

# The Nathan Cummings Foundation

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2004 Annual Report

# Table of Contents

Message from Chair .....  
President's Report .....  
Trustees and Associates .....  
Staff.....



Arts and Culture Program .....  
Environment Program .....  
Health Program .....  
Jewish Life and Values/Contemplative Practice Programs.....  
Interprogram Initiatives for Social and Economic Justice .....

# Message from the Chair

This past year the Foundation played a major role in leveraging enormous grant dollars through its work in proxy voting and strengthened social networks through coalition building within communities across the nation. In addition to growing our work in the macro sense, we also looked within to focus on strengthening ourselves internally. Working from the inside out to reflect, evaluate and enhance the Board's relationship with the Staff and our relationship with our grantees is a process that was a theme of 2004.

On behalf of the Board of the Nathan Cummings Foundation, I salute our President and Staff who lead the programmatic efforts and embrace the challenge of working with the Board to enhance effectiveness in our joint processes.

We appreciate the valuable commitment of Bevis Longstreth, one of our first non-family trustees who completed his 13 years of service, and founding Program Director Andrea Kydd (Health), who completed many successful years of work with us. In addition, we recognize Program Assistants, Emily McDonald, Jane Steinberg and Stacy Han, who left this year for new endeavors, as we welcome new colleagues to join us.

In terms of other notable transitions, we salute our current Chair, Adam Cummings, and we welcome our first 4th generation Trustee, Rachel Durschlag, to the Board.

In this time of unprecedented change and challenge in the world, I remain grateful for the opportunity to work with the Board, Staff, grantees and colleagues of NCF who make it possible to remain hopeful that the task of tikkun olam is not beyond our reach.

Ruth Cummings Sorensen

# President's Report

The year 2004 was a year of challenges, growth and progress at the Nathan Cummings Foundation. As the United States embraced another election year, the Nathan Cummings Foundation supported projects that focused on expanding social and economic justice through institutional and systemic change.

The grants described in this report reflect the second full year of funding under our current guidelines. We built upon the successes of 2003, strengthening partnerships with our grantees. As we learned from our experiences, we refined and refocused our efforts to be more effective. The theme that you will see woven throughout is a philosophy of accountability and responsibility: for action and inaction; for impact and effectiveness; for personal, community, religious, corporate, and governmental responsibility for social and community well-being; and for efforts to build a more positive and just future.

In the spirit of holding ourselves fully accountable for our stewardship of the financial resources entrusted to us, we strengthened and expanded our shareholder activities. The Nathan Cummings Foundation filed or co-filed resolutions on issues that we believe will strengthen companies' long-term profit as well as building a just and sustainable future. These resolutions concerned transparency of political contributions, climate change, energy efficiency, pollution and prescription drug access and availability.

It is a continuing honor to serve the Nathan Cummings Foundation. I would like to thank the many people who have contributed to the Foundation's accomplishments. Particular thanks goes to the Board, the Cummings family, the dedicated and innovative staff and our many partners. The Nathan Cummings Foundation is a unique organization built upon the collected values of the past and infused with the learning of the present. As the challenges of 2005 confront us, the Nathan Cummings Foundation looks forward to continuing to serve as a force for social change.

Sincerely,

Lance E. Lindblom

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<sup>1</sup> As of April 22, 2004

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Toanna Abdool  
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Claudine K. Brown  
Program Director, Arts and Culture

Karen Garrett  
Arts and Culture, Senior Program Assistant and  
Exhibits Coordinator

Peter Teague  
Program Director, Environment

James McClelland  
Program Assistant, Environment

Sara C. Kay  
Program Director, Health

Lisa Ja Young Ahn  
Program Assistant, Health

Rabbi Jennie Rosenn  
Program Director, Jewish Life and Values/  
Contemplative Practice

Deborah Steinberg  
Program Assistant, Jewish Life and Values /  
Contemplative Practice

During the past year, the following staff left the Foundation. We would like to thank them for their contributions to our work.

Andrea Kydd: Program Director, Health

Stacy Han: Program Assistant, Environment

Emily McDonald: Program Assistant, Health

Jane Steinberg: Program Assistant, Jewish Life & Values/Contemplative Practice

# Arts & Culture Program

## Introduction

Artists engaged in social activism were the subjects of several articles in the press in 2004; and political pundits have acknowledged the power of the arts to effectively convey a message. Elfriede Jelinek, an Austrian novelist and playwright whose works denounce sexual violence and oppression and extremism, was awarded the 2004 Nobel Prize in Literature. Alan Riding of the New York Times observed that "The academy had again shown a preference for literature with a political echo." Celebrities, such as Eve Ensler, P. Diddy, Bruce Springsteen and Beyonce Knowles were using their influence to encourage citizens of all ages to vote. Lionel Chetwynd's documentary film "Celsius 41.11 - The Temperature at Which the Brain Begins to Die," was made in six weeks and billed as "The Truth Behind the Lies of (Michael Moore's film) Fahrenheit 9/11!" More than a dozen plays were presented off-Broadway that tackled such thorny issues as the war in Afghanistan, the roles and concerns of women here and in the middle east, flaws in the political process as well as social upheaval in this country during the Viet Nam era and today. While well-known artists focused on national and international issues, community-based artists addressed the issues that faced local constituencies.

The issues most compelling in the communities that we serve were the pressing issues that faced the nation. In Little Pilsen Village in Chicago, artists and community residents were concerned with street violence and gentrification. In Whitesburg, Kentucky grantees revisited Robert Kennedy's poverty tour and acknowledged changes for the better as well as a trend of continuing deterioration of the community's infrastructure. In the Heartlands, families watched as their children abandoned their communities seeking, but not finding work in neighboring cities; and in New York, Philadelphia, the Bay Area and other urban centers, young people voiced concerns over the lack of jobs, the local government's growing support for the prison industry and its inadequate support for public schools. An exploration of these issues led to the creation of performances, photographic essays, murals, and poetry. In June, more than 3,000 young people attended the National Hip Hop Political Convention in Newark, New Jersey. Their issues of concern were prioritized as follows: Education, Economic Justice, Criminal Justice, Health and Human Rights. Though their platform was not as complex as the platforms of the two major parties, their call to civic engagement is deeply connected to their commitment to these issues.

Artists of all ages have expressed particular interest in the following public policy issues: the quality of life in traditionally underserved communities, education reform, prison reform, civil and human rights, access to the media and access to health care. Members of the hip-hop generation are also concerned about voter apathy within their peer group and the need for forum where young adults can constructively voice their concerns and create works that envision the type of society that they need to take responsibility for defining and building.

Artists who are living and working in the South, Mid-West and the Heartlands believe that they are victims of unfair stereotypes. They believe that their voices had been marginalized and their issues had not been articulated from their perspective. They seek more mainstream exposure for first person accounts of their experiences. Visual, media and theater artists of all

ages wanted to revisit promises made, promises kept and promises broken over the last decade. The concerns of the art world are very much in tangent with those of the grantees of NCF's Health, Environment and Jewish Life Programs. Artists' explorations of corporate responsibility, free speech, and other pressing social issues have the ability to bring complex issues to a broader and more diverse public in a manner that is accessible and comprehensible.

In 2004 the Arts and Culture Program supported the work of visual artists, writers, media collectives, and cultural and social justice organizations that recognize the power of the arts as a catalyst for social change. Since 2002 we have targeted the following types of institutions for support:

- Universities training young artists to work with communities in need;
- Arts organizations that have a history of effective practice in community engagements;
- Social Justice Organizations seeking to work with artists to more effectively advance their issues; and
- Service organizations that convene and facilitate the work of community based artists

We augmented this work by supporting communications initiatives that provide the field with up to date information about art in service to communities as well as art initiatives that are catalysts for social change. We also supported policy initiatives that strengthened the field by providing constituents with access to services, legal interventions, information and other necessary resources.

We engaged in a three-pronged strategic approach in our effort to give voice to the issues and experiences of underrepresented communities in order to build a stronger society:

#### Application

- Supporting exemplary programs that can be replicated and/or disseminated
  - Facilitating opportunities for collaborations and residencies

#### Communication

- Supporting convenings of individuals with common goals
- Supporting hardcopy, video and film, as well as internet sites that publish research, criticism and program documentation

#### Stabilization through policy reform

- Supporting media efforts that inform the public about societal challenges; and
- Supporting policy research and educational initiatives that affirm the rights of creators and citizens

#### GOAL

To support artistic practices, programs and policies that encourage cross-cultural and multidisciplinary collaborations, and give voice to the issues and experiences of underrepresented communities in order to build a stronger society.

OBJECTIVE I:

*Supporting arts and cultural organizations that partner with community groups that engage in-*

- *Responsive processes;*
- *Collective problem-solving; and*
- *Cross-cultural initiatives;*

*In order to educate the public about social justice issues and shared community concerns that have national or multi-state impact.*

Strategy 1:

*Supporting key projects involving cultural collaborations that respond to economic and social justice issues as articulated by the community.*

Universities training young artists to work with communities in need – The full measure of our program goal is achieved through our work with universities training young artists to work in communities throughout the country. These universities are creating degree-granting programs and curriculum that incorporate the development of the artistic skills of young artist/practitioners while also training them as community organizers. College students participate in internships at community organizations. High School student are often inspired to attend these universities. Community artists sometimes teach at the universities; and retiring university professors continue to offer technical assistance to community residents at community-based arts centers. When these programs are most effective, the university community and the local community benefit.

The Arts and Culture program supported the development of *Community Arts Management Program* for Xavier University in New Orleans (rural/urban South). We also renewed support for the California College of the Arts, Columbia College in Chicago as well as the Foundation of California State University Monterey Bay. Columbia is also shepherding a book project that involves the shared practices of several of these grantees. We envision continuing our work with universities that are developing graduate and undergraduate arts programs that teach social responsibility, organizing, as well as leadership and management skills.

Arts Organizations that have a history of effective practice in community engagements – The Arts and Culture program identifies cutting edge projects that are immediate, relevant and sometimes experimental. We often lend our support to new works, new and innovate ways of doing the work, as well as revivals or the replication of work that has resonance or cadence at this moment in history. When we are wise, we bring to arts audiences new classics and the most compelling voices and visions of our era.

We targeted youth-serving organizations with replicable models and major museums with innovative projects that can impact the work of the entire field. Brotherhood/Sister Sol, Ella Baker Center for Human Rights in California (writing and spoken word), and the Hip Hop Theatre Junction (theater, spoken word) are creating model programs and methodologies that other nonprofits seek to replicate. The International Museum of Women launched a web site that enables women across the globe to engage in real-time conversations about issues that all societies confront; and the American Visionary Art Museum mounted the exhibition *High on Life: Transcending Addiction II* at the Foundation.

The performing arts groups that teach community engagement practices to others and that have pioneered collaborative theater practice are Pangea World Theater and Cornerstone Theater Company. Dance Exchange's performance piece, *Ferocious Genome* explores the ethical issues surrounding genetic research. We were also honored to support the opening of Jazz at Lincoln Center and the inaugural work *Let Freedom Swing*, a work that sets the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., Robert F. Kennedy, Nelson Mandela, Lyndon Baines Johnson, Eleanor Roosevelt and Vaclav Havel to music by great contemporary composers.

We supported two types of writing programs. Some were writing programs that documented the stories of workers throughout the country. Others are programs that convened writers who documented important events related to social change. We supported *unseenamerica*, a photography and writing program for workers sponsored by Bread and Roses Cultural Project, Inc., the arts division of 1199, the health workers' union. An exhibition of the photographs of participating members was on exhibit at the Foundation. In a similar vein, the Association of Joint Labor /Management Educational Programs generated a body of literature by and about steel workers and others, with a goal of changing the public's perception of what it means to be a front line worker in America. We witnessed a growth in writing programs and a concurrent growth in the replication and/or expansion of successful programs. Drawbridge: An Arts Program for Homeless Children works with two former grantees; the Manchester Craftsman's Guild and the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship to develop a plan for the replication of a very successful art and mentorship program for homeless youth.

We promoted two models in the performing arts, both of which resulted in the development of new works. The work of Aaron Davis Hall, Inc. represents an artist-based residency. This group worked with four individual artists who created new works in response to the question, "what is the public good and how do we as individuals and groups work to support and/or destroy that ideal?" The finished works traveled to other performing arts venues. (Ping Chong & Company) Fiji Theater Company, Inc.'s theater project represents a community-based residency. *Undesirable Elements*, is an on-going series of cross-cultural and multidisciplinary documentary theater works exploring evolving conceptions of race, identity and culture. The company is developing new residencies in Seattle, Miami and Lincoln, Nebraska.

Three museums worked on collaborative initiatives that targeted specific communities. The North Dakota Museum of Art developed an exhibition and public programs that examined the agricultural crisis gripping the Northern Plains and its impact upon rural life. The museum traveled programs and exhibitions to other Plains states. The Museum for African Art toured an exhibition of art created about Patrice Lumumba to four university museums. The works are affordable urban art that was used to convey the wishes and aspirations of a popular political leader in a society with very low rates of literacy. This exhibition conveys the power of images and ideas over time. Public programs examine the roll of the press in creating myths and histories of public figures. Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art Foundation, Inc. (MassMOCA), the world's largest contemporary art museum sponsored and broadly disseminated the papers from an international symposia and exhibition on art and social change.

Spoken word has proven to be an accessible art form that does not require an advanced degree. Skilled poets learn their craft in universities and at community cultural centers. However, they also may have honed their skills in the neighborhood, in prison or at church. Spoken word has

become a primary cultural tool that often morphs into theater and/or musical performance. The Arts and Culture Program and Interprogram funded a group of grants that use hip-hop practice to encourage civic engagement. 1+1+1=ONE's *We Got Issues*, is a theater project that focused on issues of young women between the ages of 17 and 35. The Tides Center's *League of Young Voters* used artists to teach young people organizing skills.

Social Justice Organizations seeking to work with artists to more effectively advance their issues –Through a collaboration with the Health Program, the Arts and Culture Program supported Institute of Public Life's initiative *Solidarity Works*, which uses theater and musical performances to document the plight of workers. The Arts and Culture Program also collaborated with all of the program areas to recommend support to the Lummi Indian Business Council to conduct a feasibility study for a residential Youth Academy that had a curriculum that addressed cultural, historical, spiritual, environmental, and health issues as well as more traditional academic teachings.

The Arts and Culture program worked with other program areas and Interprogram to identify organizations that used the arts to communicate and educate. We collaborated with the Health Program on two initiatives. We partnered with Health and Interprogram and funded a renewal of our commitment to Caticus Corporation's documentary on Latina farm workers. (*The Film Arts Foundation is listed under Objective 2, Strategy 3. It is viewed as an initiative that advances our communications strategies*)

Service organizations reaching diverse constituencies – The leadership of service organizations, know the strengths and weakness of their members. They are familiar with the resources in urban, suburban and rural communities throughout the regions that they serve; and they bring expertise to the table when analyzing the quality of the work within specific arts disciplines. These organizations give the Arts and Culture Program the ability to reach artists and arts organizations throughout the nation—in small and large communities who address issues of social and economic justice.

Alternate Roots continues its work with artists working in the southern states. The Bay Area Video Coalition and the National Alliance of Media Arts Center (NAMAC) works to identify media artists and groups working in the area of art and social justice.

