the "Working Massachusetts Campaign: Labor Speaks Out on Welfare Reform," designed to build grassroots support for an end to welfare time limits and to fight for the welfare of all workers.

Environment

Alaska Forum for Environmental Responsibility (Valdez, AK) \$1,500 to purchase computer equipment for environmental organization that works with whistleblowers and seeks to en-



ADAPT demonstrates in Washington, DC, for a national attendant services bill. Photo courtesy of ADAPT

courage citizen oversight of the trans-Alaska pipeline.

Alberton Community Coalition for Environmental Health (Missoula, MT) \$300* to help stabilize group organizing on behalf of victims of mixed chemical and chlorine spill after lead organizer's husband was badly beaten under suspicious circumstances.

Citizens Awareness Network (Shelburne Falls, MA) \$2,000 to support the Nuclear Free New England Campaign, which will initially focus on shutting down Vermont Yankee and will include an action camp to train a new generation of organizers.

Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping (CARD) (Albuquerque, NM) \$2,000 to fund three regional Nonviolent Civil Resistance workshops in communities along the Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) transport routes to oppose the movement of radioactive

waste through their communities.

Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger (Merrimac, WI) \$1,800 for monthly community meetings aimed at clean up of toxic waste at Badger Army Ammunition Plant and creation of healthy sustainable re-use plans.

Gateway Green Alliance (St. Louis, MO) \$2,000 for *First Grassroots Gathering on Biodevastation: Genetic Engineering*, a conference on the health dangers of biotechnology.

Grandmother's Alliance for the Future (Sierra Blanca, TX) \$2,000 to organize a multi-ethnic, multi-generational group of women to address issues related to toxic and nuclear projects in the far west region of Texas.

New Hampshire Greens (Rye, NH) \$2,000 to bring together a statewide coalition of activists to focus on critical logging pollution issues.

Native Forest Network-Eastern North America (Burlington, VT) \$2,000 for the National Forest Program of the Northeast Forest Practices campaign, which seeks to support communities and ecosystems through a range of collaborative direct action efforts.

People Organized in Defense of Earth and Her Resources (PODER) (Austin, TX) \$2,000 for the Land Use and Sustainability Campaign, which trains members of grassroots organizations and neighborhood associations to access information and governmental entities in order to protect their health and environment.

People Organizing to Demand Environmental Rights (!PODER!) (San Francisco, CA) \$2,000 for the Mission Anti-Pollution Action Project (*Proyecto MAPA*), which seeks to develop a mod-

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RESIST 1998 Totals

Number of Grants & Loans	156
Regular Grants	\$245,838
Emergency Grants	\$2,100
Donor Directed Grants (NWTRCC)	\$3,414
Total Grants	251,002
Loans	\$1,000
Grants and Loans	\$252,352

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el to address environmental and public health hazards in low-income, high-density urban areas.

Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC) (Philadelphia, PA) \$2,000 for general support for developing youth leadership and activism around environmental and social justice issues.

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual

Dyke TV (New York, NY) \$2,000 for workshops and equipment for media group that seeks to counter mainstream portrayals of lesbians and to provide training regarding the use of video/film as an organizing tool.

Galesburg Coalition for Equal Rights (Galesburg, IL) \$1,000 for a discrimination documentation project and to build bridges in the local gay and lesbian community.

Gay and Lesbian Community Advocates of Lawrence (Lawrence, MA) \$2,000 for the first les/bi/gay/trans pride march in Lawrence, which brought people together to further organize around issues of sexual politics, race and class.

Lambda Community Center (Ft. Collins, CO) \$300* to defray the expenses involved in organizing the local community to attend Matthew Shepard's funeral in order to stand in solidarity with his family and to oppose the presence of homophobic protesters.

Lambda Community Center (Ft. Collins, CO) \$2,000 for organization that works with the gay/lesbian, bisexual/transgender communities in Northern Colorado and Southern Wyoming to build coalitions to counter homophobia in those areas.

