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Activism in Red and Blue

Alternative Organizing Offers Hope for Change

ABBY SCHER

Even by the standards of recent history, 2004 was a bad year. It was the year of Abu Ghraib, when US soldiers gloried in torturing Iraqis in a scheme sanctioned in memos written by men sitting in offices in Washington. Americans already knew about Abu Ghraib when a slim majority elected Bush president. What's a progressive to do?

Well, as you will see from our annual review of what RESIST grantees do, there was no easy Red State/Blue State division, just as there was, in reality, no landslide victory for the Bushite agenda.

Let me give you two examples.

In Ohio, the dyed-in-the-wool Republican father of a friend cast his ballot against Bush's extremism. You need no lesson in what that extremism looks like: suspension of the right of habeas corpus, so that people are held in secret jails without ever being charged in court for wrongdoing, blocked from seeing their lawyers; the government secretly reading people's library records and e-mails without a court order; denying that life on earth is under siege because of our own [wanton] acts upon it while lifting already inadequate rules to curb pollutants issuing from smokestacks; cutting aid to

continued on page two

Community Action for Justice in the Americas (CAJA) encourages the University of Montana to break its exclusive contract with Coca-Cola due to the human rights abuses in Colombia and around the world. Photo by Erin Thompson

Inside:
Grantee Victory..............................p.3
Honor of/Memory of Gifts...............p.4
2004 Grants in Review.....................p.6
schools while crying out that "no child will be left behind"; slashing health care for low-income people while crafting a Medicare drug plan that provides corporate welfare to drug companies and little to the elderly; preventing immigrants from becoming citizens by letting a two or three-year backlog build up in naturalization proceedings; stealing money from regular folks by cutting the taxes of the rich and corporations; strategic gay bashing designed to win an election; the brutality of a war based on lies. He cast his vote against his Republican party because of their extremism.

We each have our own outrages. To my 91-year-old Republican grandmother Emma, living in Ellensburg, Washington, it was George Bush's Orwell-like debasement of language and government communication—his lies while he wears the cloak of faith.

Marketing Politics as Values

According to polls released after the election, 30% of the country sees Republicans as the party of values and ethical behavior. Why is this? Without understanding why, we cannot create an alternative. There are big reasons why the Republicans can enact this hoax, including changes in the political machinery, use of the media as entertainment, and the forfeiting of value language to the right.

The reforms of 25 years ago challenged machine politics. We created direct primaries—a good thing—so that party hacks no longer wheeled-and-dealed in back rooms to choose presidential candidates, bypassing the will of the party regulars. But in dismantling party structures, progressives left direct communication through that mass medium, television, as the alternative. Television is a medium that embraces snippets and images. We know what comes of that: a politics of image over substance, but also one where the values transmitted become even more important.

Newspaper and TV reporters, meanwhile, do not challenge those images as they run after ratings with reduced budgets and lowered incentives from their corporate masters.

There are other reasons why parties, like traveling salesmen, can paint themselves as ethical while they are nothing of the kind. These days we are particularly interested in the values the Republican Party parades to attract followers and voters. Thomas Frank, in What's the Matter with Kansas, noted that when Clinton abandoned labor in his Democratic Leadership Council strategy in favor of a full embrace of his corporate paymasters, he left no trac tion for working-class voters who were anti-choice to remain in the party. There was no populist—or what the Republicans called class war—language or values left to keep them.

Interviewing black and Latino Republican leaders during the RNC last August, I was impressed with the values they embraced—values of being rewarded for hard work, being free to make their own way, values that spoke to me too. But for them, it is not discrimination or corporate exploitation that stops people from being rewarded for hard work. It is the “nanny state” that coddles people so they don't try to achieve in the first place.

Similarly, the working class anti-choice activists talk about the need to care for one another—they reinterpret class war language to talk about the lack of concern of society for unborn children.

Progressive Ideals Hold Hope

We know that, while conservatives might get an absurd amount of mileage out of their values-laden language, it is the ideals of the progressive community that hold promise for our future. And we can be encouraged that so many Americans say values are what moves them—in fact, like us,
they are searching, albeit too often with
blinders imposed on them, for something
more meaningful, more human than the
dollar as the measure of a person’s worth.

Few progressives pin their hopes on
party candidates to secure meaningful so-
cial change, although perhaps at best to
protect the moderate victories of the past.
It is democratic (with a small “d”) activism
that provides the most hope for economic
justice, unfettered civil rights, and a pro-
tected environment.

Let’s look at how human values are be-
ing carried forward by the groups you have
helped RESIST fund.

RESIST grantees are unafraid to name
the lack of freedom created by the free mar-
etk, to call out how regular people’s liberty
is diminished by the concentrations of
power and money that result from unregu-
lated capitalism. The call of individual “fre-
dom” of the market is answered with an
ethics of justice that my freedom is bound
up with yours; that the freedom to buy and
to be a consumer comes at a great price
when we organize our life and economy
around it. The non-market values of love,
justice, and fairness go beyond the politics
of comfort. To survive and live in a democ-
rracy means cultivating a willingness to lis-
ten, to be fair, and to give our neighbor the
benefit of the doubt. And to get angry like
my grandma Emma when someone lies and
tries to play you for a fool. Issues are too
important for us to be fooled this time.