Strategy 3:

*To develop a communications strategy for Art and Social Justice*

Several arts organizations developed programs, symposia, publications and curricula that document art and social change. The National Performance Network, Inc. is a service organization that develops curriculum materials to assist performing arts organizations that are seeking to work with communities on tough issues. These materials are based on oral histories that highlight the successful work of established performing artists.

The Advance Project is documenting the challenges facing dancers who are attempting career transitions. This work is built upon earlier research conducted on the plight of individual artists through the organization, Leveraging Investments in Creativity. Pacific News Service's publication *the Beat Within*, Brooklyn Academy Local Development Corporation, *Parks-Hall's* magazine and CD, *Free*, and Architect/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility's *New Village Press Works of Heart*, a publication documenting

successful community arts models, are new works that inform the public about the impulse for making art that impacts on people's lives. The New York Foundation for the Arts project, *The Thing Inc.*, is a web service that documents new media culture, information technology and social activism. Art 21, a primetime, public television program, describes the intellectual and creative processes of diverse artists addressing social issues; and The Scribe Video Center and Bay Area Video Coalition creates media, teaches media skills to communities and facilitates the processes of independent media makers. We also renewed our Grantmakers in the Arts membership. GIA's newsletter and annual meeting have consistently educated the field about issues that are of interest at this Foundation.

The Foundation for Independent Video and Film, Inc. supports the work of documentary filmmakers who want to make sure that their films are used by those groups that can most benefit from the messages in the work. FIVF worked with Mediarights.org to develop and refine an on-line toolkit that assists groups that want to use film in organizing. The toolkit develops budgets, and media plans and identifies funders and organizational partners.

Strategy 4:

*To convene artists and arts administrators*

In addition to creating new and innovative works of art, several of our grantees convened their peers in order to advance the work of the field. The Scribe Video Center is hosting the National Alliance of Media Arts Centers (NAMAC) annual meeting in Philadelphia in 2005 and Grantmakers in the Arts' national conference once again featured sessions and keynote speakers who addressed issues of art and social justice. NAMAC also researches media policy issues that affect its constituents. Cornerstone Theater Company is training several classes of theater professionals in the techniques of community-based theater and the annual Alternate Roots convening continues to be the most important venue for sharing and refining practice for four generations of artists working in the South. The Research Foundation of the City University of the City of New York convened a five-day institute for African, African American, Latino, East Indian and Caribbean writers who explored the social and political implications of race, ethnicity in contemporary society. They are publishing an anthology in 2005.

Interprogram and the Arts and Culture Program partnered to support a number of arts and civic engagement initiatives. The New York Foundation for the Arts, Inc.'s *Why Vote?* involved artists convening students who articulated their social concerns and created messages for their peers; and the National Black United Fund, Inc.'s *Hip Hop Political Conference* provided an opportunity for artists to participate in setting a social agenda for the next decade. UBW, Inc. (Urban Bush Women) revived its Summer Institute. *A Summer Institute in Brooklyn: Dancer for a New Society*, is for artists with leadership potential who are interested in pursuing community-focused engagements. In the past, the institute has attracted participants from all regions of the United States, Canada, Japan, Brazil and Africa.

OBJECTIVE II:

*To defend against adverse public, private and corporate policies, art censorship and other challenges to the wellbeing of the non-profit cultural community.*

Strategy 1:

*To identify and support arts policy organizations.*

The Foundation continued its efforts to support media reform. The National Alliance of Media Arts Centers partners with existing media policy institutes and engages in research and field-wide education so that its members are galvanized to act on media issues that affect the field; and New York Foundation for the Arts/Guerilla News Network film, *True Lies* examined corporate influence on the media. The William J. Brennan Jr. Center for Justice continues its work opposing "private money restrictions," which involves regulations that subject private funds to federal restrictions.

The Foundation has historically supported policy work related to freedom of expression and censorship. The Arts and Culture Program and Interprogram collaboratively supported two major cultural policy projects. The National Campaign for Freedom of Expression's *Free Expression Policy Project* (FEPP) merged with the William J. Brennan Jr. Center for Justice, Inc. at New York University. FEPP took advantage of the resources of the Brennan Center and continues its work by focusing on such issues as the information commons, and media democracy. Another long-standing grantee, the Center for Arts and Culture undertook a grassroots initiative to build the field of cultural policymakers and commentators and engage local constituents in policy discourse.

Strategy 3:  
*To support communications strategies.*

The Arts and Culture Program and Interprogram supported the Educational Broadcasting Corporation for Bill Moyers' final season of *NOW*. NCF's support enabled *NOW* to develop a Washington desk that does in depth investigative reporting on issues that compliment the work of all of our program areas. We also partnered with the Health Program to support the Film Arts Foundation, including important program segments on arts and culture. FAF developed a four-part PBS series *Remaking American Medicine* and an outreach campaign that educated health care consumers, providers and policymakers about the need to improve the quality of health care. We also supported the Independent Media Institute's *AlterNet* that collected and disseminated articles about media consolidation, corporate accountability and art and social justice.

## Next Steps

The field of Art and Social Justice has become clearly defined over the past two years. Policy Centers at Williams College, Columbia College and New York University supported research and documented models of artists working with communities on issues of social and economic justice. By 2005, there should be a book, several white papers and journals that define and guide the work of individuals working in this area. By 2006, each of the University programs that we support should have graduated at least one class of students who have studied arts and community building. The groups that we supported that are addressing civic engagement through the arts have long-term strategies for reaching young artists/activists that have resonance long into the future.

In 2005 we will continue to look at the dissemination of tools for training and replication. We are mindful that technology is rapidly changing how artists work with communities and we will educate artists and constituencies about public policies that will help or hinder their work. We will continue with our efforts to document promising practices and to collect data that may be persuasive for others who believe that the arts can transform communities.

# Environment Program

## Introduction

Three decades after the original Earth Day, most Americans say they support environmental protection. But at the same time America's most basic environmental laws are under attack, and efforts to strengthen them stall at every turn. Americans are buying SUVs and big houses – not energy efficiency and sustainability. Where's the groundswell of public support for positive solutions to global warming, the asthma epidemic or the growing "body burden" of poisons that each of us carries? How do we explain the huge gulf between thought and action? And what can be done to turn majority public opinion into majority environmental action?

We cannot advance a pro-environment agenda in this country until and unless we find – and implement – answers to these questions. This is why NCF's Environment Program is focused on the questions and on providing support to organizations working on the answers. These groups are working at every level, from the local to the national, and pursuing different yet complementary strategies, all aimed at placing environmental concern at the center of the debate about our future. These groups are looking beyond traditional models of environmental advocacy, thinking broadly about what constitutes "the environment," and in the process engaging more Americans in what theologian Thomas Berry calls "The Great Work," "transforming human activity on the earth from destruction to participation and human attitudes toward nature from a kind of autism to a competent reverence."

## GOAL

The goal of the Environment Program is to facilitate environmental justice and environmentally sustainable communities by supporting the accountability of corporations, governments, and other institutions for their environmental practices.

## OBJECTIVE I:

*To facilitate the accountability of corporations, governments, and other institutions for their environmental practices.*

## Strategy 1:

*To facilitate the development of public policies and other approaches by which corporations, governments and other institutions take responsibility for the real environmental costs and risks of their activities.*

NCF grantees continue to innovate in the public policy arena even as many legislative and regulatory avenues remain blocked to environmentally sound policies. They are pursuing strategies designed to produce both better policies in the short-term and to remove barriers and create a more favorable policy environment over the long-term. An interesting new example is the Forum on Democracy and Trade. The Forum is working with legislators across the political spectrum to educate them about the ways in which trade and globalization pose a threat to democratic systems and American federalism -- and to their sovereign right to legislate to protect the American environment.

Another example of this innovative work is the Presidential Authority Grant (PAG) made to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP) by the Environment, Health and Interprogram to change the political environment in which consideration of corporate tax policy takes place. The grant supports the latest in a series of detailed examinations of the U.S. profits and federal income taxes paid (or not paid) by 250 of the nation's largest and most profitable corporations. ITEP works to provide an in-depth analysis of the financial, health and environmental impacts of lost revenues from those companies, and looks at more than 60 corporations whose activities directly affect health care and the environment. Environment and Interprogram also gave a renewal grant to Redefining Progress (RP) to help sustain its work with partner organizations around the country. RP provides excellent research, analysis and media communications skills, brings alliances together and helps its partners to re-frame policy debates and use common language that expresses the values that underlie their positions on issues ranging from global warming to state tax policy.

A renewal PAG by the Environment Program and Interprogram supported the pioneering work of the *Carbon Disclosure Project* (a project of the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors), the largest collaboration of capital in history. The project brings together institutional investors holding over \$9.2 trillion in assets to survey the world's largest companies on how those companies are managing the legal and financial risks associated with global warming. The project – which complements NCF's shareholder strategies – is legitimizing global warming as a potential financial and legal liability, facilitating the measurement and management of carbon emissions by corporations, and assisting policy makers, non-profits, consultants and accountants to accelerate their own global warming initiatives, backed by investment community leadership and corporate data.

In addition, a two-year renewal grant was given by the Environment Program and Interprogram to the more traditional legal action work of the Civil Society Institute's *Global Warming Litigation Project*. The project facilitates the development of a class action lawsuit brought by some of the most significant State Attorneys General against the nation's largest emitters of global warming gases. In the project's first year, NCF support was used to develop legal theories and strategies and to win the active involvement of the Attorneys General of California, New York and Connecticut. As the project is about to enter the active litigation phase, a two-year commitment will help assure that additional states are brought in to what could turn out to be the most significant legal battle over corporate accountability since the tobacco cases of the 1990s. A grant was also given by the Health Program, Environment Program and Interprogram to the Government Accountability Project to assure legal protection for corporate whistleblowers who expose fraud and the environmental and health threats that result from corporate malfeasance.

The Health Program, Environment Program and Interprogram also supported the *Tax Policy Analysis and Communications Project* of the National Women's Law Center. The project facilitates an ongoing, informed debate about the role of taxes in advancing a social, economic and environmental justice agenda. NCF's support will help shape the debate over proposals for additional tax cuts and/or in making these massive cuts permanent. These program areas also supported Commonweal and the development of the *Collaborative on Health and the Environment* (CHE). CHE is building new alliances to leverage the power of its national membership base of over 800 groups and leaders working to improve human health by reducing exposure to industrial toxins in our bodies and the environment. In order to do this, NCF's support develops strategic initiatives that cut across traditional issue and sector

categories, elevate connective frames (developed with the help of the Rockridge Institute) and take proactive steps in favor of clean production technologies, poison-free products and, ultimately, poison-free bodies. This work was launched at a three-day conference co-convened by CHE and NCF at the beginning of June 2004.

The Health Program, Environment Program and Interprogram also supported the Midwest States Center's work to promote model state and local policies in the areas of health care, energy policy, environmental protection, corporate accountability and worker rights. This effort connects elected officials, non-profit groups and leaders and their constituencies in a non-partisan initiative focused on the connections between state budget deficits, tax cuts for the wealthy and cuts in programs designed to protect the poor and the environment. The Center is creating a regular, ongoing forum to build alliances on the basis of a common, value-based world view and long-range strategic goals to achieve sustainable health, environmental and economic policies.

Finally, the Environment and Interprogram issued grants to the Land Stewardship Project's *Campaign for Family Farms and the Environment* and to Farmers' Legal Action Group, Inc. These two groups have been working in concert to stop small farmers from having to pay mandatory fees that end up supporting factory-farming operations. NCF support has been crucial to winning victories in the lower courts – and now their case is set to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court. 2004's grants would see the groups through the final phase of this litigation and help set them up for their next round of campaigns.

#### Strategy 2:

*To broaden public constituencies that will encourage corporations and other institutions to internalize the true environmental costs of their activities, by connecting environmentalists to public health, labor, religious, minority, economic development, science, business, youth, academic, social justice and other groups.*

The work of building broad-based constituencies in the U.S. has received a significant boost from NCF over the past year. We are particularly pleased that even some of the largest, most well funded organizations are beginning to re-evaluate their work at the most fundamental level, and to come to the foundation for assistance as they challenge basic assumptions and seek new ways to engage a broader public.

In terms of non-partisan activity, the *Apollo Project* has been the single most effective effort in a very long time to build broad-based, cross-sector alliances. The entire breadth of the American labor movement, the most significant national environmental groups, high-profile civil rights leaders, social justice advocates and local environmental justice organizations have all come together to make a common demand for large-scale public investment in a clean energy economy. And Apollo is gaining tremendous support at the regional and local level, with 23 new Apollo alliances working effectively in places including New York City, Cleveland, San Francisco, Washington State and New Mexico.

The Environment and Interprogram issued two interlocking grants to renew support for the Apollo project going into its second year, to the Common Assets Defense Fund (CADF) and The Institute for America's Future (IAF). IAF is again taking the lead on the national policy front on behalf of its partners at the Center on Wisconsin Strategies, the Breakthrough Institute and CADF, and continues to play the key role in the Alliance in

deepening Apollo's base within the labor movement. A second grant was also given to IAF to support the *New York Apollo Project*, a precedent-setting coalition of labor leaders, environmental and environmental justice organizations, business, developers, contractors and government officials who are making a common demand for clean energy investments in New York City. CADF continues to work with the national unions and environmental groups which support the project, grow the alliance at both the national and state levels and work with a select number of regional groups to influence policies and investments in those places where the Apollo concept is most advanced.

Additionally, NCF's building coalitions work included renewing a grant by the Environment Program and Interprogram to the Earth Day Network (EDN) for the *Campaign for Communities: Leadership Development*. This grant builds on work done on a four-month grant made to EDN at the end of 2003 to support its work with Project Vote, Southwest Voter Education Project and the NAACP Voter Education Fund. This new coalition is an important effort to move beyond a politics defined by issue, race and geography. The same program areas also gave a grant to the Environmental Working Group for its *Campaign to Reframe Pollution*, an effort that redefines what success means in the effort to curb air pollution. Rather than looking at measures of emissions from cars and factories, the emphasis of this high-profile research and communications initiative will be put on the impacts of pollution on human health. The simple question will be whether children are experiencing fewer asthma attacks. A related focus will be on the public health costs connected to the many illnesses associated with environmental pollutants.

The Rockwood Leadership Program was supported by the Environment Program, Jewish Life Program and Interprogram in order to help expand its capacity to train non-profit leaders in the skills necessary for successful collaboration. Almost without exception, people who experience a Rockwood training come away impressed by the organization's unique ability to work with trainees to develop the energy, vision and skills necessary to articulate a vision and enlist the support of others in advancing that vision. NCF support enables Rockwood to build an even more powerful platform for higher levels of cross-sectoral collaboration with groups including NCF grantees such as the Rockridge Institute, the SPIN Project, Health Care Without Harm and the Apollo Alliance.