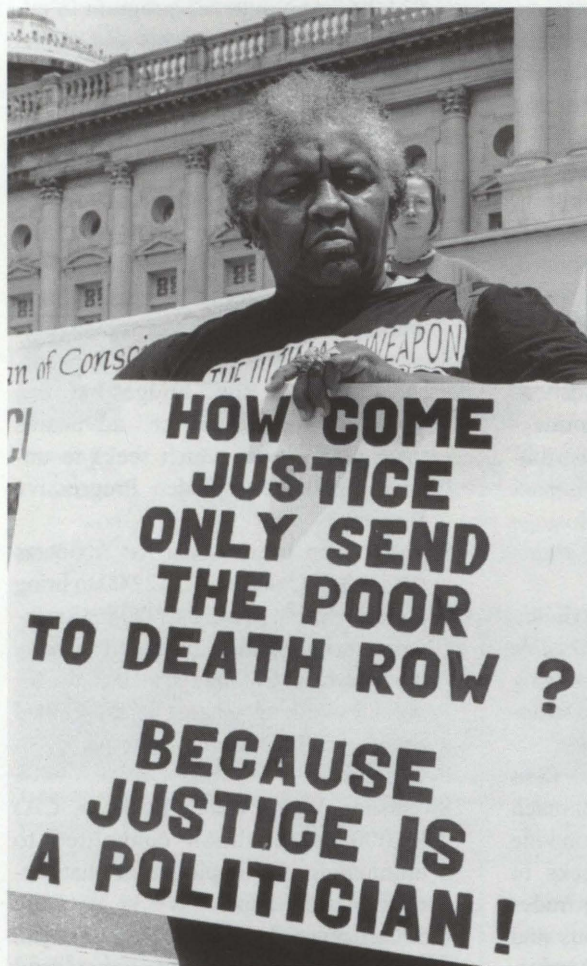
LAMBDA Group (Baton Rouge, LA) \$2,000 to purchase computer equipment to maintain communication among the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender communities in Baton Rouge and southeast Louisiana.

Maine Rural Network (Standish, ME) \$2,000 for group engaged in rural organizing around gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues.

People About Changing Education (Ann Arbor, MI) \$2,000 for the Transforming the Nation Project to print an anticist, queer history study guide for

educators and organizers in multiracial, urban school systems.

PFLAG-Lawrence/Topeka Chapter (Topeka, KS) \$1,000 for a regional conference to provide attendees with advocacy training and support in the struggle



Reverend Betty Patterson joins a protest with Pennsylvania Abolitionists United Against the Death Penalty.
Photo by Harvey Finkel/Impact Visuals

for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender rights.

PREP Education Fund (St. Louis, MO) \$1,500 to hire staff for a phone outreach project to increase funding base and to organize around gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender rights.

Heath/Disability

ADAPT of Texas (Austin, TX) \$2,000 for rally and press event surrounding first ADAPT ranking of ten worst states providing home- and community-based attendant care services. (Salzman Memorial Fund Grant)

Chittenden County Self-Advocacy and Support Group (Burlington, VT) \$500

for printing and copying costs for organization engaged in assisting people with disabilities to gain access to health care, legal assistance and travel.

Coalition of Montanans Concerned with Disabilities (Missoula, MT) \$2,000 for technical assistance activities, including a planning retreat, fundraising workshops and community organizing training.

Committee for Health Rights in the Americas (CHRIA) (San Francisco, CA) \$1,450 for outreach following the 14th Annual North America-Nicaragua Colloquium on Health, *Working for Health and Human Rights in an Economic War Zone.*

Disabled Rights Action Center (Salt Lake City, UT) \$2,000 to transport people with disabilities to actions and for literature used to organize around housing access and health care.

Families Advocating Injury Reduction (Champaign, IL) \$1,000 for the Injured Worker Task Force, which seeks to organize for changes in the workers compensation system and to improve workplace safety conditions.

Maryland ADAPT (Texas, MD) \$2,000 for general support for organization that fights for disability rights through non-violent direct action.

South Carolina Progressive Network (Columbia, SC) \$2,000 for a grassroots campaign to restructure the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control to sever its environmental protection/public health mandate from its conflicting charge to promote industry.

Support Coalition (Eugene, OR) \$1,000 for literature, organizing activities and direct actions in the *Campaign to Resist Forced Outpatient Psychiatric Drugging.*

Virginia Black Lung Association (Richlands, VA) \$2,000 for computer equipment to enable communication between members of group seeking to de-

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velop grassroots leadership among miners and families affected by black lung disease and to promote better mine health and safety.

Women's Cancer Resource Center (Minneapolis, MN) \$1,000 for *Turning the Tides II: Creating a Cancer Free Environment Now*, a two-day conference exploring the links between cancer and the environment.

Labor

American Friends Service Committee-New Hampshire Program (Concord, NH) \$2,000 to educate activists in New Hampshire about the impact of the global economy on workers and to mobilize actions for economic justice.