Activists Spin a Web of Alternatives

A web of alternatives reaches across the
country, small groups carving out ethical
action in the midst of reaction. RESIST has
funded scores of them, with grants that
boost their grassroots campaigns. A glance
at the list is gratifying (see page 6), be-
cause we see their presence in Denver,
Colorado, and Salem, Oregon, in South
Carolina and Texas. Some are those, like
School of the Americas Watch Northeast,
Vietnam Veterans Against the War, and
Peace Action, that have tried for years to
show the torture and inhumanity that is
the outcome of militarism, long before the
abuses at Abu Ghraib. They moved into
high gear last year.

Others, like the Bitterroot Human Rights
Alliance in Montana, or the Human Digni-
ty Coalition in Oregon, or the anti-white
supremacist Many and One Coalition in
Maine, are creating space in more rural ar-
as for people to stand up for public policies
or values that allow us to be our brother’s
keeper, even if our brother or sister (or we)
are black, or an immigrant, or gay. These
spaces challenge our definition of Maine
or Montana as simply a red state or blue state.

Immigrant rights and Latino organizing
that bypass the partisan sparring in Wash-
ington to create new coalitions also re-
ceived a lot of support from RESIST last
year. La Red/The Network in Rhode Island,
I:le: Institute for Latino Empowerment in
Puerto Rico and El Foro Latino in Mam-
moth Lakes, California, are just a few.

Farmers organizing cooperatives in Ver-
mont, living wage activists in Athens, Geor-
gia, the Community Alliance for Global Jus-
tice organizing against free trade agree-
ments from its Seattle home, and the Policy
Institute in Helena stand out for promot-
ing a positive alternative.

Many grants supported those prevent-
ing the wave of corporate consumption
from dismantling environmental or labor
rights. The Cascadia Wildlands Project in
Eugene, Oregon, takes action against de-
structive land management, while long-time
grantee Citizens for Safe Water Around
Badger in Merrimac, Wisconsin, works to
force the Army to clean up its toxic waste
at Badger Army Ammunition Plant. Around
the country, groups like the San Lucas
Workers Center in Chicago and Jobs with
Justice chapters organize to secure the
rights of workers.

These stalwart groups keep truth circulat-
ating locally in the face of disinterested
politicians or distorting media, relying on
moxie not money.

They challenge our press to uncover lies
and search out untruths without apology
and without cagging them with “on the one hand”
language.

Trends in Giving

The categories used to list RESIST
grants (Community Organizing, Labor,
continued on page four
Anti-War, etc.) are somewhat arbitrary because they do not demonstrate the interwoven activism that characterizes most of these groups. Nonetheless, they allow us to look at trends in the kinds of organizing projects and goals that grassroots activists pursue.

As in 2003, the biggest funding category in 2004 was Community Organizing/Anti-Racism. Typically, this accounts for about one-fifth of all RESIST grants, in part because it is an expansive category. It can include regional efforts for empowerment (South Carolina Progressive Network), work to empower immigrant communities (Multi-Ethnic Immigrant Worker Organizing Network in Los Angeles), and efforts to rally community members to oppose intolerance and bigotry (Bitterroot Human Rights Alliance in Hamilton, Montana).

In 2004, RESIST saw a marked increase in applications and grants for Youth and Anti-War activism. This is no surprise—and an area in which we actively reached out to identify potential grantees. The increasingly deadly US occupation of Iraq, along with aggressive military recruitment in schools, has sparked passionate opposition across the country. Long-time RESIST grantees, the Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities, stepped up its counter-recruitment efforts, working nationally with other groups to mobilize as part of the “Not in My Name” campaign.

And a new RESIST grantee, Non-Military Alternatives Project (Chicago) concentrated on countering the increasing culture of militarization in urban public schools and offering communities real and viable career and educational alternatives.

Peace groups continued to mobilize in big cities (Vietnam Veterans Against War in Chicago and the San Diego Military Counseling Project), as well as in more rural areas. In Media, Pennsylvania, Delaware County Peace and Justice staged a “Bring Them Home Now” campaign to demand an end to the war in Iraq.

Geographically, RESIST spread your money more evenly across the country in 2004. The biggest increase in funding occurred in the South, where 11 states received funding versus 7 states in 2003.

Special Awards

RESIST proudly awarded two tribute grants and one memorial award in 2004. The Mike Reigle Tribute Grant is awarded annually in memory of the life and work of a supporter of prisoners’ rights, queer liberation, and the radical movement for justice. The Prison and Jail Project in Americus, Georgia, received the Mike Reigle Tribute Grant in 2004 for its work to challenge the state’s racist criminal justice system.