A PAG was also made to the Center for Community Change for its *Movement Vision Project* (MVP) to encourage positive, vision-oriented thinking and framing among leaders and organizations seeking to advance social, economic and environmental justice. The project receives input from NCF grantees including the Rockridge Institute and the Strategic Values Project, to build strategic, vision-based collaborations across issues movements, bringing together movements for environmental sustainability with environmental, social and economic justice. A new and very significant opportunity has arisen to help the national environmental community as a whole to re-imagine and re-frame environmentalism. Conjointly, a PAG was made to American Rivers, Inc. to support *Reframing the Environment: A Planning Proposal presented in collaboration with leading members of the national environmental community*. In its first phase, funding is being used to develop an approach to collaborative work between 20-30 national environmental groups and the Rockridge Institute, establish a working group of CEOs and communications directors, analyze and define current dominant frames used by and against the environmental community, determine and state the shared values and policy directions of the groups involved, suggest general guidelines for reframing

environmental issues and for a basic shared core narrative, and develop a plan and funding proposal to conduct a multi-year reframing initiative.

Another excellent connection building project is the Collective Heritage Institute's *Bioneers*. Bioneers is a "network of networks" that organizes the largest annual environmental gathering in the country. In fact "environmental" is far too narrow a term to describe Bioneers' focus on the intersection between environmental restoration, social justice and human health. This focus extends from the conference to 12 satellite conferences, book and article publications, radio programming, media outreach and maintaining ongoing contacts between thinkers, writers, activists, organizers, business people and scientists.

The Environment, Health, Arts and Culture Programs and Interprogram jointly issued a renewal grant to the Educational Broadcasting Corporation to support *NOW with Bill Moyers*. The program continues to cover stories that are ignored by the mainstream media and broadcast them to an influential audience of over four million Americans. In addition to doing critical stories on a variety of issues, including in-depth coverage of environmental policies, NOW is the only television program that covers the media itself. Given the media's troubling inability to tell the larger story of what is happening to the environment in a way that Americans can understand or that might prompt action, *NOW* is providing an invaluable service.

Finally, grants were given to Public Interest Projects for the *Strategic Values Project* and a PAG to The Labor Institute's *Strategic Initiative Forum*. The Strategic Values Project brings together the most sophisticated marketing research tools available to corporations, insights into strategic frame analysis developed at the Rockridge Institute, with a high level of expertise in public opinion research and communications, to develop a more powerful social change strategies and methodologies. The project will begin with in-depth research into the values that underlie public opinion. From there a comprehensive picture of the American values landscape will be developed. This will enable strategists to identify the core base of support for environmentally sustainable and socially just policies, "constituents of opportunity" who share some but not all of the values of the base, and the initiatives that can be built on the "bridge values" shared by both groups. This project will make the multi-issue, cross sector strategic initiatives approach described by the Rockridge scholars both quantifiable and actionable and will provide a new tool to evaluate the success of individual initiatives. The Labor Institute's *Strategic Initiative Forum* builds on the work of the Values Project, in order to create a more effective alternative to the dominant model of issue-focused advocacy. The Forum is developing the concept of strategic initiatives (SI), designing a methodology to create SIs to reach out to "constituents of opportunity."

#### OBJECTIVE II:

*To facilitate environmental justice by ensuring that communities, especially those vulnerable due to low-to-moderate socioeconomic status, race, or ethnicity, are protected from environmental degradation.*

#### Strategy 1:

*To facilitate efforts which promote the environmental accountability of corporations, governments, and other institutions in communities, especially those vulnerable due to low-to moderate-socioeconomic status, race, or ethnicity.*

The key test of our success over time will be whether or not our grantmaking is helping those most vulnerable in the society due to race, class or ethnicity. With specific regard to environmental racism, grants were made to Boston's Alternatives for Community and Environment, Inc. (ACE), and the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance, Inc. in order to build the capacity of the movement for environmental justice. NCF support helps to build the leadership of low-income and people of color communities to win concrete victories and systemic change towards environmental justice. It also allowed these communities join coalitions such as the New York Apollo Alliance with sufficient resources to participate as full partners in the work.

In a similar vein, a grant was issued to the Liberty Hill Foundation by the Environment Program and Interprogram, to build the capacity of the *Environmental Justice Technical Assistance Program*. While California does have a handful of groups operating at a fairly sophisticated level, the vast majority of environmental justice organizations are all-volunteer efforts fighting local battles over polluting facilities. They often lack the expertise and resources to put their passion to most effective use. Liberty Hill has the expertise and relationships necessary to help those groups move to the next level of organizational impact, and NCF support helps close the gap between the few thoroughly professional groups and those struggling against the odds to protect their families and communities. A grant was also given to the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights in California for its *Green Jobs, Not Jails* project. This project aims to provide a significant voice for racial and economic justice as the movement for "restorative economics" gathers momentum. Without that voice, well-meaning strategies to invest capital and the government's economic power in clean environmental technologies, processes and products could miss the opportunity to create jobs and wealth where they are most needed – in America's inner cities and devastated rural communities. Effective advocacy could see funds that might otherwise go to prison construction invested in inner city neighborhoods to bring down the crime rate, and in rural areas to create jobs that do not involve guarding inner-city youth.

Renewal grants were also issued to the Front Range Economic Strategy Center (FRESC) and Pesticide Action Network's *Californians for Pesticide Reform* (CPR) to hold governments and corporations accountable for the protection of health and welfare for low-income workers and their families. FRESC works in Denver to hold institutions accountable to low-income communities for the health and environmental impacts of publicly subsidized development. CPR aims to eliminate significant sources of airborne pesticides that contribute acute and chronic health problems for farm workers, their families and communities.

Outside densely populated, urban areas, NCF supported the Sacramento Valley Organizing Community (SVOC)'s *Immigrant Worker Association Project* to improve immigrant worker and environmental health in California's Central Valley. The Project is organizing and training workers to understand their rights in a healthy and safe work place, decent living conditions and poison-free communities, and the actions necessary to protect those rights. Increasing the capacity of social and environmental justice organizations in the Central Valley is important to the larger strategy of supporting the development of effective countervailing influence in the nation's most populous state. Also in rural farm areas, the Organization for Competitive Markets' (OCM) *Countervailing Power Project* aims to shift the relative power in agricultural policy advocacy by building strong farmer-led groups to compete with industry-dominated commodity organizations. Until recently, independent hog and cattle producers – whose practices tend to be environmentally sustainable -- had been

forced to pay into accounts controlled by food industry giants and that were used to promote an environmentally destructive factory farming agenda. With the courts now ruling against these so-called “check-offs,” (thanks to a coalition of NCF-funded groups), OCM has set up voluntary accounts to which farmers can contribute and which will be used to promote decentralization, community health and environmental protection. OCM will seek to re-frame the debate from one of “populist class warfare vs. free markets” to one of “pro-competition advocates vs. anti-competition monopolists.” A two-year investment allows the pork fund to become financially self-sustaining (the cattle fund has already achieved this goal).

Finally, Environment and Interprogram renewed support for the Public Health Institute (PHI), which works in partnership with the Steelworkers District 11 to develop the Green Labor Center and to build and enhance cross-cutting strategic initiatives and build labor support for such initiatives. This partnership, perhaps more than any other effort in the country, is perfectly positioned to encourage the Steelworkers national leadership to continue on its positive and productive alliance-building path for environmental and economic justice for workers and communities. Renewal support by the Environment, Health and Interprograms was also issued for Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE), to continue building the statewide California Alliance. By splitting its focus between two agendas – California Apollo and state tax and fiscal policy reform -- the Alliance is positioning itself to create two interlocking strategic initiatives with the power to build broad social alliances, elevate connective value frames, place defenders of the status quo on the defensive and create multiple benefits that cross issues, constituencies and regions.

#### Strategy 2:

*To increase public access to information and decision-making about environmental policies.*

In order to advance this key strategy for greater environmental justice, a two-year grant was given by the Environment and Interprograms to the Center for Investigative Reporting, Inc. (CIR). CIR's reporting – focused primarily on social justice, environment and technology – reaches millions of people in every state and overseas through such outlets as *60 Minutes*, *20/20*, *ABC World News Tonight*, *CBS Evening News*, *NBC Nightly News*, *PBS Frontline*, *NPR* and every major newspaper and news magazine in the country. This grant was matched dollar-for-dollar by the Logan Foundation and will help build financial stability for CIR over a ten-year period. Additionally, all five programs supported the Independent Media Institute's *SPIN Project* and *AlterNet.org*. These projects are working to enhance the strategic communication capacity of the advocacy sector and reach millions of people with quality journalism and public interest information. SPIN Project and AlterNet.org will continue to work in concert with hundreds of grassroots and advocacy groups, journalists, media organizations, and the most effective communicators of progressive values to help provide hope for the future and a positive, concrete sense of what can be accomplished.

The Environment Program, Health Program and Interprogram also renewed support for San Diego's Environmental Health Coalition (EHC), one of the nation's most effective environmental justice organizations. EHC has worked with the California Environmental Justice Working Group (whose members also include NCF grantees Communities for a Better Environment and PODER) to achieve landmark victories with the adoption of strong environmental justice policies by the California EPA and the California Air Resources Board. NCF support enables EHC and its partners to work with new leadership in Sacramento to

ensure proper implementation of the policies, which include: a first-in-the nation cumulative impact analysis that looks at all sources of pollution when determining the impact of a new facility on individuals, communities and the environment; approval of a precautionary approach as the basis for environmental and public health laws, regulations and decision-making processes; and adoption of pollution prevention as the preferred option rather than allowing damage that costs dollars, health and quality of life. Similarly, a PAG to the Tides Center supports People Organizing to Demand Environmental and Economic Rights (PODER), a small but effective environmental justice group organizing in San Francisco's large Latino community. PODER's work on the California Alliance Environmental Justice Working Group was so critical to the State of California's adoption of ground-breaking new environmental justice policies. Support for PODER is meant to support both the state-wide effort and to strengthen the capacity of a local organization with significant promise.

Finally, grants were given to the William J. Brennan Jr. Center for Justice, Inc. for its *Economic Justice Project* and a PAG was made to The Building Diagnostics Research Institute, Inc. for its *Jobs and Environment Initiative*. The Economic Justice Project seeks to improve the lives of low-income families by expanding access to information and decision making about policies affecting wages, health care and a healthy environment. The Brennan Center brings its renowned level of legal and technical expertise to bear on preparing grassroots social and environmental justice organizations to develop, promote and defend policy initiatives that protect the health and well being of low-income families and the environments in which they live and work. The Jobs and Environment Initiative generates usable, clear and illustrative data that will demonstrate the increasing importance of the environmental industry to job creation. The Initiative is intended to be synergistic with longer-term concepts such as "America's Energy Independence" and the "Apollo Project" in that the Initiative looks at the jobs creation benefits of environmental management today, many of which are overlooked by the public and policy makers.

## Next Steps

The groups that received support in 2004 represent a wide range of approaches and commitments to expanding our frames, challenging ourselves, and understanding the need to think about and do the work of social change more effectively. By challenging our own assumptions about what the work is and what our roles, we are bringing in and connecting with more potential allies, escaping the issue silos, and pushing forward a broader social justice agenda.

As we move forward, the Environment Program will continue to focus on connecting organizations that can benefit from each others' work and thinking; encourage groups to increase their capacity to communicate effectively; and seek out additional organizations that connect the short-term work to the long-term establishment of paradigm-shifting principles and precedents.

Of particular interest to the Environment Program in the coming year will be the opportunities to test and improve the strategic values model with different organizations and alliances and in different contexts. Leaders in the California Alliance want to apply the new methodology and approach, as do labor and environmental organizations planning initiatives at the national and state levels. Those engagements will be carefully chosen with the use of a new assessment tool, to ensure that they make sense for the Strategic Initiatives Forum and the organizations involved. The outcomes from this set of experiments will be closely watched by other funders

and non-profit organizations, and, whether they succeed or fail, the foundation will learn something important from each about how to proceed. By experimenting and taking calculated risks NCF will play a key role in inventing more effective strategies for advancing the goals of environmental sustainability, institutional accountability and social justice.

# Health Program

## Introduction

Forty-five million Americans currently live without health insurance. With two million individuals having lost their coverage in 2003, this number continues to rise dramatically. The Health Program is committed to reversing this tide by encouraging the expansion of government-sponsored coverage and advocating for affordable employer-supported health care. This past year highlights the need for both private and public policies that ensure access to health care and a healthy living and working environment while building strong alliances to make this happen. Among 2004's grantees are programs that train organizers to effectively and strategically communicate with their constituencies on issues of health care access, litigation projects defending the rights of individuals to federal programs, and groups developing various state-based and employer-based coverage models to be implemented and replicated. The Health Program also awarded affinity membership grants to Grantmakers in Health and the Neighborhood Funders Group.

## GOAL

The goal of the health program is to improve people's health and well-being, especially those who confront barriers due to low- to moderate-socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, or gender; recognizing the link between physical health and the economic, social, environmental, psychological, and spiritual factors that affect individuals, families, and communities.

## OBJECTIVE I:

*To assure access to quality health care, goods and services, especially for those who confront barriers due to low- to moderate-socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, or gender.*

## Strategy 1:

*To support efforts that reduce corporate, governmental, and other institutional practices that create barriers to quality health care, goods and services, especially those confronted by people as a result of their low-to moderate-socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, or gender.*

In order to achieve universal access to health care, the program supports projects that advocate for policies that yield affordable, quality, employer-supported health care coverage and an expansion of government-based coverage for those who remain uninsured. The Health Program has supported a defensive national and state-based strategy that has protected government-supported coverage for millions across the country. Families USA Foundation, Inc. educates opinion leaders, policy makers and the public about the long-term negative impact on the health of low-income people and the economy if the Medicaid program is cut substantially. With the Environment Program and Interprogram, a renewal grant was given to the Tax Policy Analysis and Communications Project of the National Women's Law Center (NWLC). NWLC is one of the conveners of the Fair Taxes for All Coalition, a coalition of over 300 organizations, including environmental organizations,

concerned about the impact of additional tax cuts on the ability of the federal government to protect the health of the citizenry and of the environment.

The Health Program, often in collaboration with the Interprogram, has supported a proactive strategy to increase employer-based coverage in four states: California, which enacted a law requiring employers with 50 or more employees to provide coverage or pay into a state pool; Maine, which enacted a law that will provide universal access to all state residents; Arizona, which has achieved health care benefits and increased wages for approximately 3,000 government contract, university, and private employees, and the creation of a hospital district in a poor county that will result in an additional \$40 million in health care services for county residents; and Florida, which has mounted living wage with health care benefits public education campaigns in at least two counties and a statewide public education campaign on the need to increase the state minimum wage.

The victories that have been won are fragile and are dependent on committed public support and citizen participation. In 2004, a Presidential Authority Grant was awarded to Consumers for Affordable Health Care Foundation to promote Dirigo Health, Maine's new universal access program, especially to small businesses, which began enrolling in the program the summer of 2004. The Presidential Authority Grant awarded to Jewish Council for Public Affairs works to deepen interfaith commitment to cover the uninsured. Four projects broadened the capacity of state-based organizations or affiliates of national organizations to engage in public education activities that broaden public commitment to universal access. The National Breast Cancer Coalition Fund builds support among breast cancer survivors and their families. The Applied Research Center focuses on immigrant and civil rights communities. The Center for Community Change builds bridges between national community organizing networks, health care advocates, disease organizations and others concerned about access to care. The Pacific Institute for Community Organizations (PICO) focuses on its national network of predominantly church-based community organizations.

