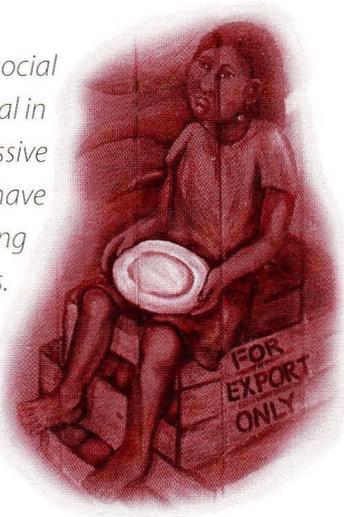


NetworkNews Winter 2000



Globalization Why Should We Care?

Addressing Globalization is key in creating social change. For twenty years NNG has been integral in the development of an infrastructure of progressive philanthropy. As a diverse group of grantmakers we have consistently challenged ourselves to make our funding more effective, to take risks, and to explore new issues. In this **NetworkNews**, you will discover how four NNGers address the impact of Globalization, and what it has done to communities at home and abroad. As you read, challenge yourself to think strategically for global social change.



An invitation to support the people in the South

Jose Artiga Executive Director & **Jean Stoke** Washington DC Director, SHARE Foundation: Building a New El Salvador Today

“**I**NVITE YOU TO SUPPORT US in the South” says Grandma Beta who lost everything to Hurricane Mitch. Her teenage daughters work in the *maquila* sweatshop and her sons are in El Norte. Grandma Beta knows that as the economy is going global, we need global solidarity to build the international “beloved community.”

Globalization is weaving the fates of the people of the North and the South ever more closely. Sinking wages in the South are pulling down wages and workers’ rights in the North. Economic growth models that ignore the poor majorities in the South are further imbedding poverty and suffering and creating new waves of immigrants to the North. While these immigrants are prevented from crossing borders, cap-



ital flows freely, due to new treaties imposed by the World Trade Organization, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The neoliberal economic policies being promoted favor production for the global market over production for domestic need, and diminish environmental protections, human and labor rights, and the power of national governments, even to address basic needs like food security. The “free

market” reigns as a god and it is being promoted as the ultimate measure of democracy. This corporate-driven Globalization is deepening poverty and destroying local cultures.

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Globalization: A danger that should unify progressives

Harriet S. Barlow Director, Blue Mountain Center

It is bemusing to our friends abroad that only a small group of foundations are supporting work that explicitly fosters the links between the grassroots and the global. Activists from around the globe contend that emerging political realities dictate that if we are to protect the gains we have made over the past decades, much less advance on other fronts, those links will become ever more crucial. What are these new realities that others think that we are failing to appreciate?

Essentially, democracy is being preempted by Globalization. The central implication of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the major duomo of Globalization, is that the people no longer decide. By participating in the WTO, we abdicate our authority to a corporate-dominated bureaucracy and court in which there is no balance of power and from which there is no appeal.

How that pertains to the day-by-day community organizing we support became clear when the WTO ruled against Caribbean banana growers. The WTO ruled that, under their guidelines, importing countries could not favor exporting nations for encouraging the very conditions for which we advocate—local, cooperative ownership, fair wage and sustainable growing conditions. That decision potentially strips the small, indigenous growers of their primary markets in Europe and probably condemns their livelihood. US leaders such as Randall Robinson, Danny Glover and Maxine Waters who rallied to support the island growers quickly became opponents of the broad prerogatives of the WTO. They realize that the WTO also would prohibit divestment campaigns, preferential hiring or purchasing and government subsidies and regulations (such as the Community Reinvestment Act) as “unfair trade advantage.”

Over the past three decades corporations have successfully secured their autonomy by moving ever further from community accountability. Local ownership matters because it marries authority to responsibility. Not only can we name a culprit, but we can also organize to force it to redress our grievance. But once the corporations

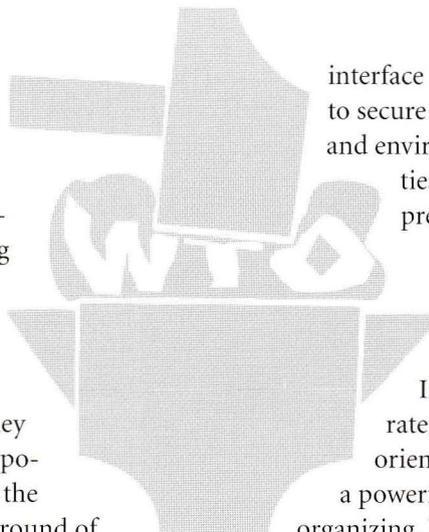
merge internationally and gain the cover of the trade agreements, they are too removed for redress by conventional means.