The Ken Hale Tribute Grant is given in memory of a beloved, long-time friend and RESIST Board member to support organizations that ensure that “the voices of those most affected are given primacy in the struggle to protect and expand civil, cultural, and political rights, with a high priority given to the efforts of indigenous peoples.” In 2004, we awarded the Ken Hale Tribute Grant to the Providence Youth Student Movement. PRYSM mobilizes Southeast Asian and Asian-American activists for racial and economic justice and to stop the deportation of Cambodian Americans.

RESIST awarded the Freda Friedman

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. RESIST celebrates the spirit and convictions of these individuals, along with many others who remain unnamed but have affected us—personally and as a movement—by their tenacity, humor, love and passion.

**In Memory Of**

Elsie F. Archer
Bernice Augenbraun
Bob DeBolt
Ralph DeSocio
Mitchell Goodman
Ken Hale
Theodore H. Harley
Shrimati Hemmady
Leslie D’Cora Holmes
Clara and Sam Horowitz
Sally Thane Koplin
Freda Friedman Salzman
Tara Surking
S.S. Talmaki
Alicia Wiley

**In Honor Of**

Eleanor Bader
Rebecca Carey
Gilbert Cranberg
Jorge Flores
Shanta Gangolli
Doris Gardner
Shaila Hemmady
Steve Himmelstein
Becca Howes-Mischel
Nalini Kodikal
Robert McNeil
William and Donna O’Connell
Ella Ornstein
Fred Pincus & Natalie Sokoloff
Cathy Rion
Liz Walker
Solan Wolf

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Salzman Memorial Grant in 2004 to the Boston Coalition for Palestinian Rights. This grant “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.” The Coalition works to educate people about the construction of the Wall in Israel and its implications for the human rights of Palestinians.

Organizational Updates
RESIST has been doing some expanding—the old fashioned way. Last year, RESIST Board member Leila Farsakh and staff member Yafeisy Mejia each gave birth to little rabble rousers: Selma and Isaac, respectively.

And speaking of rabble rousers, Payal Parekh joined the Board in early 2004. An environmental scientist and a peace and immigrant rights activist, Payal also helped organize a portion of the Boston Social Forum coinciding with the Democratic Convention. Although she was very active during her tenure as a Board member, Payal left for India in February 2005 to provide tsunami relief work before taking up a fellowship in Switzerland to continue her work on global climate change later this year.

RESIST also saw long-time Board member and activist Pam Chamberlain take a well deserved rest. For more than 20 years, Pam has provided a voice of insight and calm amid challenging discussions. She has continually offered tremendous experience as a youth, queer, and peace activist. We will certainly miss her steady presence while we welcome her participation as an Advisory Board member.

Some New Ideas, Same Old Spirit
After careful consideration and analysis, RESIST is making a few changes in how communications happen. First, as you may already be aware, we are mailing out the Newsletter six times a year rather than ten times. As one donor commented, “Now I have more time to read the whole issue so I don’t have to feel bad about the pile on my desk. Thanks for the great Newsletter!”

At the same time, the Newsletter is now available via e-mail as well as on paper. Those who choose to receive it electronically can more easily forward articles to colleagues, helping RESIST reach a greater number of progressive activists.

Based upon feedback from grantees and contributors, as well as analysis from the progressive philanthropic community, RESIST decided that all future grant awards will be for general support, rather than specific projects. This is another way to empower grassroots organizations and show our trust in their ability to make decisions for themselves as they develop projects and campaigns.

RESIST also initiated a new Technical Assistance Grant program to further support radical groups. These awards will enable RESIST grantees to attend trainings in fund raising, organizational development, and other skill- and community-building programs as they deem necessary. This is another way RESIST makes grants go further.

These changes are in keeping with the underlying purpose of RESIST, which remains steadfast: to challenge illegitimate authority and to support grassroots activism for economic, social, and environmental justice. The donors and grantees who make up RESIST have helped fund social change since 1967, and that vision sustains all the work that we do.

Call for schools, not jails, Youth Organizing Communities fights for educational justice and an end to California’s prison industrial complex. Photo courtesy of YOC

Levitating the Movement
I was in Boston for the Democratic National Convention. You probably didn’t hear about it in the press, but the city’s churches and community centers were filled with events and people who came from all over the country to elevate their party and make it respond to the dreams and needs of regular people. There they were, surrounding the corporate-funded celebrations, like the Yippies who went to levitate the Pentagon. Delegates flooded out of the dead activities of the convention to join the thousands who came from Oregon and Illinois, Florida and New York for the alternative convention of Kucinich, the peace display of thousands of boots representing the US soldiers killed in Iraq.

I had hope but wondered how their love and humanity would levitate the party beyond its corporate masters. That is the next question, the question still unanswered after the election. The next four years are going to challenge us in ways that we have never seen. Our web of alternatives across the country may not coalesce into one big alternative. But our ethics of justice and valuing life over glitz will be a foundation that we just won’t be able to do without.