In addition to increasing the number of PICO affiliates nationwide involved in effective work on health care access, the grant enabled PICO California to expand its work on employer-based and government-based coverage in that state. The Center for Labor Research and Training's effort to mobilize youth in support of better wages and health benefits in the food service and retail sectors demonstrated how to engage this constituency in achieving universal access. The work of the Tides Center/Florida Black Church Organizing Project did two things: increased the capacity of Black Church leaders to meet the health-related needs of their congregants, and built an alliance between Black Churches and other organizations addressing health issues in the state.

Achieving access to health care depends on active public support to bolster successes and defend against backsliding. The Health Program funded a number of renewal grants to projects that increase the capacity of state-based organizations to build multi-constituency, multi-issue alliances that broaden commitment to comprehensive health care access. The Jobs with Justice Education Fund organized a coordinated campaign around health care issues, trained organizers about the implications of Medicare laws, and pursued common policy initiatives on the local, state, and national levels. The Proteus Fund, Inc. received a Presidential Authority Grant to evaluate state-based strategies for increasing public support for the provision of quality health care to low-income families and seniors. Health, Environment,

and Interprogram awarded a grant to Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE) to build a statewide alliance in California made up of health care, labor, economic development, environmental, education, business and public policy representatives around a progressive tax and fiscal policy agenda that facilitates, among other goals, increased health care access.

In addition to funding organizers and alliances that directly advocate for greater health care access, the Health Program, Interprogram and Environment Program supported projects that research and implement innovative alternatives to current public policies. These public policies impact the availability of affordable health care and prescription drugs. The Health, Interprogram and Environment Programs awarded the University of Wisconsin, Madison for the Center on Wisconsin Strategy to develop alternative state economic policies that will more effectively meet social needs, including health care. The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy received a Presidential Authority Grant to examine taxes paid by corporations, including pharmaceutical and other health care companies, and document significant tax avoidance instances. The Institute then analyzed, disseminated and publicized the health, environmental and financial impacts of these policies.

In order to ensure health care coverage to Medicaid qualified individuals, grants were given to organizations that developed successful approaches to litigation and advocacy that can be used throughout the country. The National Health Law Program, Inc. continued its activities protecting the rights of Medicaid recipients when benefits guaranteed by federal law are denied at the state level. The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law developed a court-ordered remedy to provide children in Cook County, Illinois with their federally-mandated Medicaid benefits and disseminate their experience as a model to other states. The William J. Brennan Jr. Center for Justice, Inc. received a PAG from Health, Interprogram and Arts & Culture to continue its work on the *Access to Justice* project challenging federal funding restrictions that may adversely impact health and related legal services.

Health and Interprogram addressed issues of access by facilitating cross-constituency alliances that establish accountability and reduce the barriers erected by both private and public institutions. This strategy seeks out projects that develop and implement innovative solutions that provide healthcare to the underserved. The Appleseed Foundation, Inc. received a Presidential Authority Grant to support creative models that encourage small businesses to provide employees with health care. A renewal grant to the Maine Citizen Leadership Fund for *Rx Express* supports continued defense of Maine's affordable prescription drug program and ensures the public resources needed for these services. The Center for Public Integrity is developing databases that track R&D costs and prescription drug industry political contributions, and examined the industry's relationship with the FDA in order to facilitate more affordable drugs.

Thanks to the work of NCF grantees and others, the demand for affordable prescription drugs is mounting. Projects supported by the Health Program and the Interprogram have exposed the illegal practices employed by some pharmaceutical companies to inflate drug prices and have led to the adoption of public policies that will make prescription drugs more affordable in a number of states. When the federal government could no longer ignore mounting pressure to address the prescription drug issue, it responded by creating a prescription drug program for Medicare. This program, however, prohibits government from negotiating for reduced drug

prices and bans purchasing drugs in Canada where prices are significantly lower — proscriptions around which controversy is mounting.

Presidential Authority Grants were awarded to continue and expand this work. USAction Education Fund makes it possible for senior citizens to determine whether the new Medicare prescription drug program helps them. It has been suggested that campaign contributions made by pharmaceutical companies have given them far greater influence in drug policy determination than is appropriate. Connecticut Citizen Research Group, Inc. (CCRG) engages the labor, health care, corporate accountability, and campaign finance communities in 10 states in a campaign to encourage pharmaceutical companies' to disclose company resources devoted to supporting political entities or candidates.<sup>2</sup> The Pharma Futures project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc. convened representatives of pharmaceutical companies and key stakeholders, such as companies with high health care costs and industry analysts, to explore a business model that will provide more affordable prescription drugs and better sustain the industry over time.

Arts, Health and Interprogram collaborated to support Dance Exchange, Inc. for *Ferocious Beauty: Genome*. This choreographed performance explores the ethical and social impacts of genetic research and the need to have equitable access to this research available to individuals of all socio-economic levels. The Film Arts Foundation was given a grant in support of a PBS documentary, *Remaking American Medicine*. This four-part documentary educated consumers, providers, policymakers and opinion leaders about the need to improve the quality of care. An outcome of the production's outreach campaign was the formation of coalitions committed to advancing quality care for all. All programs awarded a grant to Lummi Indian Business Council, which is developing a business plan that addresses the high levels of substance abuse, violence and drop-outs among their youth.

While supporting specific projects is critical to increasing health care access, promoting articulate and convincing public policy discourse within a persuasive "frame," provides a significant contribution towards this end. All program areas supported the work of the Independent Media Institute to help grantees create effective communication strategies and publicize their activities through Altnet.org.

The Health Program and the Interprogram have supported two organizations to address religious restrictions on publicly supported health care institutions, and to establish legal and public policy principles for the benefit of health care consumers. The Health and Reproductive Rights Project of the National Women's Law Center, which has primary responsibility for technical aspects of the project (monitoring legislative and regulatory processes that could affect consumer rights, materials preparation, and litigation strategies as appropriate), was awarded a renewal grant in December of 2004. A renewal grant to Education Fund of Family Planning Advocates of New York State, Inc., supports a broad-based coalition that addresses the spread of faith-based restrictions in the health care system and the resulting loss of patients' access to services.

Two projects supported by the Health and Environment Programs and the Interprogram advanced the Health Program's interest in reducing barriers to access to health care and its

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<sup>2</sup>This project complements the Foundation's support of resolutions requiring transparency of political contributions that were presented at the annual meetings of three drug companies in April 2004.

interest in improving occupational safety and health and environmental health. The Economic Justice Project of the William J. Brennan Jr. Center for Justice, Inc. provides legal and technical assistance to grassroots economic and environmental justice coalitions to help them more effectively develop, promote and defend policy initiatives that protect the health and well being of low income families and the integrity of the environments within which they live and work. The Midwest States Center offers opportunities for the leaders of state-based public interest groups and local and state elected officials to explore jointly innovative health care, energy, environmental, budget, corporate accountability and other local and state policy options.

Strategy 2:

*To support efforts that increase access to and enhance end-of-life care, especially for those who confront barriers due to low- to moderate-socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, or gender.*

End-of-life care has been a commitment of the NCF Health Program since 1995. Currently the program focuses on ensuring that low-income communities and communities of color benefit from improvements in this area. To this end, the Health Program awarded a grant to the Board of Trustees of Leland Stanford Junior University for the Pediatric Palliative Care project. This grant works to develop culturally sensitive best practice recommendations for child end-of-life-care complements the second payment to the Education Development Center for disseminating curricula to improve end-of-life care in children's hospitals in the United States.

The Health Program has made a major investment in improving the care received through children's hospitals by children with life-threatening illness and their families.<sup>3</sup> A two-year grant of almost \$500,000 was awarded to the Education Development Center (EDC) to disseminate a curriculum to improve such care to children's hospitals across the country — a curriculum developed with NCF support in prior years. The EDC grant encourages health care providers to include family members as full partners in children's care.

OBJECTIVE II:

*To assure that people, especially those that are vulnerable due to low- to moderate-socioeconomic status, race, or ethnicity, can grow-up, live, and work in a healthy environment and have access to products and food that have not been contaminated in ways that could undermine health.*

Strategy 1:

*To support efforts that address corporate and other institutional practices that have a negative impact on the physical health of workers, especially low-income workers.*

Occupational and community safety and health are part of a larger, coordinated social and economic justice strategy. Health grantees addressed these basic rights by building bridges between cross-cutting constituencies to broaden and strengthen this approach. The Tides Center's *Organizers Forum* educates community and labor organizers to use framing to enhance the effectiveness of their message. Through national communication efforts, worker health will be cast within a larger context of integrated health, environmental, and economic

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<sup>3</sup> Children's hospitals serve a significant number of low-income families.

concerns. Among other organizing networks, they collaborated with the Western Organization of Resource Councils.

Several grants provide innovative approaches to protecting the health and safety of workers and their surrounding communities in the western part of the country. The Health Program made a Presidential Authority Grant to the Public Health Institute for the *Berkeley Media Studies Group* to work with Californians for Pesticide Reform (CPR). They provide technical assistance to amplify CPR's impact through a strategic communications strategy. Health, Environment and Interprogram issued renewal grants to the Front Range Economic Strategy Center (FRESC) and the Western Organization of Resource Councils Education Project (WORCEP) for their work in the Rocky Mountain region. FRESC works to protect the health of low-income workers and their families in Denver by holding the city and corporations accountable for community-centered development that has community health impacts. WORCEP continues to build a grassroots base and provided training to community-based organizations that protect worker health.

The Institute for Public Life works to develop leadership in the immigrant population in Nebraska and Iowa to implement a strategy that addresses the occupational health issues of the meatpacking and other dangerous low wage industries in which immigrant workers are employed.

Last May, Human Rights Watch, Inc. released a report that defined the occupational safety and health and other work place abuses faced by predominantly immigrant workers in the meat, pork and poultry industries as human rights violations. The Health Program and the Interprogram awarded a Presidential Authority Grant in support of the development and implementation of the communications strategy that promoted the study findings. The Sacramento Valley Organizing Community (SVOC) was awarded a grant that supports the development church-based worker associations for predominantly immigrant farm, cannery, and other workers in agricultural industries in four counties of California's Central Valley, and organized in another two to three counties in 2004. The New York Unemployment Project, Inc. in support of the Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York (ROC-NY), is developing in the aftermath of September 11<sup>th</sup> with NCF support, is in the process of developing a restaurant cooperative with displaced restaurant workers<sup>4</sup>. The project also advocated for policies to protect the occupational safety and health of restaurant workers. In January of 2005, ROC-NY released a report showing that restaurants that ignore the occupational safety and health needs of its workers also may ignore the city health code.

#### Strategy 2:

*To support efforts to prevent and to reduce corporate and other institutional practices that have a negative impact on health because they degrade the environment of communities, especially low-income communities and communities of color, or contaminate products and food in ways that could be injurious to health.*

While environmental degradation affects everyone's health, residents of low-income communities and communities of color are affected disproportionately, as evidenced by high rates of asthma and other respiratory problems as well as traditional environmental problems such as ground water contamination. The Health Program has taken the lead on community

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<sup>4</sup> A restaurant cooperative in Italy is providing start-up funds for this venture.

health projects that are closely linked with worker safety issues. For example, the Health Program, the Environment Program and the Interprogram have supported two projects in California addressing the environmental health affects of the irresponsible use of pesticides by agribusiness — the California Pesticide Reform project of the Pesticide Action Network and La Union del Pueblo Entero. The Health and Arts Program and the Interprogram supported the Caticus Corporation for the production phase of a PBS documentary. The documentary focuses on the work of an innovative statewide group of Latinas who use theater and other means to educate farm workers about issues such as the dangers faced by workers and their families due to pesticides.

The Health Program, Interprogram and the Environment Program jointly funded projects that strengthened the link between community and environmental health. The Pesticide Action Network North American Regional Center shifted the current focus of pesticide policy and practice from agrichemical-industry-centric interests to prioritize the protection of public and environmental health. Health Care Without Harm is building a national broad-based coalition of health care providers and workers, environmental activists, and medical professionals, among others, to instill the health care industry with an environmentally responsible ethic and leverage the sector's influence for broader environmental health goals. It is counterintuitive that an industry dedicated to preserving life continues to use carcinogenic chemicals and equipment such as PVCs in medical supplies.

Two grants supported the Apollo Project's efforts to reframe the global warming debate to include health impacts. The Common Assets Defense Fund is building alliances that articulate the interconnectedness of multiple issues relating to the environment, including health consequences. The New York City Environmental Justice Alliance is developing contaminated building sites in a way that will not negatively impact the surrounding community's health.

In collaboration with the Environment Program, the Health Program supported the Environmental Health Coalition in support of its work in San Diego and as a leader in the environmental justice movement in California. With the Environment Program and Interprogram, the Government Accountability Project, Inc. educates the public, labor unions, and corporate managers about a new federal law that protects corporate employees who "blow the whistle" when threats to public health or occupational safety and health arise. The three programs also issued a grant to Commonweal in support of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment, a coalition of over 800 environment and health organizations committed to reducing exposure to toxicants. With all of the core programs, the Health Program contributed to the Educational Broadcasting Corporation in support of *NOW with Bill Moyers*. In his final season, Moyers advanced work on environmental health.

Lastly, in recognition for their participation in the NCF April Program Education Day, the Health Program made Presidential Authority Grants to the West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc. and the Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York's- *Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health*.

## Next Steps

2004 has been a year of transition for the Health Program, Andrea Kydd, the founding Program Director, left for health reasons halfway through the year. As a search for her

successor was conducted, staff from all parts of the foundation worked together to ensure that the program continued to operate smoothly.

In 2005, with a new Program Director in place, we will continue to encourage health grantees and related organizations to operate within a common strategic frame, recognizing that all people should have appropriate health care, a safe environment and a healthy workplace. We also will continue supporting work at both the state and federal levels that promote positive health reform and will work with the Environment Program to implement coordinated and complimentary funding strategies on environmental health issues.

# Jewish Life and Values/ Contemplative Practice Programs

*Our task is to make the old new and the new holy.*  
-- Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook

The Jewish community is at a critical juncture. In the early 1990s the two pillars of sacred survival identity – Defense of Israel and Anti-Semitism – seemed to be fading in strength and urgency. The 1990 Jewish national population survey, furthermore, showed that many people were drifting away from a strong identification with Judaism. Spurred by these historical circumstances, many Jewish communal institutions began to ask an important question: What does it mean to be a Jew and what do we stand for?

In the last few years, Anti-Semitism and an Israel in peril have both reemerged in distressing ways, and for the most part the Jewish community has returned to its comfortable mode of responding to these crises. The Nathan Cummings Foundation has been somewhat unique in its ability to unwaveringly articulate a broader vision of who we are. Given the current Jewish communal context, it is more important than ever that we keep our focus on the core values that have always been at the heart of the Foundation's work – engaging Jews in *tikkun olam*, repair of the world, and cultivating communities that are grounded in compassion, spiritually engaged, Jewishly rooted, and working for justice. We must also, however, not be afraid to examine the history, breadth, and impact of our funding and to continue to hone our strategies accordingly.