We have options. The two prongs of a winning response to Globalization are internationalism and localism. Since the Nestle Boycott first modeled activist cooperation against corporate hegemony, numerous campaigns have deepened our strategic capacity. Cross border work with Mexico, anti-sweatshop campaigns and the remarkably successful effort to block the Multinational Agreement on Investments demonstrate our ability to meet the demands of contemporary political conditions.

In each successful international organizing campaign, the ingredients have been similar. Through extensive face-to-face and electronic communication, US groups forged working alliances with their Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) counterparts abroad. The partners devised strategies based in a comprehensive analysis of corporate and governmental behavior. Sharing leadership across borders, leveraging local work with sophisticated media (“smoke and mirrors”) and building coalitions across issue and constituency lines have enabled dynamic forms of activism to emerge. Usually the objective has been to short circuit a specific corporate behavior; but advocates from both the grassroots and policy sectors have understood that we also need to strengthen potential counter forces to the corporate infrastructure, such as the United Nations and the World Court.

Simultaneously, progressive workers have recognized the importance of acting together to reestablish the prerogatives of place-based

democracy. Bringing international issues back home to boycotts and actions on the streets gives base and heart to global campaigns. It also illuminates the importance of locating authority with those who feel the impact of decisions. In the US, community organizers struggle to deal with privatization and preemption. In fact, they represent the same issues of corporate domination that arise with the WTO. For example, in the next round of the WTO, negotiators will attempt to include public services such as water ownership, health care and education under WTO authority. Consequently, we are challenged to work at the



interface of international and local fronts to secure the right balance of economic and environmental standards, civil liberties, human rights and political prerogatives. In Seattle this December, we witnessed the birth of a potentially powerful new cross-sectoral movement. Intergenerational, anti-corporate, international and community oriented, it could be the generator of a powerful new dynamic in political organizing. For progressive funders in the US the question is, are we ready to do our part to make it happen? I'm going to our Network's March conference to find out. I hope to see you there. ■

Invitation

continued from page 1

Iowa corn is sold cheaper there than what the local farmers produce. In Haiti a son cannot afford his mother's rice because US rice dumped there is cheaper. Peasants and farmers around the world are losing their land and their way of life, flooding to urban areas, where the water sources are drying up. Pizza Huts dot the cities and the youth now want Coca-Cola instead of *horchata* and the drinks made from the local fruit trees. Behind closed doors, the development path being designed is to make Central America and the Caribbean into one big *maquila* sweatshop. Grandma Beta and the elders of her community are not consulted on these policies.

The challenge before the world's poor, and the friends and funders who support them, is to resist neoliberal economic models and to chart alternatives. Participation of affected communities in setting the rules of the game is key.

El Salvador is a test case where such a challenge is underway. Grandma Beta is organizing and marching on the streets. She is also involved with a microlending circle and women's group. Strong *campesino* peasant organizations are carving a role for small producers in the context of globalized economies. Tens of thousands have marched in the streets to resist the dominant economic policies, and they have designed an alternative platform for rural development that is creative, viable and desperately needed. I am

proud that our SHARE Foundation and so many other grantmakers have helped with funding and technical support to bring this coalition of *campesinos* and cooperatives together, representing 70% of the country's rural sector. Together with them we are carrying out internationally coordinated advocacy strategies to advance their alternative. SHARE co-sponsored a South-South Exchange, together with the Center for Economic Justice, EPICA, 50 Years is Enough, Lambi Fund, Grassroots International and others, which brought together grassroots leaders from El Salvador, Chiapas, Brazil, Nicaragua, Honduras, Haiti and Cuba. It enabled the leaders to exchange strategies for resisting global economic policies and building alternatives.

When NAFTA went into effect just six years ago on New Year's Day 1994, the Zapatista rebellion in Chiapas exploded, but few Americans made the connection. Seattle showed with strength that people are waking up. It requires "global solidarity"; and it is happening.

Progressive funders are invited to see the domestic-global links of Globalization and support movement-building efforts of the poor around the world. Bold organizing is happening in the South—from South Africa, to the Philippines, to Chiapas, Haiti and El Salvador. I invite you to walk with the organized poor of the South.

It is about David and Goliath. With one difference, here we all can win. This is becoming a smaller planet. Let's take care of it, and make it home for all. ■

National Network of Grantmakers

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Women, globalization and human rights

Mallika Dutt Program Officer, Human Rights and Social Justice, Ford Foundation, New Delhi

THE WORLD IS UNDERGOING significant transformations which provide both new opportunities and pose serious challenges to the creation of a just world order. Trends toward a free market model of economics, combined with technological innovation and increasingly fluid capital, has resulted in the creation of an international global economy.