American Friends Service Committee-TAO (Austin, TX) \$800 for distribution of a video documenting the impact of the 11 Levi Strauss plant closings and the struggles for workers' rights and corporate accountability.

Black Workers for Justice (Rocky Mount, NC) \$2,000 for the newsletter *Justice Speaks*, which looks at the emerging southern labor movement and the struggle for justice in the South.

Hard Hat Construction Magazine (San Francisco, CA) \$2,000 for outreach and subscription drive for nationwide construction magazine that seeks to enable workers in the building trades to regain control of their unions and promote a diverse construction industry. (Salzman Memorial Fund Grant)

Hard Hat News (New York, NY) \$2,000 to publish *Hard Hat News*, organize meetings and hold a public forum.

Jobs with Justice-Massachusetts (Jamaica Plain, MA) \$1,000 for the proactive Right-to-Organize campaign, which stands by workers who are being intimidated, harassed and fired in the process of organizing.

Justice, Do It NIKE! (Portland, OR) \$1,000 to create an effective presence critical of Nike labor practices at the Nike Master Games.

Mississippi Workers' Center for Human Rights (Oxford, MS) \$1,000 to implement a series of workers' rights trainings throughout Mississippi.

New York State Labor-Environmental Network (Buffalo, NY) \$2,000 to or-

ganize a conference and follow-up activities to build a grassroots movement to challenge corporate control in local communities.

Nicaragua Solidarity Committee (Labor Rights Task Force) (Chicago, IL) \$2,000 for an outreach program to educate and involve students and suburban communities in anti-sweatshop campaigns.

Rhode Island Women's Institute for Leadership Development (RI WILD) (Cranston, RI) for printing and copying costs related to the 2nd Annual RI WILD Institute for Leadership Development, which seeks to recruit and train women leaders in the labor movement.

Spokane Progressive Alliance (Spokane, WA) \$1,000 to build bridges between social/economic justice advocates through a project which seeks to uncover Spokane's Hidden Progressive History.

Support Team International for Textileras (STITCH) (Chicago, IL) \$2,000 to bring a gender perspective into the major international campaign to support workers that produce Chiquita bananas by involving working women in the United States with their counterparts in Guatemala.

Sweatshop Watch (San Francisco, CA) \$2,000 for coalition committed to eliminating the exploitation that occurs in sweatshops.

U.S./Guatemala Labor Education Project (Chicago, IL) \$2,000 for campaign literature entitled *Justice for Banana Workers*, which highlights the substandard wages and working conditions of Central American banana workers.

Women's Project for Union Democracy \$2,000 to fund the *Manual for Survival: For Women in Nontraditional Employment*, which provides women with step-by-step information on how to obtain jobs in nontraditional employment and how to participate effectively in unions.

Worker's Project, Inc. (Fort Wayne, IN) \$1,000 to train high school stewards who will educate other students about employment law, research the local labor market, and provide representation for working students.

Worthy Wage Campaign (Philadelphia, PA) \$1,200 for group organizing to

improve respect, wages and working conditions for child care workers.

Media

Alternative Press Center (Baltimore, MD) \$1,000 for the Library Development Project, which will allow public access to an index of alternative press articles and the Internet in order to facilitate social justice organizing.

Appalachian Reader (Charlottesville, VA) \$1,500 to build a larger donor and subscriber base to enable *The Appalachian Reader* to attain editorial and financial independence.

Chicago Ink (Chicago, IL) \$2,000 for free progressive local newspaper that focuses on critiquing the Chicago political establishment and media conglomerates.

Guatemala Radio Project (Chicago, IL) \$1,000 for the Guatemala Radio Project, which provides listeners with an alternative to mainstream information on Guatemala and other countries in Latin America.

Media Project (Portland, OR) \$1,000 to distribute the radio documentary series *Carefully Taught: Clashing Values in the Classroom*, which explores right-wing attacks on public education.

Think Again (Jamaica Plain, MA) \$2,000 for postcard and sticker campaigns regarding welfare reform, homophobia, and lack of affordable housing.

Middle East

Deir Yassin Remembrance Committee (Los Angeles, CA) \$1,500 to counteract the media blitz celebrating the 50th anniversary of Israeli independence, which avoided analysis of Israeli treatment of Palestinians.

Emergency Committee Against the War in Iraq (Cambridge, MA) \$300* to support a series of actions to oppose any military action against Iraq and to advocate for an end to the economic embargo against the Iraqi people.