Even as many of the Jewish community's institutions turn their attention back to the pillars of sacred survival, new generations of initiatives, visions, and leaders are emerging with creative strength. Dr. Jonathan Sarna, a preeminent historian of American Jewry, notes that continuity may in fact depend on discontinuity and that the most creative ideas often flow from the bottom up. Furthermore, innovation often comes from outsiders rather than insiders – the young, the alienated, and those on the periphery of Jewish life, precisely because they are not wedded to the community's assumptions. Of equal significance to this assertion is the fact that this insight has been highlighted in mainstream Jewish arenas dozens of times in recent months, indicating an awakening – if not full acceptance – to the fact that there is change afoot, and it is not coming from the same established corners.

This year's grants reflect an effort to strengthen innovative voices, cultivate new creative strategies, and leverage them to influence dominant Jewish culture. The aim is that the Jewish community – over time – will incorporate more of these new approaches. In the context of the Foundation's work, this means, in large part, more effective engagement in meaningful social change, grounded in Jewish values.

In addition to the strategies articulated in the Jewish Life and Values and Contemplative Practice Programs guidelines, there are a series of building blocks that the Foundation has identified as integral to the emergence of a vibrant Jewish social justice movement. They

include: cohort building, including the cultivation of alumni networks of effective Jewish social justice and service programs; a focus on next generation leadership and visions; leveraging the work of effective small and/or local Jewish social justice organizations; the development of Faith-based Community Organizing as a model for serious engagement in social issues and congregational rejuvenation; and promoting the engagement of religious communities in strategic social and economic justice campaigns.

Our grants to promote Jewish spirituality reflective of the Foundation's values seek to: seed new models for Jewish spiritual practice; replicate emerging and effective local models; explore the spiritual needs of young adults; and integrate spiritual practice, reflection, and connection with the divine into service learning, leadership development, and activism.

The Contemplative Practice grants anticipate a second generation of organizations and leaders at the nexus of contemplative practice and activism. While Contemplative Practice and Jewish Life and Values remain two distinct Programs, this docket reflects a greater integration as several Jewish Life and Values grants incorporate elements of contemplative activism. Furthermore, virtually all our grants advance more than one strategy and often more than one objective as well.

Finally, in the spirit of making the old new and the new holy, we made grants to several new organizations, projects with young leaders at the helm, and longstanding organizations branching out in significantly new directions.

#### GOAL I: Jewish Life and Values

To extend the presence and influence of the values of tolerance, social justice (*tzedek*), loving kindness (*chesed*), mutual respect, and ethical behavior within the Jewish world both to enhance Jewish life and to assist in the promotion of a more just society.

##### OBJECTIVE 1:

*To promote a leadership and organizational culture within key Jewish institutions that reflect these values.*

##### Strategies 1 & 2:

*To promote social change by supporting cohorts of activists and leaders from key organizations and to continue the work of cultivating leaders whose work and values reflect those core principles that the Foundation holds dear.*

The Foundation has supported the general *Tzedek Hillel (TH)* program of the Foundation for Jewish Campus Life in the past as an effective avenue through which to engage Jewish college students and nurture a next generation of Jewish social justice activists. This year we strategically targeted aspects of *TH* in need of strengthening and opportunities for leveraging *TH's* successes. Our grant helped to establish the Tzedek Advocacy Internship Program to train a cadre of Jewish students to launch effective advocacy campaigns on their campuses around a variety of social justice issues and to concurrently train professional staff to support this work. Our grant also helped *TH* to maximize the impact of Alternative Break Programs, one of *TH's* most successful service learning opportunities, through the cultivation, creation, and dissemination of best practices for campus follow-up programming.

Leadership development and the cultivation of cohorts in particular are fundamental cornerstones of building a Jewish social justice movement. It is a strategy we are working to expand and deepen as we work to build greater social capital through alumni networks and create multiple and intersecting cohorts.

Several grantees and funding colleagues have requested Shifra Bronznick's seminal report "Cohorts: How they Learn, Lead, and Influence," and begun discussions with us about the role of cohorts in movement building. In addition to gaining attention and support, this approach is already beginning to bear early fruits; it remains a central strategy to foster, nurture, and network activists and leaders with a shared commitment to the Foundation's values. The creation and cultivation of cohorts is emerging as a powerful way to: Facilitate a cultural shift in the communities and organizations in which these leaders serve; build a stronger Jewish social justice movement through the creation of powerful networks; and nurture and support new visions and next generations of leadership.

The Jewish Life and Values Program made several grants to advance this strategy. Our grant to the Rockwood Leadership Program for *Leadership Training for the Next Generation of Jewish Social Justice Activists* built upon the phenomenally successful pilot and offered advanced leadership training to the first cohort of young Jewish social activists, launched a second cohort, and laid the groundwork for the evaluation of impact and potentially the development of an on-going new program. Joshua Venture Philanthropies, Inc. (JV) received a Presidential Authority Grant (PAG) to complete the second cohort of Fellows pioneering new models of Jewish life through their innovative start-ups. Our support also enabled JV to conduct a thorough outside evaluation of its infrastructure in an effort to move toward a more sustainable organizational model. Sadly, while the program itself was widely recognized as both important and effective, and while JV has supported several compelling and innovative projects, the organization was plagued by challenges since its inception. In the end the organization as constructed was not viable. After several attempts to make the organization sustainable, the JV board made the difficult decision this winter to close JV in its current manifestation. We remain hopeful that the JV idea – pioneering new models of Jewish life through innovative start-ups – will become manifest again either through a new and differently construed 501c3 or as part of an existing organization that shares the vision of JV. Finally, Reboot, Inc. continued to expand its innovative experiment to bring about a cultural renaissance and convened its fourth cohort of young Jews in meaningful Jewish community. Reboot is also cultivating local networks, creating organizing tools, and supporting young Jews in translating their newfound Jewish connections into real action on the ground.

Over the past few years a host of programs has emerged to engage young Jews in activism and service and offer a Jewish lens through which to understand this work. NCF has been one of the founding funders of several of these programs and is at the forefront of promoting engagement in social issues as a particularly meaningful expression of Jewish identity for many young adults. One of the most effective ways to leverage the impact of these relatively small programs is through developing alumni networks. In the language of Dr. Robert Putnam, these programs and their alumni networks successfully build both bonding and bridging social capital. Participants are part of a community of young Jews who share their values, while simultaneously connecting with people across cultural, racial, and class lines.

The Jewish Coalition for Service, Inc. (JCS), in partnership with its 51 affiliate programs, continues to support and develop networks of alumni and create a web through which young Jews are engaged in service and activism, receive ongoing training, create community, and over time are reshaping the Jewish community's involvement in social issues. One of the founding and most influential affiliates of the JCS is American Jewish World Service (AJWS). AJWS is one of the most effective gateways through which American Jews encounter first hand issues of poverty and injustice. We gave AJWS a PAG to continue to develop its Alumni Program and create an effective vehicle through which the hundreds of people who return from AJWS trips each year are able to make the connection to their own backyards and become engaged in the fight for equality and justice in the United States. Both JCS and AJWS clearly also advance our strategy to promote Jewish service learning. Finally, our grant to Jewish Organizing Initiative, Inc. (JOI), a unique program that trains young Jews to become community organizers and understand their work in a Jewish context, is supporting both its Alumni Program and organizational capacity building. JOI's professional and lay leadership is engaged in a serious organizational audit in order to expand organizational capacity and ensure long-term sustainability.

Strategy 3:

*To develop and disseminate a serious ethics of philanthropy.*

A grant to FJC for *Fifty Large/Natan/21/64* supported these networks of philanthropic young Jews to continue to seek to transform the Jewish future by funding innovative solutions to crucial questions in Jewish life, developing new models for engaging next generations of Jews in reflective values-based philanthropy, and moving towards fiscal self-sufficiency. We also renewed our Jewish Funders Network (JFN) membership. JFN continues to be a context through which funders reflect upon the ethics and values of their philanthropy.

OBJECTIVE 2:

*To promote a Jewish spirituality and practice that reflects these values.*

Strategy 1:

*To support the thinking, writing, and teaching of the spiritual practices concerned with the nexus between the inner life and the outer world.*

Funds returned to the Foundation from Metivta's insurance were granted to the Spirituality Institute (SI) for program evaluation and fundraising resources. These two projects are central to SI's efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and long-term sustainability and are a good complement to NCF's past general support. SI is emerging as a leader in pioneering new models of Jewish spiritual practice and training.

Strategy 2:

*To support community organizations – such as synagogues, schools, Hillels, campus and community centers – that are developing the spirituality that we are interested in and that have the capacity to influence religious thought and communal norms.*

Virtually all of the models of Jewish spirituality that have emerged in the past decade are geared toward people of the baby boomer generation. There are very few initiatives oriented toward the spiritual needs of younger generations even as there is widespread recognition that the teens and 20s are a fertile time for spiritual engagement. We are therefore seeking to better

understand and address the spiritual needs of younger generations. Our grant to the American Pardes Foundation, Inc. to pilot the *Spiritual Education Initiative* was directed at this goal. Through training Hillel educators in this unique model of spiritual education, these experiential workshops are becoming a permanent part of Jewish campus life engaging many young adults who identify as “spiritual, but not religious” as well as those seeking ways to more personally connect with their Jewish learning and practice. Ultimately, this program aims to create a paradigm shift in Jewish life, transforming the present model of Jewish education from a purely intellectual process into a more spiritual and holistic experience.

Spiritual Direction, a longtime centerpiece in Protestant and Catholic spiritual life, is a newcomer to the Jewish community and has the potential to offer an innovative and much needed model for authentic Jewish spirituality. Spiritual Direction is a one-on-one contemplative counseling practice that provides an authentically Jewish venue through which Jews, both affiliated and unaffiliated, can find spiritual nourishment and companionship in the Jewish community. Our PAG to the Shefa Fund for the *Yedidya Center for Jewish Spiritual Direction* seeded their efforts to introduce Spiritual Direction to Jewish communities nationwide while simultaneously training the next class of Spiritual Directors through their *Morei Derekh* program.

NCF has supported *Makom* at the Jewish Community Center in Manhattan, Inc. (JCC) since its inception. This innovative model of a Jewish contemplative practice program integrated into a large, mainstream institution has been quite successful but has remained primarily a local phenomenon. Our two-year exit grant is for the evaluation, strengthening, replication, and dissemination of *Makom's* practices and programs to JCCs nationwide. During this time, the JCC is also developing additional funders for the local Manhattan program.

#### OBJECTIVE 3:

*To promote these values by strengthening the capacity of Jews and the Jewish community to engage with major issues of social and economic justice and stewardship of the earth.*

#### Strategy 1:

*Build a constituency for Jewish social justice work through support for Jewish service learning programs.*

Camp Isabella Freedman of Connecticut, Inc. is expanding its successful new environmental service learning program — *ADAMAH*. NCF was instrumental in supporting the pilot of *ADAMAH* and this year gave a grant to launch multiple cohorts of environmental fellows, develop next generation leadership, and create an alumni network for fellows. Our support is also enabling *ADAMAH* to engage more faculty who model environmental activism. We gave a PAG to PANIM: The Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values, Inc. to conduct an evaluation and consolidation of their successful but overreaching national service learning program for high school students, the Jewish Civics Initiative, with the aim of creating an excellent and sustainable model for the long term. Finally, we gave a PAG to Edah, Inc. to work in select Orthodox congregations to engage congregants in serious service and study in partnership with local non-Orthodox congregations. This is one of the only known serious attempts currently underway to engage Orthodox communities in larger social issues.

*Strategy 2:*

*To support and provide capacity building assistance to Jewish social justice organizations that mobilize and organize Jews in communities throughout the country around issues of social, economic, and environmental justice.*

It is quite evident that the terrain of the American Jewish community is changing in exciting ways. Over the past eight years there are more than two dozen new Jewish social justice and service initiatives, many specifically oriented toward engaging young Jews. These programs are increasingly becoming “dorm room names.” Furthermore, as indicated, many alumni networks have been created from these programs, weaving national communities of young Jews with shared passions and commitments. In fact, it is increasingly common for young Jews to stumble upon one Jewish service program and in turn to become involved in another.

More broadly, despite a turn back toward the basic Jewish survival values of protecting an Israel at risk and combating anti-Semitism, there has been evidence in the last year or two that the language of social justice is finding its way into mainstream institutions like Hillel and Federations. More and more young Jews training to be rabbis and Jewish communal professionals see social justice as central to their work, and networks of rabbinic students across denominations have formed to address issues of social and economic justice. Partially in response to this, multiple programs to train rabbis in community organizing and activism are emerging.

The Jewish Life and Values Program has been a proud supporter of many of these new initiatives and our grantmaking this year reflects the multiple strategies through which to further develop this movement and forge stronger connections between its parts. With our support, The Jewish Council on Urban Affairs (JCUA), through its *National Initiative*, convened leadership from the growing number of Jewish social justice organizations for an unprecedented national conference. Over 150 leaders from 55 different Jewish social justice organizations participated in this conference to share best practices, network, and explore possible strategic collaborations. Our grant is also supporting the pilot of JCUA's summer rabbinic internship program that is training a cohort of rabbis of all denominations to effectively integrate social justice into their rabbinates and the communities they serve.

In an effort to leverage the Jewish community's considerable fiscal resources, we gave a two-year grant to the Shefa Fund to further develop and expand its *Social Investment Programs: TZEDEC and Shareholder Activism*. Both projects are essential vehicles for using the investment assets of Jewish institutions for the pursuit of social and economic justice and both have the potential to have a higher profile and galvanize significantly more resources.

*The Coalition on the Environment in Jewish Life (COEJL)*, a project of the Jewish Council on Public Affairs, remains *the* American Jewish environmental network. In addition to expanding the scope of their efforts to integrate environmental awareness and action into Jewish life, COEJL is developing a core body of Jewish scholarship about the environment, engaging in an interfaith climate and energy campaign, launching a greening synagogues project, and creating the Israel and the Global Environment Network, linking environmentalists in Israel and the US.

One crucial strategy for engaging Jews in social and economic justice is through developing strong local networks. There are currently about a dozen such groups, varying in organizational age, demographic make-up and relationship to mainstream Jewish institutions. One of the most successful models is the Progressive Jewish Alliance (PJA), a remarkable and fast-growing organization that is a pivotal player in the field of Jewish social justice. Our two year general support grant to PJA is helping to advance their work to address issues of social and economic justice – with a particular focus on the struggles of low-wage and immigrant workers. PJA is the Jewish partner in LA's interfaith coalitions. PJA is also cultivating a next generation of Jewishly grounded social activists through its explicit focus on engaging and training young Jews, multi-media economic justice campaigns, a restorative justice mediation project, and Muslim-Jewish dialogue groups. Furthermore, PJA's Jeremiah Project is breaking new ground with its circle of scholars working to craft a deeply Jewish theology and framework for PJA's activism. The launch of PJA's Jeremiah Fellows program has created a cohort of young people working on PJA's campaigns while reflecting on that work through Jewish sources. Finally, our support has helped PJA to expand from Los Angeles to the Bay Area, embarking on a statewide approach.