Abby Scher, a member of RESIST’s Board of Directors, is a sociologist and journalist who runs Independent Press Association-New York, a network of 100 ethnic and community publications that are not owned by big companies. She was active in interfaith organizing after 9/11 opposing the roundups of immigrants, and writes about civil liberties and activism for such magazines as The Nation, Amnesty Now, and In These Times.
RESIST 2004 Grant Recipients

Tenacious Activists Demand Social Change

Africa/Asia/International
PINTIG Cultural Group (Chicago, IL) $2,000 for a Filipino American cultural organization which challenges internalized racial, gender and class stereotyping using theater and its interactive processes.

Central/Latin America and the Caribbean
CISPES- Bay Area (San Francisco, CA) $1,300 for anti-corporate organizing campaign utilizing community education and mobilization around the effects of economic globalization in El Salvador and domestic communities of color.

Community Action for Justice in the Americas (CAJA) (Missoula, MT) $1,000 for an organization working in solidarity with grassroots organizations in the fight for social and environmental justice.

School of the Americas Watch/NE (SOA Watch/NE) (Philadelphia, PA) $3,000 to close the School of the Americas, and to challenge and change oppressive US domestic and foreign policy.

Community Organizing/Anti-Racism
Alliance for Police and Community Accountability (Portland, OR) $1,500 to push for systemic change in the Police Bureau and an effective citizen review process.

American Friends Service Committee – CT (Hartford, CT) $1,500 for public dialogues addressing how suburban drug demand gives rise to urban violence.

Bitterroot Human Rights Alliance (Hamilton, MT) $3,000 for an organization challenging the intolerant social and political climate in the Bitterroot Valley through increased visibility and collaboration of progressive organizations.

Center for Justice, Peace, and Environment (Fort Collins, CO) $2,000 for community based organization working for social change in Northern Colorado.

Coalition for the Human Rights of Immigrants (CHR) (New York, NY) $3,000 to change US laws and policies that marginalize and demonize immigrant communities, including work opposing INS detention center policies.

El Foro Latino (Mammoth Lakes, CA) $1,500 for a community-based organization that works on social and economic justice issues that affect the Latino community.

Grassroots Empowerment Alliance of Rome (Rome, GA) $2,000 to build grassroots leadership in Rome's low-income, disenfranchised neighborhoods.

Human Dignity Coalition (Bend, OR) $3,000 to address issues of racism, sexism and homophobia in Central Oregon.

Idaho Working Group for Fair Elections (Boise, ID) $1,300 for the "Justice League," a program which organizes activists to appear at committee hearings and present testimony about campaign contributions made to committee members by special interests having business before that committee.

Ilé: Institute for Latino Empowerment (Caguas, PR) $2,500 to strengthen the leadership capabilities of Latino/a community organizers.

Institute for MultiRacial Justice (San Francisco, CA) $2,500 to build alliances for justice between communities of color, and resolve any conflicts that may arise.

Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression (Louisville, KY) $3,000 to bring together racially diverse communities to take action against racist policies and practices.

La Red/The Network (Warwick, RI) $2,000 to educate local community members about immigrant and women's rights.

Many and One Coalition (Lewiston, ME) $3,000 to respond to the local incursion of white supremacist organizations.

Multi-Ethnic Immigrant Worker Organizing Network (MIWON) (Los Angeles, CA) $2,550 to provide leadership development, training and coalition building assistance to low-wage immigrant workers, challenge the exploitation within the Los Angeles immigrant job market and work toward legalization of undocumented immigrants.

Peace and Justice Center of Southern Maine (Portland, ME) $1,000 for organization that links individuals and groups concerned with peace, social justice and environmental issues.

Proyecto Hondureño (Chelsea, MA) $3,000 to empower Honduran immigrant communities to organize for more humane immigration policies and workers' rights.

Rights for All People (Denver, CO) $3,000 for an immigrant-led group organizing to achieve justice, dignity and human rights for immigrants in Colorado.

continued on page seven
continued from page six
Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality (Salem, OR) $3,000 to organize and advocate for equality in education, human rights, and accountability from policy makers.
Social Justice Center (Albany, NY) $1,700 for resource center which provides a space for activists to share resources and link grassroots peace and justice campaigns.
South Carolina Progressive Network$4 (Columbia, SC) $3,000 for a multi-racial, multi-issue coalition that works to create a grassroots mechanism for affecting state public policy.
Southern Organizing Committee (Atlanta, GA) $2,000 for a regional multi-ethnic meeting of organizers working against racism, war, economic injustice and environmental destruction.
Syracuse Peace Council (Syracuse, NY) $2,500 to help activists learn skills needed to organize effectively.
Tennessee Alliance for Progress (TAP) (Nashville, TN) $1,500 to develop a strategic plan for state progressive groups working for social and economic justice.
Texas Alliance for Human Needs$4 (Austin, TX) $3,000 for an organization dedicated to supporting low-income community organizing initiatives.
The Policy Institute (Helena, MT) $3,000 for a progressive policy think-tank that provides support and expertise for activist agendas organizing against corporate economics.
Vecinos Unidos (Hartford, CT) $1,500 to empower women in the Latino community to challenge economic oppression.
Wisconsin Apprentice Organizers Project (Madison, WI) $2,000 for a network to train and support a new diverse community of progressive organizers.
Worcester Homeless Action Committee (Worcester, MA) $2,000 to increase city wide awareness about, and response to, the critical shortage of housing for low-income communities.