NH Peace Action Education Fund (Concord, NH) \$300* to support a series of actions to oppose any military action against Iraq and to advocate for an end to the economic embargo against the Iraqi people.

U.S. Campaign to Free Mordechai Vanunu (Madison, WI) \$2,000 for pro-

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duction of the play *Mr. V— Searching for Mordechai Vanunu*, which looks at the 12-year history of solitary confinement served by Mordechai Vanunu and the related nuclear weapons build up in Israel.

Native Americans/Native Peoples

Florida Indian Alliance (St. Petersburg, FL) \$1,000 for organization that seeks to address violations of indigenous peoples' civil, human, treaty, sovereign and religious rights.

Friends of Nitassinan (Burlington, VT) \$1,500 for *Nitassinan News*, which informs the international community about the struggles of the Innu people and provides information on how to counter domination of indigenous peoples and industrialization of wildlands.

Inter-Tribal Council of Tolba Menahan (Somerville, MA) \$1,000 to coordinate an event designed to bring together representatives and leaders from indigenous organizations to address a range of issues related to civil and human rights violations experienced by native peoples.

Miikana Bimaadiziwin: The Path to All Good Things (Virginia, MN) \$2,000 for the Nijiji Center, which serves as the locus for organizing in the urban Native American community in North-eastern Minnesota.

Oyate Center, Inc. (Rapid City, SD) \$2,000 for general support to organization that focuses on human rights issues in the local Native American community.

Ya Ne Dah Ah School (Chickaloon, AK) \$2,000 to work with Native youth on self-determination, sovereignty, subsistence rights, environmental protection and tribal government issues.

Peace/Antimilitarism

Citizen Soldier (New York, NY) \$2,000 to expand education and organizing among active duty GIs regarding forced inoculation against biological weapons.

Nukewatch (Luck, WI) \$2,000 for four nonviolent resistance actions at the Navy's Project ELF, a first-strike nuclear war communications system.

Prisoners

Chicago Interfaith Prisoners of Conscience (Chicago, IL) \$1,685 for the costs of a direct mail campaign designed to market the books *Can't Jail the Spirit* and *The Celling of America*, which will serve as fundraisers for the organization.

Coalition for Prisoners' Rights (Santa Fe, NM) \$2,000 for the Coalition of Prisoners' Rights national monthly newsletter, which seeks to challenge the social and economic injustice in-

Pennsylvania Abolitionists United Against the Death Penalty (Philadelphia, PA) \$2,000 for a *Caravan of Conscience*, which will travel to a range of communities across Pennsylvania and will engage in community outreach, education and political action against the death penalty.

Prison and Jail Project (Americus, GA) \$1,200 for a 5-day, 70-mile march through 5 southwest Georgia counties where Prison and Jail Project has been actively organizing for reform in the



Israeli and international demonstrators point the way to Israel's unacknowledged nuclear weapons factory in the Negev Desert. The rally culminated in an attempted "citizens" inspection. Photo courtesy of U.S. Campaign to Free Mordechai Vanunu/Samuel Day, Jr.

herent in the criminal justice system. (Mike Reigle Tribute Grant)

CURE-National (Washington, DC) \$2,000 for travel expenses and to mount a photographic exhibit showing the positive and negative aspects of criminal justice.

Louisiana Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (Baton Rouge, LA) \$2,000 to organize an anti-death penalty chapter in an extremely conservative area of Louisiana.

October 22nd Youth Collective (Philadelphia, PA) \$1,000 to educate and organize young people around police brutality and misconduct.

Out of Control: Lesbian Committee to Support Women Political Prisoners (San Francisco, CA) \$2,000 for the Visibility Project, an aggressive outreach, education and action project that seeks to build support for women political prisoners.

jail and criminal justice systems. Utah CURE (Salt Lake City, UT) \$1,000 for organization that seeks to create changes in the state prison system, particularly in respect to the treatment of mentally ill prisoners.

Western Missouri Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (Kansas City, MO) \$1,000 to stabilize organization that opposes the death penalty.

Women's Prison Book Project (Minneapolis, MN) \$1600 for a film series exploring issues around women in prison.

Women

Connecticut NARAL Foundation (Hartford, CT) \$2,000 to upgrade computer equipment for organization dedicated to preserving reproductive freedom.

Immigrant Workers Resource Center (Boston, MA) \$2,000 for the Women's

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Leadership Training: Health and Safety on the Job Initiative.