Another key element in engaging Jews, Jewish communities, and Jewish institutions in social and economic justice is congregations. In recognition of the failure of social action committees to engage significant numbers of congregants in meaningful social change work, pioneering synagogues across the country are launching a new model – Faith-based Community Organizing (FBCO). Through a dynamic process of training, reflection, one-on-one conversations, and house meetings, congregants are identifying issues of concern and engaging in effective campaigns – in partnership with other communities of faith. In addition to engaging Jews in meaningful social justice work, this method is proving remarkably effective in revitalizing congregational life through building relationships, empowering congregational leaders to become active in the public arena, and making Jewish social justice teachings, texts, and rituals relevant for our time.

On the regional level, we made a two year grant to the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston – in partnership with the Greater Boston Synagogue Organizing Project – to develop the capacity of Boston area synagogues to participate in sustained organizing efforts and engage concentric circles of congregations in FBCO. On the national level, the Jewish Fund for Justice, Inc. has been at the forefront providing both technical and financial support to synagogues doing FBCO, holding national convenings and trainings, and helping the major organizing networks work more effectively with communities of faith. In addition to this ongoing work, our grant also supported a historic national gathering that brought together 125 clergy and laypeople from 40 synagogues across the country to build organizing skills, share best practices, strategize around challenges, and create a network of Jews who are transforming their congregations and communities.

Meanwhile, seminaries are at the beginning stages of determining if and how to incorporate FBCO training and experience into rabbinic training. Based on research that identifies clergy as a key element to a congregation's successful involvement in FBCO, we gave a planning grant to Interfaith Funders, Inc. (IF) to research and create a training program for clergy in multiple seminaries in Faith-based Community Organizing – an approach currently unfamiliar to most clergy entering congregations.

Finally, we made a grant to the New Israel Fund to continue the work we have been supporting over the past several years in the areas of spirituality and social justice in Israel. This was an interim grant while the Foundation engages in a reassessment of its funding strategies in Israel. Our support is for grassroots organizations advancing religious pluralism in ways that broaden and amplify a "Jewish Social Voice"; developing the Israeli Environmental movement, with a focus on environmental justice; and addressing the pressing issues faced by the Bedouin in the Negev. We supported NIF grantees in Religious Pluralism that bring new immigrants into the circle of liberal Judaism; foster diverse expressions of Jewish identity and practice; enable large numbers of Jews to participate in Jewish life as they see fit; promote state recognition of and equitable resource allocation for diverse expressions of Judaism and Jewish identity; and strengthen liberal elements within Orthodox Judaism to increase their influence in areas where ultra-Orthodoxy currently defines the content and character of Jewish life. We supported -- in partnership with the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies and the New Israel Fund -- Green Environment Fund grantees that: increase the size, effectiveness, and sustainability of the nation's grassroots environmental movement; spur grassroots organizing and policy advocacy on key issues, with an emphasis on water and environmental health, strengthen the ability of marginalized constituencies to defend their rights, especially by increasing public participation in the planning process, empowering local populations, and raising the profile of public health issues; and enhance relations among Jews and Arabs within Israel, through joint projects to address local and national environmental issues. This year we also supported a public education, community organizing, and coalition building campaign addressing the critical challenge of status, recognition, and relocations faced by the Bedouin in the Negev. For a more detailed articulation of strategies and a complete list of grantees, see Appendixes A, B, and C.

### Strategy 3:

*To promote alliances between Jewish organizations and Interprogram grantees.*

We aim through this strategy to bring the influence of the Jewish community to bear on issues of concern to the Foundation, and also to increase the capacity of Jewish leaders and their organizations to work more effectively and with more influence through access to the resources of some of our Interprogram grantees.

We supported the Independent Media Institute enabling SPIN to work with several of our grantees and increase their communications capacity. This grant was made in conjunction with Environment, Health, Arts, and Interprogram. We also joined these Program Areas to support the Lummi Indian Business Council to conduct a feasibility study for a residential youth academy that is addressing cultural, spiritual, historical, environmental, and health issues. Finally, in a wonderful marriage between Cover the Uninsured Week and the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA), we gave a PAG – together with Health Program and Interprogram – to the JCPA to organize the inaugural faith-based activities for Cover the Uninsured Week 2004.

### OBJECTIVE 4:

*To promote communication, understanding, and partnership between Jews and peoples of other faith traditions through programs that focus on shared values and common goals.*

The overarching goal of this objective is to strengthen the pluralistic dimension of civil society by promoting participation by a broad range of religious and ethnic groups through bringing people of different religious and ethnic backgrounds together to work on important issues of social justice. Over the past few years two strategies have emerged of particular relevance to the Foundation.

**Strategy 1:**

*To promote interfaith coalitions around issues of social and economic justice, which include people of all faiths and backgrounds, with an emphasis on outreach to Muslim and Jewish participation.*

While our support for Faith-based Community Organizing aims to engage congregations in systemic social change work through interfaith organizing networks, our grant to Judson Memorial Church for the New York Jobs with Justice Religious (NYJWJ) Organizing Project approaches the issue from the other end. Namely, this grant supports work from within an issue area – labor -- to build a progressive, cross-sector faith-based organizing model. NYJWJ is building powerful leadership for strategic campaigns; deepening relationships through organizing and leadership skills training; developing an integrated organizational culture that better equips staff to work with communities of faith; and establishing replicable models for local coalitions to effectively engage religious communities. We also made a first time grant to Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC), a new organization headed by a young visionary, to work with high school and college students from multiple faith communities to develop a serious understanding and appreciation of other religious identities and create networks through which young people can make a difference in the broader community through social action. IFYC advances interfaith engagement with social issues, ensures a focus on Jewish and Muslim involvement, and works purposefully to promote interfaith understanding and values-based service as a central part of what it means to be a religious person in America. In many ways, this is the interfaith corollary to our Jewish service learning work.

We also gave a PAG to Jewish Family & Life, Inc. for an action planning process to determine *Project Manna's* feasibility. Project Manna is a bold interfaith initiative to educate and mobilize large numbers of people and creatively leverage corporate philanthropy to prevent and alleviate hunger. This project has the potential to create a spiritually based consumer activism that could have considerable impact on the pressing issue of hunger. Finally, the Center for Jewish History, Inc. received a PAG to exhibit Frederic Brenner's work *Diaspora: Homelands in Exile* at the UN conference "Confronting Anti-Semitism: Education for Tolerance and Understanding." The questions of home, identity, and representation, raised by Brenner's work, and the powerful context for the exhibit, aimed to stimulate inter-cultural dialogue.

**Strategy 2:**

*To promote the peace process in Israel.*

Our grants to promote peace in the Middle East through support of US based organizations reflect our multi-faceted strategy to support efforts to bring Israel and her neighbors closer to peace. Our grant to the PeaceWorks Network Foundation for the *OneVoice Initiative* supports a grassroots movement working with ordinary Israelis and Palestinians, crafting public consensus, and amplifying the voices of the moderate majority. United Religions'

project *Walk the Road to Peace* also aims to mobilize and amplify the moderate voice in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but here in the United States and with religious leadership. With the support of a PAG, United Religions is mobilizing the top tiers of American religious leadership to educate the Administration about ways to advance a just and peaceful resolution to the crisis in the Middle East. They are also organizing local interreligious leadership teams in select cities.

Focusing not on religious leadership, but on American Jewish laity, Brit Tzedek V'Shalom (BTVS) is one of the newest and fastest-growing organizations working to promote the peace process in Israel. As the American Jewish community's voice on Israel has become more monolithic, American Jews who are deeply committed to Israel, but concerned about the prospects for a just peace have often felt marginalized, impotent, and even silenced. Our support for BTVS's *Spirit of Geneva – From the Ground Up* campaign is helping to expand and deepen their grassroots network and further work to influence mainstream public opinion and institutions to support a just two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. BTVS works through strong grassroots chapters and therefore complements the more top down work of other American peace organizations and grantees such as the Israel Policy Forum (IPF). Our two-year grant to IPF supports the further implementation of its five-year plan with a focus on coalition building and policy development. IPF is continuing to expand its influence and scale, forge coalitions and cultivate uncommon partners (such as business and mainstream Christian organizations), engage top strategists, advance positions to influential policy makers, and develop effective strategies to ensure that America does all that it can to wisely broker peace in the Middle East.

## GOAL II: CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICE

To promote the development and dissemination of contemplative practice programs from all traditions – which address the foundation's core values: concern for the poor, disadvantaged, and underserved; empowerment of communities in need; respect for diversity; and promotion of understanding across cultures.

### OBJECTIVE 1:

*To cultivate the development and teaching of contemplative practices linked to engagement with areas of concern to the foundation.*

We support work at the meeting place of contemplative practice and activism and are pioneering funders in this small but emerging field. Our recent grantees are at the forefront of this new approach and represent some of the primary organizations effectively doing this work. Recent research suggests, however, that we are approaching the birth of a second generation of organizations and leaders engaged in serious contemplative activism. Stone Circles is a central player in this development. The "Johnny Appleseed" of spiritual activism, Stone Circles is spreading its vision around the country and nurturing the next circles of leaders and organizations through the development of cohorts. Our renewed support is enabling Stone Circles to continue to be on the cutting edge of social change that is grounded in an ethic of sustainability and spirituality.

We also joined the Environment Program and Interprogram in a grant to the Rockwood Leadership Program (Rockwood) for general support. Rockwood is not only developing more effective leadership and cultivating collaboration across issue areas, but it also provides a context through which social activists can draw on and deepen their own spiritual lives. While

not contemplative practice in the most traditional sense, Rockwood has developed a very effective model for training activists to become more spiritually grounded and reflective practitioners; its also been extremely successful at making this training widely accessible.

#### OBJECTIVE 2:

*To enable the teachers, practitioners and organizations devoted to contemplative practice to make their work available as a resource for non-profit organizations devoted to social, economic, and environmental justice.*

Another foundational organization in the field of spiritual activism, Spirit in Action, Inc., is disseminating their recent research and curriculum and continuing to build the capacity of activists through its effective training programs. Our support for Spirit in Action's *Circles of Change* leadership model is cultivating successive generations of activists and trainers committed to sustainable, effective, and spirit-based social change and progressive movement building.

Finally, it is worth noting that several Jewish Life and Values grants that primarily advance other strategies, also further the aims of the Contemplative Practice Program. In addition to the *Leadership Training for the Next Generation of Jewish Social Justice Activists* through the Rockwood Leadership Program, a model for cultivating a sustained, spirit based life of effective activism, the work of the JCC of Manhattan to pilot contemplative practice as part of its overall program is a form of applied contemplative practice. Spiritual and contemplative practice is also a central part of ADAMAH's program – critical to the development and formation of young environmentalists. Finally, part of the work of Jobs with Justice – NY is to create a more integrated organizational culture and deepen and expand its organizational mindfulness practice.

#### Next Steps

In a relatively short period of time, many grantees of the Jewish Life and Values Program have changed the landscape of American Jewish life -- especially for emerging generations. Innovative Jewish social justice and service initiatives, new models of engaged spirituality, and broad based interfaith collaborations abound. We have the opportunity now to transform many of these individual efforts into a more coordinated and effective whole.

In addition to continuing to cultivate, nurture, and support individual organizations working effectively and advancing the Foundation's mission, the Jewish Life and Values Program seeks to address the fundamental question of how to engage the Jewish community -- its people, institutions, and resources – more authentically and more effectively in issues of social and economic justice. Initial explorations have generated considerable interest in this work and confirmed its timeliness; we envision an inquiry the findings of which will help to shape and strengthen the Foundation's funding strategies for the coming years. More importantly, the inquiry will offer our partners, grantees, and the broader field an opportunity for reflection, analysis, and broad visioning. It is our aim to ultimately emerge with a clearer map for building a vibrant, engaged, and spiritually rooted American Jewry making change in the world reflective of its deepest values.

## APPENDIX A: RELIGIOUS PLURALISM

### 2004 Strategic Guidelines and Grantees in Israel in partnership with the New Israel Fund

The Foundation continues to fund issues of religious pluralism in Israel with a clear understanding that these issues are at the heart of building a vibrant, just, Jewish, and democratic State. In light of a variety of factors, most significantly the changing social and political reality of Israel – four years of Intifada, extreme economic distress, the Disengagement Plan, and new Palestinian leadership – 2004 was a critical juncture at which to evaluate the funding strategies developed in 2000. To this end, while continuing to advance these guidelines, we supported, with NIF, an outside evaluation to assess the goals, objectives, and overall vision of this funding strategy. This report will provide insight into the impact of these guidelines and grants and inform our funding strategy in the area of Religious Pluralism for the coming years.

#### Objective 1: *Fostering diverse expressions of Jewish life and practice*

Our support for The *Midrasha at Oranim* enables the organization to intensify its work to establish secular “Prayer Communities” (communities that regularly conduct festival ceremonies and *Kabbalat Shabbat* services) in the north of Israel. *Shdemot*, founded by activists at the *Midrasha at Oranim* in 1998 to complement the *Midrasha* and disseminate the pluralism teaching models and programs developed there, has expanded to several new cities. This grant is helping *Shdemot* develop and strengthen the School for Leadership and Educator Training, expand the Community-Building project at Yoqneam, and implement activities in other communities in northern Israel. Also an outgrowth of the *Midrasha*, *Collot at Michlelet HaNegev* empowers young people in development towns and *moshavim* in the Negev, promotes interaction between religious and secular Jews, assists new immigrants with their integration, and trains educators in interpersonal skills.

Also working in underserved areas, *Bina* promotes the development of pluralistic Jewish culture among the secular public and instills a commitment to social justice amongst members of this sector. This grant helped *Bina* develop and expand *Bina Baschuna* (“*Bina* in the Neighborhood”), a program created by former *Bina* students with the express purpose of conducting activities in neighborhoods with less empowered and underserved populations.

Leveraging the collective power of the many organizations addressing issues of religious pluralism, *Panim* coordinates a coalition with the goal of spearheading the campaign to increase Ministry of Education funding for organizations involved in pluralistic Jewish education. This grant supported *Kol Yehudi* (“a Jewish voice”) a project of *Panim* that helps organizations promote pluralism and garner government support for state schools engaged in pluralistic education. *Re’ut* is a Jerusalem high school that defines itself as a pluralistic religious school and has the explicit long-term goal of establishing a pluralistic stream in Israel’s education system. This grant was made to help *Re’ut* consolidate their model for dissemination, develop the curricula, and implement long-term teacher training programs for staff members of other pluralistic schools. There are new learning initiatives outside of the classroom as well. A grant to *Tehuda* supports the full opening of a pluralistic *Beit Midrash*,

the development of a social justice track, and supervision for emerging projects. A final grant to *Hamakom* supports a training course for chaplains.

Finally, the Reform and Conservative movements in Israel have long been cultivating pluralistic Jewish expression. A grant to the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism was made to establish two new social justice workshops and a grant to the *Masorti* (Conservative) Movement was made for the movement's public relations and advertising campaigns.