Economic Justice
Arise for Social Justice (Springfield, MA) $1,500 for economic justice organization run by and for low-income people.
Athens Living Wage Coalition (Athens, GA) $3,000 to mobilize low-wage workers and others to push for passage of a living wage ordinance.
Coalition for Ethical Welfare Reform (San Francisco, CA) $2,000 to make permanent changes in the welfare system as part of a struggle against poverty and injustice.
Community Alliance for Global Justice (Seattle, WA) $3,000 to oppose free trade agreements, especially CAFTA, advocate for fair trade policies, and show the local impact of globalization.
Contact Center$4 (Cincinnati, OH) $3,000 to provide leadership training, skill development and power analysis to low-income and moderate income people.
Dairy Farmers of Vermont (Montpelier, VT) $2,000 to organize Vermont dairy farmers to advocate for agricultural policy reform and collectively bargain to raise the farm price of milk.
Eugene-Springfield Solidarity Network (Eugene, OR) $3,000 for a campaign that builds support for worker issues in order to establish community standards that promote good jobs.
Fuerza Unida (San Antonio, TX) $3,000 to organize women workers, youth and immigrants for economic justice.
Interfaith Action of Southwest Florida (Immokalee, FL) $1,000 to organize the faith-based community to work in partnership with farmworkers to challenge corporate control of the agricultural industry, trade policies and systemic injustices that affect immigrant and migrant workers.
National Welfare Engine (Portland, OR) $2,000 to highlight the importance of economic justice issues and increase voter turnout of low-income families.

Solutions to Issues of Concern to Knoxvillians (Knoxville, TN) $1,500 to empower low-to-moderate income residents to rebalance the power in unequal social and economic institutions.

Environmental Justice
Alaska Women’s Environmental Network$4 (Anchorage, AK) $3,000 to create networking opportunities to promote rural, Native, and urban women’s leadership in Alaskan conservation efforts.
Cascadia Wildlands Project (Eugene, OR) $3,000 to take action against destructive land management in their area.
Center for Environmental Equity (Portland, OR) $900 to mobilize rural communities to challenge federal and state agency failures to protect human and economic health from mineral mining pollution.
Center for Environmental Politics$4 (Missoula, MT) $3,000 to advance environmental values through citizen participation and political accountability.
Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping$4 (Albuquerque, NM) $3,000 for a group which monitors and organizes around the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, an underground repository for weapons-generated, plutonium-contaminated waste.
Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger (Merrimac, WI) $3,000 for an organization working on clean up of toxic waste at Badger Army Ammunition Plant.
creation of healthy sustainable re-use plans.
Citizens Awareness Network (Shelburne Falls, MA) $3,000 to enable nuclear waste communities to work together to protect themselves.
Citizens Awareness Network-CNY (Oswego, NY) $1,500 for anti-nuclear activism in Central New York.
Colorado People's Environmental and Economic Network (Denver, CO) $3,000 to fight a proposal to build an elevated toll road disproportionately affecting low-income communities of color.
Embudo Valley Environmental Monitoring Group (Dixon, NM) $2,550 for an air monitoring program for communities which are downwind of Los Alamos National Laboratory in order to collect public health information regarding radiation emissions from the nuclear weapons facility.
Oregon Toxics Alliance (Eugene, OR) $3,000 for a coalition of rural residents working to prevent a gas-burning power plant from opening in a restricted airshed.
Sand Mountain Concerned Citizens (Ider, AL) $2,000 to challenge agribusiness's attempts to weaken environmental regulations on corporate hog farming.

Gay/lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender
A Slice of Rice (Boston, MA) $3,000 to increase the visibility of API queer youth and to engage youth in an analysis of race, sexuality, class and gender.
Center for Artistic Revolution (Little Rock, AR) $2,000 to build bridges and collaborations between diverse communities through organizing initiatives that address the issues and systemic oppressions that undermine access to quality.
Community Alliance of Lane County (CALC) (Eugene, OR) $1,000 to challenge overt bigotry and institutionalized oppression directed at the GLBTQ community in Eugene and Springfield, and to build support for GLBTQ rights.
Youth Gender Project (San Francisco, CA) $3,000 to empower, advocate for and liberate transgender, gender-variant, intersex and questioning youth.

Health/AIDS/Disability
ACT UP Philadelphia (Philadelphia, PA) $2,550 for organization which fights the global AIDS crisis by addressing the basic health disparities and social injustices which perpetuate the epidemic at home and abroad.

Grant Distribution By Category*

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<th>Category</th>
<th>#</th>
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<td>Africa/Asia/International</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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*NOTE: These divisions do not accurately portray the inter-connectedness of many issues. Generally speaking, grants are organized according to the project or campaign rather than the sponsoring group itself. For example, a youth-driven program opposing military recruitment would be listed under “Youth” rather than “Peace/Anti-Militarism.”