In Praise of Mountain Women (St. Paul, VA) \$1,000 for *In Praise of Mountain Women*, a gathering of women from five Appalachian states who look at a range of social and economic justice issues while also providing support and empowerment to each other.

Roofless Women (Boston, MA) \$2,000 for a homeless-led advocacy group aimed at women who have experienced homelessness.

West Virginia FREE (Charleston, WV) \$2,000 for computer equipment for organization that seeks to further reproductive freedom for women.

Women's Alliance (Framingham, MA) \$2,000 for a series of workshops examining the impact of institutional gender, class and racial oppression on organizing efforts.

Women's Statewide Legislative Network (Boston, MA) \$1,000 for the *Welfare Office Outreach Initiative*, which seeks to inform families of their rights, even after cutoffs under welfare reform are instituted.

Youth

Campus Action (Albany, New York) \$2,000 to fund a student intern to staff the Anti-Racist Task Force, which brings together students from area campuses and community activists to challenge racist practices on campus and in the community.

C-BEYOND (Concord, CA) \$2,000 for the Summer Internship Program, which seeks to educate young people about social justice issues, teach organizing skills, and take action on local issues.

Colorado Progressive Coalition (Denver, CO) \$2,000 for Students for Justice, which seeks to mobilize youth around human rights and economic justice.

Community Alliance for Youth Action (CAYA) (Washington, DC) \$2,000 for agency that works with youth to think critically and act collectively for social change.

Community Alliance of Lane County (Eugene, OR) \$2,000 for a youth leadership development program to expand the Youth for Justice group and

train antiracist skinheads and other streetwise youth.

Future Leaders Network (Brooklyn, NY) \$2,000 for a summer institute to help youth develop leadership skills and share experiences.

Latinos Unidos Siempre (Salem, OR) \$2,000 for Latino youth organization that seeks to challenge institutionalized racism, sexism and homophobia.

Out Youth (Austin, TX) \$2,000 for an advocate to work with Austin area junior and senior high schools to schedule diversity trainings, especially around issues of school-based homophobia.

Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities (Project YANO) (Encinitas, CA) \$2,000 for organization engaged in counter-recruitment campaigns highlighting nonmilitary alternatives for job training, education and community service.

Rising Generation Represent (Athol, MA) \$2,000 for a theater project entitled the Asian Young Minds Society, which looks at the issue of conflict as a tool for social change.

School of Unity and Liberation (SOUL) (Oakland, CA) \$2,000 for the Learning Center, a resource center where youth can analyze and discuss important social movements and issues.

Student Action Network (Seattle, WA) \$2,000 to support *Ruckus*, a progressive student news journal at the University of Washington that examines political issues and trains new activists and journalists as part of building a forceful student movement.

Urban Retrievers (Philadelphia, PA) \$2,000 for the Philadelphia Student Union, which empowers public high-school and middle-school students to develop new educational models that reflect the need for social change.

Loans

Black Workers for Justice (Rocky Mount, NC) \$1,000 loan to conduct a direct mail campaign to raise funds for the first International Worker's School.

Donor Directed Grants

National War Tax Coordinating Committee (Monroe, ME) \$3,414 for general expenses.

Grant Distribution in 1998

By Issue Area*

	#	(%)
Community Organizing/ Antiracism	26	(16.7)
Economic Justice	20	(12.8)
Labor	19	(12.2)
Youth	13	(8.3)
Environmental	12	(7.7)
Health/AIDS/Disability	11	(7.1)
Prisoners	11	(7.1)
Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Central/Latin America, & the Caribbean	9	(5.8)
Women	7	(4.5)
Media/Culture	6	(3.8)
Native American	6	(3.8)
Middle East	4	(2.6)
Peace/Antimilitarism	2	(1.2)

*NOTE: These arbitrary divisions do not accurately portray the interconnectedness of many issues. Generally speaking, grants are organized according to the project or campaign rather than the sponsoring group itself. For example, an environmental project sponsored by a labor group would be listed as "Environment" rather than "Labor."

By Geographic Region

Northeast (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT)	31	(19.9)
Midwest (IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, OH, SD, WI)	30	(19.2)
Mid-Atlantic (DC, DE, MD, NY, PA)	26	(16.7)
Northwest (AK, CO, MT, OR, UT, WA)	25	(16)
South (FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, VA, WV)	17	(10.9)
West (CA)	16	(10.3)
Southwest (NM, TX)	11	(7.0)
TOTAL	156	(100)