*Objective 2: Create conditions in Israel such that every couple can marry according to his/her personal choice*

A general support grant to New Family is furthering its work to bring together lawyers, educators, and economists to promote family rights, to provide moral and legal support for all definitions of the family unit, and to ensure the fulfillment of these families' rights and obligations. A significant portion of the organization's activities focuses on promoting alternative (i.e. non-Orthodox) marriage and divorce. The Forum for Freedom of Choice in Marriage also seeks to abolish the Orthodox monopoly on marriage in Israel. While the Forum made significant headway last year, the chance of actually implementing a solution to the problem of marriage in Israel depends greatly on the composition of the government which is very much in flux. This six-months grant was made as a bridge for the organization to observe developments in the field and government and develop a new work plan for the future. Finally, on the ground, The Institute of Jewish Secular Rites continues to create, profile, and conduct alternative life cycle rituals) for secular Israelis and expand its organizational capacity and reach.

*Objective 3: Strengthen liberal elements within Orthodox Judaism and increase their influence in areas where ultra-orthodoxy currently defines the content and character of Jewish life*

Some of the most powerful and effective change happening within the Orthodox community is around issues of women. The Religious Women's Forum, founded by National-Religious women, aims to improve the status of women by deep-seated reform through a consensual process of change from within the Orthodox community. This grant supports the organizational development and expansion of the Forum's activities including a new project, The Institute for Gender and Family in Judaism, that is remarkably creating ongoing dialogue between the rabbinical establishment and the Orthodox women's movement. One of the most pressing issues for women is that of *agunot* (refusal of a divorce). This general support grant to *Mavoi Satum* is helping to advance the status of *agunot* through: Support to women in their dealings with professional agencies; consciousness-raising workshops; work with rabbis and rabbinical court judges to raise their awareness of the problem; and public education about prenuptial agreements and promotion of their use as a routine practice. *Mavoi Satum* also advocates on behalf of *agunot* through the International Coalition of Agunah Rights (ICAR). The grant to ICAR supports this broad based coalition -- currently with 24 member organizations from across a religious and ethnic spectrum -- in its work to educate and advocate on the issues of *agunot*.

Most of the organizations that are addressing issues of Orthodox women are very aware of the importance of engaging younger women. *Pelech* is at the heart of many of these efforts. *Pelech*

is a religious high school for girls in Jerusalem that is concerned with reshaping Orthodox women's place in the Orthodox community and in Israeli society and works to inspire its graduates to play active roles, as professionals and leaders, in the Orthodox women's movement. This year a final grant was made to help *Pelech* develop and strengthen the teaching staff and continue to develop new curricula.

In addition to the Orthodox women's movement, there are several organizations seeking to create new voices from within Orthodoxy. *Mimizrach Shemesh* places a strong emphasis on the social values of Judaism and promotes social justice based on Jewish sources; advocates a moderate, traditional Jewish identity; and integrates the heritage of *Mizrahi* Judaism in the general Jewish discourse. This grant helps to support Rabbinical Social Leadership, a new leadership development project targeting young rabbis, with the goal of creating a cadre of rabbis committed to promoting social values. *Ne'emanai Torah Va'Avodah*, an organization recently revitalized by new talented young leadership, promotes a modern, moderate voice within Orthodoxy and calls for a change in the priorities of Religious Zionism. The organization seeks to integrate Torah and science; to promote the status of women in the Orthodox community; and to engage the religious Zionist community in a wider range of social issues. This first grant was made to help *Ne'emanai Torah Va'Avodah* develop and implement a public relations and marketing campaign to increase public exposure to the organization's activities and to amplify the moderate Orthodox voice.

*Objective 4: To ensure the full participation of Russian immigrants in the creation of a pluralistic Jewish culture in Israel*

Leaders working to engage immigrants from the Former Soviet Union (FSU) in pluralistic Jewish culture have begun to articulate best practices and identify obstacles to success. Leading the list is the importance of leadership coming from within the community. Of late, there are beginning to emerge organizations in this area founded and run by immigrants from the FSU. A grant to *Esh David* is supporting a course for pluralistic Jewish leadership. The program trains young immigrants from the Ashdod area, provides tools to develop and run Jewish-identity projects, and helps to promote these projects. Other programs such as *Meitar* -- The College of Judaism as Culture, while not established to work exclusively with new immigrants, has created programs to respond to their needs. *Meitar* works with non-religious Jews in Israel towards a greater awareness of Judaism's pluralistic values and encourages them to experience and learn about Judaism and Jewish culture. This grant was made to support the development and implementation of a holistic community project "Judaism as Culture" in Ashdod, an area with a large immigrant population from the FSU.

*Objective 5: To support Israelis seeking to change the legal structure, which limits religious freedom*

Grants to The Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC) and The *Masorti* Movement are supporting their respective and often coordinated legal activities to advance religious freedom in Israel for all citizens. They focus on the ongoing issues such as ensuring the rights of non-Orthodox Jews to worship according to their own customs at national religious sites and issues of marriage, divorce, the status of *agunot*, *mamzerut*, conversion, etc. In many ways, the work of IRAC and the *Masorti* Movement are the legal complement to the work of the Forum for Freedom of Choice in Marriage, the Institute on Jewish Secular Rights, ICAR, *Mavoi Satum*, and the Religious Women's Forum.

## APPENDIX B: ENVIRONMENT

2004 Strategic Guidelines and Grantees in Israel with the Green Environment Fund (GEF) and in partnership with the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies and the New Israel Fund

Our grants support citizen-based efforts to promote environmental justice through the Green Environment Fund (GEF), a philanthropic funding consortium. GEF is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in Israel by promoting a healthy and sustainable environment. GEF seeks to prevent imminent environmental degradation and to safeguard dwindling resources for future generations. GEF believes that everyone is entitled to protection from environmental dangers, and works to extend these protections to Israel's most vulnerable communities. Central to GEF's vision is the development of a strong environmental movement and the empowerment of the next generation of leaders and activists. GEF also promotes public participation in all levels of the planning process - from drafting and enacting municipal bylaws to advocating for the national policy.

Our grants with the Green Environment Fund (GEF) also seek to:

- Build the capacity of the environmental movement by providing financial assistance, technical assistance and professional guidance and oversight to grassroots and other organizations;
- Promote the development of a highly diversified environmental movement by supporting a wide range of grantees - from well-established, nationwide organizations to small, start-up organizations;
- Encourage coalition-building and joint campaigns to enhance the effectiveness of individual organizations and the environmental movement as a whole;
- Invest in the sustainability of organizations, providing grants not only for new projects, but also for ongoing administration costs for organizations;
- Strive to include environmental justice as an element of every project and activity; and
- Boost public awareness and activism by supporting organizations that work in formal and informal educational settings.

Goal 1: To prevent environmental degradation and to preserve dwindling natural resources, particularly in vulnerable communities on the economic and geographic periphery of Israeli society

*Objective 1: To protect and rehabilitate Israel's water resources*

*Objective 2: To thwart encroachment on open spaces*

*Objective 3: To preserve and protect air quality*

A series of connected grants are addressing the interlocking issues of water contamination, development of open space without sufficient planning or community input, and dangerously high levels of air pollution. A grant to Israel Union for Environmental Defense (IUED) for *Open Space in the Urban Environment* is supporting the legal and professional work focused on protecting and preserving urban open space nationwide. IUED's *Clean Air Now* project continues the work of establishing clean air laws, policies, and means for enforcement. IUED also works with the government on cleaner energy sources and exerts pressure on the national transportation companies.

Green Course, a national university student activist network, embarked on the *Moving Ahead Transportation Project*, a wide-scale campaign of public pressure calling for the rapid development of public transportation. A grant to the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) supports the *Coalition for the Preservation of the Judean Hills* to protect the valuable open spaces to the west of Jerusalem from unplanned, rampant development. Finally, a grant to Citizens for the Environment in the Galilee (CFE) for the *Conservation of Water Resources* is supporting a network of projects minimizing the water pollution caused by illegal solid waste sites. This grant is also supporting the increased involvement of CFE in the environmental health field particularly in the heavy industry area of the Acco and Haifa Bay.

Goal 2: To promote a strong and active environmental movement that acts on behalf of all of Israel's citizens including the most vulnerable ones

*Objective 1: To raise public awareness about the impact of environmental degradation, particularly on public health*

*Objective 2: To enhance the ability of vulnerable communities to defend their right to environmental protection, through training and coalition-building*

*Objective 3: To increase public participation in planning processes*

*Objective 4: To strengthen public education about the environment, particularly in the schools*

Virtually all of these grants advance one or more of these objectives (and in many cases all of them), reflecting the effort to create a more holistic environmental movement. At the heart of this developing movement are organizations strategically making links between initiatives, increasing organizational capacity, and seeding and supporting new initiatives. The SHELI Fund gives seed grants to local grassroots environmental organizations, links them to larger national initiatives, supplements the grants with organizational development consulting from Shatil, and offers legal advice through the IUED. Shatil's *Environmental Justice Project* provides organizational development, trainings, technical assistance, and coalition coordination for environmental organizations.

Life and Environment is establishing the *Pro-Bono Center for the Environment* harnessing pro-bono aid from professional communities for environmental organizations. A grant was also given to enable Life and Environment to host the national environmental conference and organize the *Environmental NGO Event*. The Green (and Black) Globe Award is an annual large scale event with media exposure, participation from high profile performers and politicians, and broad involvement of environmental NGO's. Finally, the Heschel Center's "*Maof*" Seminar is an annual 3-day seminar for the directors of Israel's environmental NGO's to rethink the direction of the movement, improve strategies, and develop new collaborative work. Much of the environmental movement's most innovative and sophisticated thinking emerges from this seminar.

Some grants support specific approaches to change. On the legal front, IUED's *Environment and Community* is providing the Israeli public – particularly vulnerable communities – with legal and professional support for environmental issues free of charge. The *Transportation Project* of SPNI, Israel's largest environmental organization, is promoting a national and local transportation policy based primarily on reducing the use of private vehicles and with an emphasis on land use planning. At the forefront of the emerging Israeli environmental movement are young people and particularly college students. A general support grant to Green Course is enabling this student-based organization to grow and professionalize. It remains the most activist arm of the environmental movement and a critical source of new leadership.

Israel's small size intensifies many of its environmental issues, but it is also a great asset to social change. Local initiatives in key areas quickly become models and can impact the larger movement fairly quickly. Three SPNI initiatives exemplify the way in which local SPNI chapters can play a critical role in shifting the paradigm from one of environmental defense to one of solution based coalitions. A grant to SPNI -- *Tel Aviv Center for Environmental Action* is supporting regional environmental work in the Tel Aviv area and creating a framework of coalitions for joint action regionally around specific issues such as transportation, education, advocacy, and empowerment of local communities. A grant to SPNI -- *Derech Haifa Coalition* is supporting a coalition of 16 groups from all neighborhoods of the city to address planning and environmental changes that will impact the city's future. The organization works through advocacy, legal action, and the creation of alternative land plans. SPNI- *Sustainable Jerusalem Coalition*, a regional coalition, is bringing together Jerusalem's diverse and often factious communities -- Jews and Arabs, religious and secular, *Mizrachi* and *Ashkenazi* -- around environmental issues. Over 50 local organizations are working together to promote sustainable solutions to a host of issues in the Jerusalem area. The coalition embodies the way in which "environmental issues" are intimately tied up with broader issues. Ultimately this coalition is wrestling with issues of community, values, and a sustainable future.

Public education, consciousness raising, and highlighting the values at stake are all key to developing this movement. The Green Network embraces 42 schools across the country and is developing and supporting: School based environmental initiatives; regional networks of schools; a yearly National Conference for Environmental Education; "The Earth is in Our Hands" environmental education journal; and a conference for hundreds of young environmentalists. More broadly, general support for the Heschel Center enables it to take the lead in building leadership, think tanks, new alliances, and public education around the

social dimensions of environmentalism. The Heschel Center is one of the most effective forces for building an effective and broad thinking social movement in Israel.

Finally, a grant to the Pilot Project for Public Health and the Environment is exploring the connection between health and the environment in Israel. GEF has hired a project coordinator and is creating a steering committee and work plan to begin to map out a strategy for this new initiative. The field of Environmental Health is very nascent in Israel and, though extremely new, this pilot project has peaked considerable interest among NGOs, academics, and foundations.

## APPENDIX C: THE NEGEV INITIATIVE

2004 Strategic Guidelines and Grantees in Israel in partnership with the New Israel Fund

The Negev Initiative – A public education, community organizing, and coalition building campaign addressing the critical challenge of status, recognition, and relocation faced by the Bedouin in the Negev by:

Forestalling the implementation of the Sharon Plan, a six-year plan calling for the forcible relocation of the Bedouin in tandem with increased enforcement of discriminatory building laws, stepped up home demolitions, and crop dusting;

Preparing the Bedouin to negotiate a compromise that respects their land rights and traditional lifestyle, and also meets their needs for health, education, and employment;

Educating government officials, the media, and the general public with regard to the risks, costs, and impacts of the Sharon Plan and possible alternatives;

Fostering a Jewish-Arab partnership to promote the basic civil and human rights of Bedouin in the unrecognized villages; and

Generating broad public support for this effort within the Jewish community in Israel and abroad.

We sought to advance this strategy through four interlocking grants. The Regional Council for Unrecognized Arab Bedouin Villages in the Negev works simultaneously on two fronts: to achieve government recognition of the unrecognized villages and before official recognition is granted, to advocate for services for the 70,000 citizens residing in them. Our support helps to further this work and to develop cohesive Bedouin leadership. A cornerstone of the Council's strategy is the Together Forum Coalition. This unique Jewish-Arab coalition of 32 local, national, grassroots, and professional organizations is promoting recognition of the unrecognized villages; advancing dialogue between government officials and the Bedouin community; fostering Jewish-Arab partnership resulting in widening circles of support among Jews and Arabs; and garnering general public support for the civil rights of the Bedouin in the unrecognized villages, through a well-orchestrated media campaign. The Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) and *Bimkom*, both members of the steering committee of the Together Forum, are collaborating with and complementing the work of the Together Forum. ACRI, Israel's leading human and civil rights organization, is working on critical legal issues while *Bimkom*, with its staff of sociologists, planners, and architects, is developing alternative planning models.

### Next Steps

In the coming year the Foundation will assess its work in Israel and determine the issue areas and strategies the Jewish Life and Values Program should continue to develop and support. We will assess what changes in our approaches might result in even greater impact and explore what new ways the Foundation can play a role in creating a more vibrant, just, secure, and peaceful Israel.

# Interprogram Initiatives for Social and Economic Justice

## Introduction

2004 marked the third year of Interprogram Initiatives for Social and Economic Justice. Interprogram operates in partnership with the Foundation's four core program areas to augment their potential impact by bringing together diverse communities and developing coordinated, integrated, systemic solutions to foster a more equitable and socially just society, through a strategy of accountability and social alliance building.

In 2004, Interprogram participated in 69 programmatic grants and 12 affinity and membership grants. Of the 69 programmatic grants, 2 were made by Interprogram and all four program areas; 47 grants were made by Interprogram and one other program area; 19 grants were made by Interprogram and 2 other program areas; and 1 grant was made with Interprogram and 3 other program areas.

Interprogram supported twelve affinity organizations with general support and membership grants. Four of these organizations have the potential to address relevant issues at the national level such as payout requirements, excise tax, the estate tax, nonprofit governance and accountability. These include: the Council on Foundations, Inc., the Foundation Center, Independent Sector, and the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy. The Foundation also participates in regional forums, conferences and events sponsored by the New York Regional Association of Grantmakers and the Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York. The remaining affinity and membership grants - Association of Black Foundation Executives, Inc., Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, Neighborhood Funders Group, Rockefeller Family Fund Inc. / *Grants Managers Network*, Tides Center / *Social Venture Network*, and Women & Philanthropy, Inc. – are organizations in which staff members and Trustees actively participate on Boards and committees. These cohorts address issues relevant to specific communities or fields of interest within the nonprofit world.