Geographic Grant Distribution in 2004

- **Northwest** (CO, ID, MT, OR, WA) 31 (22.8%)
- **Northeast** (CT, MA, ME, RI, VT) 24 (17.6%)
- **South** (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV) 18 (13.3%)
- **Mid-Atlantic** (DC, MD, NY, PA) 17 (12.7%)
- **Midwest** (IL, KS, MN, NE, ND, OH, WI) 17 (12.7%)
- **West** (CA) 13 (9.7%)
- **Southwest** (AZ, NM, TX) 12 (8.9%)
- **Other** (AK, PR) 3 (2.3%)

**TOTAL** 136 (100%)

The Peace and Justice Center of Southern Maine provides meeting space and resources for area activists. Photo courtesy of PJCSM

continued on page nine
Britain, CT $1,000 to oppose the lack of accountable quality care for children and adults living with sickle cell disease and related disorders.

North Dakota Human Rights Coalition (Fargo, ND) $2,000 to cover the costs of signers and brailing documents for a statewide human rights organization.

**Labor**

Chicago Area Workers’ Center (Chicago, IL) $3,000 to improve the working conditions of day laborers.

Jobs with Justice—Colorado (Englewood, CO) $1,000 for militant alliance of community, labor and religious groups organizing to advance the rights of working people.

Jobs with Justice—Washington (Seattle, WA) $3,000 for the “Outsourced Workers Demand Living Wage Jobs” campaign.

Latino Union of Chicago (Chicago, IL) $1,500 to challenge the exploitation and abuse of non-unionized immigrant day laborers through political action.

San Lucas Workers Center (Chicago, IL) $2,000 to organize the Day Labor Organizing Committee.

Vermont Workers’ Center (Montpelier, VT) $3,000 to organize for economic justice, including livable wages, affordable health care and humane workplaces.

Women’s Institute for Leadership Development—WILD (Boston, MA) $3,000 to address sexism and other issues of oppression within the labor movement.

Working Massachusetts (Boston, MA) $1,000 to build connections between the labor and anti-poverty movements.

**Media/Culture**

Civic Media Center and Library, Inc. (Gainesville, FL) $2,500 for an organization that serves as a hub and community meeting space for activists.

Northwest Alliance for Alternative Media and Education (Portland, OR) $1,500 to publish a monthly calendar of events and stimulate social activism.

Prometheus Radio Project (Philadelphia, PA) $3,000 to promote access to the airwaves for grassroots groups.

Thin Air Community Radio (Spokane, WA) $3,000 to organize minority communities in a conservative area to produce progressive programming.

**Middle East**

Boston Coalition for Palestinian Rights (Cambridge, MA) $3,000 to educate the public on Israel’s “Apartheid Wall.”

Salzman Memorial Fund Grant
Palestine Media Watch (Southeastern, PA) $3,000 to continue promoting fair and informative US media coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism (San Francisco, CA) $1,500 for the “Estee Slaughter” campaign, which uses street theater to promote a boycott of companies that significantly aid the Israeli economy.

US Campaign to Free Mordechai Vanunu (Tucson, AZ) $2,000 to challenge the proliferation of nuclear weapons within the US and its allies.

Vermonters for a Just Peace in Palestine/Israel (South Burlington, VT) $1,700 to support the survival and self-determination of the Palestinian people, and to counteract biased media reporting and foreign policy in order to promote the equality and safety of both Palestinians and Israelis.

**Peace/Anti-Militarism**

Alternatives to the Military (Lincoln, NE) $1,000 to counter military recruitment propaganda in local high schools.

Boston Mobilization (Boston, MA) $1,000 to educate and empower youth to take action for social justice.

Delaware County Wage Peace and Justice (Media, PA) $1,700 for the “Bring Them Home Now” campaign mobilizing local communities to demand an end to the war in Iraq and bring home the troops.

Eugene PeaceWorks (Eugene, OR) $2,000 to educate youth of color and in rural schools about the realities of military service and non-military career options.

Nukewatch (Luck, WI) $1,500 to educate and enable people to act in opposition to US militarism.

Peace Action New Mexico (Santa Fe, NM) $3,000 to oppose military build up and intervention in conjunction with national and international social justice groups.

Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane (Spokane, WA) $2,550 for organization which involves individuals and local communities in building foundations for a just and non-violent world.

Physicians for Social Responsibility—Oregon (Portland, OR) $2,000 to advocate for an alternative to the war on terrorism based upon multilateral cooperation and international law.

San Diego Military Counseling Project (San Diego, CA) $1,000 to promote a non-military alternative to military service.
Diego, CA) $3,000 to assist military service members in refusing war-related assignments and seeking discharge.
Veterans for Peace - Santa Fe Chapter (Santa Fe, NM) $1,700 for organization dedicated to healing the wounds from past wars, minimizing the suffering of current wars and preventing future wars.
Vietnam Veterans Against War (Chicago, IL) $3,000 to fight against unjust wars, for decent benefits for all veterans regardless of discharge, and for social justice.
Western New York Peace Center (Buffalo, NY) $825 for new director to attend the Midwest Academy training course to build organizational capacity.