## GOAL

To support social and economic justice, in order to encourage equitable and sustainable development that promotes democracy; as well as community, cultural, social, spiritual and individual wellbeing. Interprogram will advance this goal by supporting the exploration, development, and implementation of public policy, private efforts, and activities for institutional and systemic changes.

## OBJECTIVE I:

*To establish the accountability of economic, social or governmental institutions, especially corporations, for the consequences and effects of their activities on the environment, and on people, their health, wellbeing, cultures, and communities.*

## OBJECTIVE II:

*To address these social, political, economic, environmental, cultural or health issues in an integrated way by:*

- *bringing together groups—often separated by narrow issue interests and by race, religion, gender, class, ethnicity, and national origin—into crosscutting constituencies based on common economic, social, and ethical concerns; and*
- *creating both the possibilities and the demand for development of more systematic solutions to these issues, as well as the social basis needed for their implementation.*

### Corporate Accountability

In 2004, Health and Interprogram made two Presidential Authority Grants (hereafter referred to as PAGs) that complement Foundation shareholder activities with regard to the pharmaceutical industry. The Connecticut Citizen Research Group, Inc. and the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc. -*Pharma Futures* project received PAGs to explore the pharmaceutical industry's responsibility to provide access to affordable drugs by bringing together industry members, key stakeholders and individual investors. In the area of climate change, Environment and Interprogram made a PAG that complements our proxy work to the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc. for the *Carbon Disclosure Project*. This project continues to mobilize shareholders and corporations as they assess investment risk resulting from environmental impact.

Two grants were approved to help build diverse national coalitions that will address the declining availability of healthcare services and coverage provided by corporations. Health and Interprogram support allowed the Center for Community Change to bring together labor, advocacy, community, service agency, disability, and faith-based organizations to develop a long-term strategy that holds corporations accountable for their workers' access to healthcare. Health and Interprogram funded the Education Fund of Family Planning Advocates of New York State, Inc. to work with consumer groups, healthcare providers and public policymakers to protect patients' rights by holding religiously sponsored hospitals responsible to provide complete healthcare information and services.

Health and Interprogram renewed their support to the New York Unemployment Project, Inc. to work with restaurant workers and labor on the intersection of occupational safety and public health issues. Health, Arts & Culture and Interprogram jointly renewed a grant to the Catticus Corporation to produce a film that brings together communities and farmers around the negative impact of corporate farm usage of pesticides on the health of workers and their communities.

A renewal grant to the Civil Society Institute, Inc. was made to continue supporting litigation, to be brought by the Attorneys General of several states, designed to hold corporations directly accountable for the negative impact their emissions have on climate change. Support for the Institute for America's Future Inc. / *New York Apollo Project* cultivated a coalition of labor leaders, environmental and environmental justice groups, community development organizations, businesses and government officials that will create jobs and reduce energy dependence. Environment and Interprogram funded a two-year grant to the Organization for Competitive Markets Inc. to bring together family farmers,

ranchers, agricultural economists, attorneys and rural businesses to develop a business model that supports industry decentralization, community health and environmental protection.

A PAG made by Health and Interprogram to Human Rights Watch, Inc. (HRW), brought together local, state and national groups to elevate the dialogue surrounding working conditions of the poultry, beef and pig industries to human rights language thereby bringing greater accountability pressure on these industries. Commonweal, supported by Environment and Health, works to develop a language and value system that focuses on the health costs of environmental pollution while bringing together health professionals, labor leaders and environmentalists to leverage buyer cooperation to effect industry change. Environment and Interprogram funded a grant to the Environmental Working Group to hold corporations accountable for the impact pollution has on personal health, including increased incidences of asthma in children.

In order to protect the individuals that publicize corporate sector violations, Health, Environment and Interprogram collaborated on a grant to the Government Accountability Project, Inc. (GAP) to bring together whistleblowers, non-profit organizations and labor as it provides legal and advocacy assistance and support for whistleblowers holding corporations accountable for wrongdoings.

Grants to the Shefa Fund (Interprogram and Jewish Life) and the Appleseed Foundation, Inc. (PAG) (Interprogram and Health) work to cultivate new social and financial investment models in the interest of holding small businesses and individuals accountable for the impact and effects of their activities. Shefa promotes socially responsible investment and the use of stockholder proxy power. Appleseed develops small business models that provide employer-based health care coverage.

Two projects focused on increasing access to affordable prescription drugs by responding to the pharmaceutical industry's activities that threaten the achievement of this objective. The Center for Public Integrity received a grant to develop databases that track research and development costs as compared to marketing costs, the industry's political contributions, and its blurred relationship with the FDA to hold the industry accountable. The Maine Citizen Leadership Fund received funding to continue to defend the state's prescription drug program and promote progressive tax reforms that will enable the state to maintain it.

Interprogram renewed support for five projects that address issues of corporate responsibility for the impact of their activities on the surrounding communities and the health of their workers. Interprogram, Health and Environment participated in grants to Health Care Without Harm and the Pesticide Action Network North American Regional Center to shift the burden onto the health care industry and agri-business respectively for the negative impact their use of chemicals has on individual and community health. Interprogram and Environment supported projects of the Land Stewardship Project and the Farmers' Legal Action Group, Inc. This work focused on holding agricultural corporations accountable for the environmental and community health impacts of their practices and policies. Interprogram, Arts & Culture and Health partnered on a grant to the Institute of Public Life (IPL) to support its work to build alliances between immigrant workers and other low-to-middle income residents of Nebraska and Iowa. IPL holds corporations accountable for the work conditions faced by low-wage workers in the meatpacking industry.

Three grants were approved to address corporate influence in order to create positive impacts or redress abuses. Along with Jewish Life & Values, Interprogram made a grant to Jewish Family & Life, Inc. (PAG) to support *Project Manna*. This project encourages companies to contribute to social change by giving funds to alleviate hunger and poverty. Interprogram and Arts & Culture made a grant to the New York Foundation for the Arts, Inc. for the *Guerilla News Network, True Lies* to examine the impact of consolidating media ownership and hold those corporate interests accountable to the public. The Center for Investigative Reporting, Inc. was supported by Interprogram and Environment to fund the research and production of pieces that expose abuses of power in Nathan Cummings Foundation interest areas.

### Government Accountability

In 2003, tax cuts reduced the available dollars for social services, health care and the environment. All programs, but especially Health and Environment, were involved in grants to address the impact of the reduction of fiscal resources. The National Women's Law Center, funded by Health, Environment and Interprogram, brought together civil rights, policymakers, advocates, media and labor groups to effectively address the tax cuts by involving the public in the policy discussion regarding their potential impact. Health and Interprogram collaborated on the *Economic Justice Project*, a project of the William J. Brennan Jr. Center for Justice, Inc. that assisted local and statewide economic, health and environmental coalitions with policy research and litigation designed to hold the government accountable for workers' access to healthcare and safety. Health and Interprogram also made a grant to the USAction Education Fund (PAG) to hold the government accountable to provide affordable prescription drugs by including seniors and disabled persons in the discussion around the practical implementation of new Medicare regulation. A grant was made by Health, Environment and Interprogram to the Midwest States Center to build coalitions of local and state officials that will engage the public in economic, environmental and health policy reform.

Arts & Culture and Interprogram renewed support to the Center for Arts and Culture. This grant focuses on three new communities that participate in an established network of public policy think tanks and community organizations that continue to hold government accountable for ensuring the role of the arts within the national policy arena.

In November, three grants were made that hold the government accountable for ensuring the preservation of rights that are threatened by either inadequate or inconsistent implementation of federal programs or restrictions on federal funding. The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, supported by Health and Interprogram, is developing a court-ordered remedy that ensures that the children of Cook County, Illinois receive adequate health care coverage through Medicaid. This model and resulting program will be disseminated to other states. Interprogram, Arts & Culture, and Health made a grant to the William J. Brennan Jr. Center for Justice, Inc. (PAG) for the *Access to Justice* project to defend the right of nonprofits against unfair restrictions on their activities in NCF program areas when they receive private and public funding. Arts and Interprogram supported the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights to hold our government accountable for human rights abuses perpetrated by the criminal justice system against our nation's youth. Together - youth, education rights activists, and criminal justice reformists – will create art that promotes public awareness about the fiscal trade-off between education and incarceration and presents alternative solutions.

All program areas collaborated on a grant to The Lummi Indian Business Council to support the strengthening of their youth by conducting a feasibility study that will establish accountability for the high incidents of drug use, teenage pregnancy and drop outs and lead to the development of a solution-oriented Youth Academy.

Interprogram, Environment and Health supported three organizations that will focus on developing progressive statewide fiscal and social agendas. The University of Wisconsin, Madison's *Center on Wisconsin Strategy* was funded to develop alternative state policies that create a high wage, low waste, and environmentally sustainable economy that leads to health and other social benefits. This integrated program simultaneously addresses problems in health, environment, and social justice, while uniting diverse communities on the basis of common economic, social and ethical concerns. The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy received a PAG to document corporate tax avoidance and its health, environmental, social and economic impacts to inform the federal tax policy debate. Strategic Concepts In Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE) and California Partnership for Working Families organized for low-wage workers' access to health care while also addressing adverse environmental impact within California by building statewide social alliances with broader public policy agendas.

All too often, the short-term benefits of policies overshadow the potentially detrimental long-term effects. Interprogram grantees elevate issues within the public and private arenas to leverage pressure to develop comprehensive, in-depth, responsible policies that incorporate long-term impacts. Interprogram and Environment were involved in a grant to the Forum on Democracy and Trade to address how international trade agreements affect federal, state and local environmental protection. Arts & Culture, Health and Interprogram supported Dance Exchange, Inc. to promote responsible dialogue on the social and ethical implications of genetic research as it may impact low income and immigrant communities.

Interprogram and Jewish Life partnered on three grants that address the Israel/Palestinian conflict. Grants to the United Religions Initiative (URI) (PAG), the Peaceworks Network Foundation (PNF), and the Israel Policy Forum (IPF) seeks to build new social alliances to influence the US and other governments to develop effective, practical, implementable plans for peace. This cluster of grants will cumulatively target religious leaders in this country, lay-people and leaders in the region, and government and business officials. They will address accountability regarding the conflict and aim to leverage their combined pressures to create dialogue and positive movement in the direction of more peaceful societies.

#### Corporate and Government Accountability

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) received a PAG from the Jewish Life & Values Program, Health and Interprogram to engage interfaith communities in the ongoing "Cover the Uninsured" campaign. Through this work, JCPA engaged interfaith communities in the ongoing dialogue regarding corporate and governmental responsibility to provide affordable health insurance. Health and Interprogram supported the Applied Research Center to investigate discrimination against immigrants in healthcare services that inhibits uniform access and to develop more equitable "best" practices. The Environmental Health Coalition was funded by Environment, Health and Interprogram to cultivate a coalition of labor and environmental justice groups that will work to establish accountability for adverse health impacts on communities of color living in the San Diego/Tijuana communities. Among

other ills, these communities confront child lead exposure, toxic pollution from the maquiladora industries, and San Diego Bay and community-wide pollution from Navy yards, motorists, and other industries.

Arts & Culture, Environment, Health and Interprogram supported a renewal grant for the *Bill Moyers' NOW* program of the Educational Broadcasting Corporation to continue producing programs at the Washington bureau (whose establishment NCF aided) that highlight relevant issues including: corporate power, public health, environmental regulation and alleged government malfeasance. Environment and Interprogram funded a grant to Public Interest Projects to quantify the social values of the American. This grant supplements the support of George Lakoff, initiated by the Environment Program, by developing quantifiable measures with which to evaluate the Rockridge model.

Arts & Culture and Interprogram renewed a grant to the William J. Brennan Jr. Center for Justice, Inc. to support the *Free Expression Policy Project* that works to protect creative development from the constraints imposed by restrictions of the public domain. The Arts & Culture Program and Interprogram are strategically harnessing the cultural power of a new generation and giving it voice to effectively demand accountability and change. We experienced success with this approach in Jewish Life & Values Program funding of cohorts insofar as they engaged young people in Jewish activities within a contemporary context that resonated with them. Similarly, Arts & Culture and Interprogram supported The New York Foundation for the Arts, Inc. and the National Black United Fund, Inc. to engage the younger generation in their own language and context by bringing together activists, organizers, artists and academics. They will develop an agenda that identifies issues that concern them and create actionable strategies to influence the discourse surrounding those issues.

Nascent organizations with creative ideas and talented individuals are given opportunities through a variety of leadership training projects that bestow upon the participants the skills, experience, voice and vision to effect long-term change. Interprogram has partnered with the Environment on several of these training projects including, the Rockwood Leadership Program (along with the Jewish Life and Values Program), the Liberty Hill Foundation, and Earth Day Network. Arts & Culture and Interprogram funded a leadership training project at the Tides Center for the *League of Young Voters Education Fund Training Program* and at 1+1+1=ONE.

Several grants provide grantees with training in organizing and communication strategy skills within the context of the larger policy community. The Independent Media Institute (funded by Interprogram, Arts & Culture, Environment, Health and Jewish Life & Values), the Bay Area Video Coalition, Inc. (funded by Interprogram and Arts & Culture), and the Tides Center's *Organizers' Forum* (PAG – Interprogram and Environment), will train various organizing, artistic, activist and advocacy constituencies engaged in efforts that support NCF's mission. Grants were made to the National Alliance for Media Arts Centers, Inc. to research media policy issues that affect the arts community and to Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility, Inc. to document successful community arts models. Through this process - NCF grantees and other organizations that hold corporations and governments accountable for the impact of their practices and policies - will learn to use comprehensive frames to develop more effective communication strategies to disseminate alternative, solution oriented models.

Two regionally-targeted grants were made by Interprogram, Health and the Environment to address development in the western part of the country. The Western Organization of Resource Councils Education Project builds multi-issue, multi-constituency coalitions that hold corporations and government accountable for their actions in the Rocky Mountain and Great Plains regions. The Front Range Economic Strategy Center was funded to hold corporations and government responsible for community-centered development in Denver, Colorado.

A cluster of five renewal grants was approved to build on the recent successes of the Apollo Alliance in developing an interconnected, multi-constituency model that weaves environmental, health, labor and development issues into a single fabric. These grants - Common Assets Defense Fund, Institute for America's Future, New York City Environmental Justice Alliance, Inc., Redefining Progress, and the Public Health Institute – bring together activists, organizers, and policymakers to establish corporate and governmental accountability for the efficiency of a clean energy economy that creates positive health care impacts and reduces imported energy dependency.

### Next Steps

Interprogram will continue to elevate an alliance building and accountability frame by allowing other Foundation program areas to leverage funds when their projects address these strategies. These two lenses, in conjunction with program-specific objectives, increase and broaden the scope and impact of NCF grantee activities. Interprogram will remain responsive to the Foundation's program fields' needs and strategies.