Prisoners
Advocates Coalition for Reform of Orleans Parish Prison (New Orleans, LA) $1,500 to engage the local community in prison reform issues.
Campaign to End the Death Penalty-National Office (Chicago, IL) $1,500 to build public awareness and opposition to the death penalty.
Citizen’s Alert (Chicago, IL) $2,000 to work toward more humane and effective law enforcement practices.
Coalition for Prisoners’ Rights (Santa Fe, NM) $3,000 to challenge the social and economic injustice inherent in the criminal justice system.
Lynne Stewart Defense Committee (New York, NY) $3,000 to raise awareness about the chilling effect of the USA PATRIOT Act on lawyers who represent political or unpopular defendants.
New Mexico Center for Social Justice (Albuquerque, NM) $1,500 for organization advocating systemic prison reform and the fair and respectful treatment of their families.
Prison and Jail Project (Americus, GA) $3,000 for an organization which challenges the corrupt and racist criminal justice system in southwest Georgia.
Texas Moratorium Network (Austin, TX) $1,000 to organize the March to Stop Executions which will bring together groups in Texas engaged in the anti-death penalty movement to demonstrate the level of public opposition.

Women
9 to 5 Colorado (Denver, CO) $3,000 to increase the participation of low-wage/lower-income women in the electoral process.
Appalachian Women’s Alliance (Floyd, VA) $2,550 for a multi-ethnic women’s organization that organizes communities across Appalachia for social justice.
Arab Women’s Gathering Organizing Collective (Columbus, OH) $3,000 to develop a broad-based movement for social justice that is rooted in the perspective of Arab and Arab American women and girls.
Georgians for Choice (Atlanta, GA) $3,000 to serve as an organizing hub for Georgia’s reproductive rights community.
Reflect and Strengthen (Dorchester, MA) $2,550 for the “What’s the 411” educational program which develops the organizing skills, leadership capacity and political analysis of young low-income women in Boston.
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice of Massachusetts (Brookline, MA) $2,550 to empower religious communities to work for the full availability of reproductive health services for all.
Speak Out Sisters! (Minneapolis, MN) $1,500 to develop a collective analysis of patriarchy as the root of systems of oppression.
TARAL Education Fund (Austin, TX) $1,500 for an investigative report on the anti-abortion practices of Crisis Pregnancy Centers.
US Women and Cuba Collaboration (Seattle, WA) $2,000 to build a strong US women’s movement dedicated to ending the US government blockade of Cuba.
West Virginia FREE (Charleston, WV) $3,000 to further and protect reproductive freedom for women in West Virginia.
Women of Color Alliance (Meridian, ID) $3,000 to challenge the social and economic injustice inherent in the criminal justice system.

continued on page eleven
continued from page ten

$1,300 for organization that works with women and girls of color to organize, educate and empower each to create political, social and economic change.

Youth
Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (Anchorage, AK) $2,550 for an intensive training event for emerging student environmental leaders.
Coalition for Asian Pacific American Youth (CAPAY) (Boston, MA) $2,550 for an organization engaged political education programs for APA youth that raise awareness of social justice issues, including an analysis of systems of oppression manifested through globalization and the prison industrial complex.
Community Youth Organizing Campaign (Philadelphia, PA) $900 for an organization working in Philadelphia’s Chinatown to build the capacity of indigenous working class leadership to organize for social and economic justice.
Jewish Youth for Community Action (Oakland, CA) $1,500 for a program created and led by Jewish youth to work toward progressive social change.
Manhattan Alliance for Peace and Justice Education Fund (Manhattan, KS) $2,000 to promote student activism at Kansas State University, help strengthen existing campus organizations, and create new opportunities for social action.
National Youth & Student Peace Coalition (Washington, DC) $1,500 for a convergence coinciding with the Republican National Convention of groups working on a Books Not Bombs agenda.
Nevada Young Activist Project (Reno, NV) $1,500 for a youth-led project focused on empowering youth activists to build a meaningful movement to address critical social justice issues in their lives.
Non-Military Alternatives Project (Chicago, IL) $2,550 to counter the increasing culture of militarization in schools and to offer communities real and viable career and educational alternatives.
NYC Summer (New York, NY) $2,500 for a six-week summer program in which youth will attend Democracy Schools and intern with social justice organizations.
Odyssey Youth Center (Spokane, WA) $2,000 for a Cultural Competency Training. Organizing for Youth (Stanford, CA) $1,500 to empower South Asian youth to organize for justice through radical political education and training.
Progressive South Asian Exchange Net (Jackson Heights, NY) $3,000 to educate and organize South Asian youth to mobilize around issues of social inequality.
Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities (Encinitas, CA) $3,000 for counter-recruitment campaigns highlighting non-military alternatives for job training, education and service.
Providence Youth-Student Movement (Providence, RI) $3,000 for organization of Southeast Asian youth working for racial and economic justice, and to stop the deportation of Cambodian Americans. Hale Memorial Grant
Quilombo Collective NYC (New York, NY) $3,000 for a radical summer education program that focuses on popular education and social justice organizing.
Second Chance (Lexington, MS) $3,000 to train and empower youth in rural African American community.
Students United for a Responsible Global Environment (Chapel Hill, NC) $900 for the Lilliput Network which connects activists working on diverse issues.

STARC Alliance: Students Transforming and Resisting (Oakland, CA) $2,000 to train young activists to organize against corporate control globally and on local campuses.
Youth Leadership Support Network (Takoma Park, MD) $1,000 for a youth organizing network that focuses on violence prevention, arts, education, media, and training.
Youth Organizing Communities (Los Angeles, CA) $3,000 for youth-driven organization fighting for educational justice and an end to the Prison Industrial Complex.

2004 Grant Totals
With the support of donors and pledge contributors, RESIST was able to award the following total amounts in funding during 2004:

Regular Grants: $248,325
Multi-Year Grants: $54,000
Donor Directed: $3,769.84
Technical Assistance: $2,159.65
Total Grants: $308,254.49

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GRANTS

RESIST awards grants six times a year to groups throughout the United States engaged in activism for social and economic justice. In this issue of the Newsletter we list a few grant recipients from our February 2005 allocation cycle. For information, contact the groups at the addresses below.

Arts for Action
2021 Sperry Ave, #18, Ventura, CA 93003; www.artsforaction.org

Arts for Action continues the long-established connection between art, culture and social activism. In 2002, this youth-led effort began organizing around a local and national living wage movement to address the low salaries and lack of medical benefits for employees getting paid from municipal tax dollars. As part of the Living Wage Coalition, local youth tapped into culture through Hip-Hop, Punk and other cultural art to mobilize and organize the youth. Thanks to these efforts, youth began attending city council meetings and community gatherings. The living wage has now passed in Oxnard, Port Hueneme and county-wide, due in part to the creativity of Arts for Action.

Latinos Unidos Siempre
3545 Portland Road, NE Salem, OR 97303
www.open.org/~mano/englus.html

Latinos Unidos Siempre (LUS) is an organization which works to advance the educational, cultural, social, and political development of Latino youth by organizing and advocating for social justice. LUS was formed in 1996 by 13 students in response to a series of local raids by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, an increase in the high school dropout rate and four anti-immigrant initiatives in the process of qualifying for the year’s electoral ballot. LUS now facilitates a process that allows youth to see themselves as social and political individuals, with rights to access to the political system in their communities.

A RESIST grant of $2,700 will provide general support for this Latino youth organization which seeks to challenge institutionalized racism, sexism and homophobia.

Chelsea Latino Immigrant Committee
300 Broadway, Chelsea, MA 02150

The Chelsea Latino Immigrant Committee was formed in 1998 in response to the needs expressed by the rapidly growing Latino immigrant community in Chelsea—the overwhelming majority of whom are from Central America. In its first years, the Committee focused on providing information, education and assistance on immigration related issues, mobilizing immigrants and their allies to protest racist actions by local and appointed officials, and organizing campaigns directed at local institutions. Currently the Committee’s top priorities are workers’ rights and workers’ health and safety.

A grant of $2,700 will fund this grassroots organization which seeks to fight discrimination against immigrants and foster their full and equal voice in community decision-making.

Midwest Treaty Network
21 South Barstow Street, #206 Eau Claire, WI 54701
www.treatyland.com

The Midwest Treaty Network (MTN) was founded in 1989 as a regional alliance of Indian and non-Indian groups in order to support the Wisconsin Ojibwe spearfishers in the conflict with white sportfishers. Using their peaceful presence, public education and support for a federal court injunction against anti-Indian harassment, the more than 2,000 Witnesses helped create a climate in which the Ojibwe could fish in peace.

MTN has since brought together Native and non-Native former adversaries to protect their common environment from the threat of metallic mining.

A grant of $2,700 will help this Native American and non-native alliance supporting treaty rights, tribal sovereignty, and cultural/environmental protection in the western Great Lakes region.

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 regular pledge letter and reminder along with your Newsletter. We will also 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.

☐ I will send you my pledge of $____ / month/quarter/six months/year (please circle one).

☐ Enclosed is an initial pledge contribution of $______.

☐ Please automatically deduct my pledge from my credit card (below).

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

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
Phone No. / e-mail (for confirmation only) ____________________________
Visa/Master Card #: ____________________________
Expiration Date ____________________________

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Page 12  RESIST Newsletter March/April 2005
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2. Tell a grassroots organization whose work you admire about RESIST. Grant guidelines and applications are available at www.resistinc.org or by calling (617) 623-5110.

3. Send a gift of support today. Make your tax-deductible check payable to RESIST, be as generous as you can, and mail it to the address below.

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