For women, the process of Globalization raises many complex issues. Economic Globalization brings both opportunity and exploitation. While the adverse consequences affect women in negative ways, Globalization has given women different work options and transformed family relationships. Millions of women now constitute cheap migrant labor and constitute an important source of revenue for their country's debt repayments. Many women assert that working on the assembly line, albeit for a cheap wage, is better than the unpaid drudgery of agricultural work. Internet and other computer technologies enable women who have been restricted in their public access, to communicate with the world, share ideas, and start businesses.

Parallel to the trend toward the Globalization of the economy has come an increase in religious fundamentalism as well as the assertion of ethnic identity. Increasing assertions of identity in the form of ethnicity, religion and nationalism are also the loudest voices resisting economic trends that lead to job insecurity, cutbacks in social services, and decreasing corporate accountability.

This rise in fundamentalisms places women in a difficult position. Religious fundamentalism, whether it be Christian, Jewish, Hindu, or Muslim, has infused public debate on many issues through an organized and concerted focus on definitions of the family and the state. Religious fundamentalism places great emphasis on the role of culture and religion in society, and in particular on the role of the family. Since women are held responsible for the well-being of the family and are often considered to be the site of

the preservation of tradition and culture, the growing power of religious fundamentalism reinforces patriarchal notions of appropriate roles for women both within the home and without. Restrictive prescriptions about dress, public mobility, and sexuality have surfaced worldwide, accompanied by an increase in violence against women who break these rules. Gains that have been made in some countries in the areas of reproductive control, sexual choice, divorce, child support, and access to the work force are now often under attack. At the world conferences in Cairo and Beijing, many of the battles for reproductive rights, inheritance and property rights and redefinition of the family

were fought with fundamentalist forces who had a strong influence on their respective governments. The fact that these same forces are often the strongest influence on governments to mediate the negative consequences of Globalization, creates dilemmas for women who also wish to pursue an economic justice agenda.

These global trends have manifestations in the United States. The economic Globalization process has spurred a decrease in real wages, a rise in contingent or temporary work, the loss of jobs, and a continuing growth in homelessness and poverty. As the very basis of democracy, the electoral process in the US faces a predicament as fewer and fewer citizens vote and people become increasingly cynical about representational politics. In terms of the increased influence of religious fundamentalism in the US, the religious right has used issues like abortion and lesbian and gay rights to capitalize on people's uncertainties about their livelihood and increase its power in policy-making and in setting social agendas. It has also fomented the currents of racism prevalent throughout the US, with the result that anti-immigrant sentiment is on the rise and people of color are being scapegoated for the country's problems. While the US faces a complex number of internal crises as a result of

The global dialogue has brought women in the North and the South into closer collaboration in demanding women's human rights.

domestic policies and changes in global politics, American foreign policy continues to be interventionist without the check that used to be imposed by the presence of the Soviet Union as a balancing world power.

“State sovereignty” has been weakened as Third World countries have less leverage with the North and by the role of such multilateral institutions as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Moreover, the changing role of the state in the trend towards Globalization of economics and politics poses new challenges to grassroots organizing. The state has generally been a primary focus of movements for social change where people have struggled to make it more accountable to marginalized or oppressed groups in society. The focus on the state has taken different forms.

In some parts of the world, the authoritarian or the heavily bureaucratic structure of state power has been an obstacle to achieving justice and therefore, groups have attempted to dismantle or reform the state apparatus. In other countries, the struggle to achieve justice has tended to focus on transforming the electoral system so that it will be more representative of different groups. However, with the growing conservatism vis-a-vis the “welfare” state in Western countries and the Globalization of the market system, it has become more difficult to hold the state accountable for its actions. The issue of accountability has therefore become increasingly complex since it is even more difficult to hold the “market” accountable for the effects it has on society.

At the same time that women all over the world grapple with these contemporary political processes, they continue to contend with pervasive, day-to-day violence. Women experience female foeticide; selective malnourishment; domestic violence; and rape and torture on a mass scale in times of peace and war, in refugee communities, at home, and in the workplace. In addition, the problems of unequal wages, unpaid labor, land ownership, and access to resources like water and firewood continue to pose serious obstacles to women’s full participation in civil society.

However, the process of Globalization has also facilitated the growth of a vibrant global women’s movement. Recent world conferences



including the ones on human rights; population and development; and women, have demonstrated that women are now a potent force in civil society. The state of flux across the globe provides women’s movements with important opportunities to participate in and define the new world order. A movement in this direction requires an understanding of the interconnectedness of women’s oppression across identity and issue lines; it also requires a political analysis that connects local organizing to global trends and movements. Organizing in this manner can happen at many levels and in collaboration with diverse movements and actors. Most importantly, the global dialogue has brought women in the North and the South into closer collaboration in demanding women’s human rights. These global alliances are still fragile and it is imperative, particularly for social justice groups in the North, to understand that it is no longer possible or useful to build movements for justice in isolation from the rest of the world. In creating a global civil society that pushes the process of Globalization in a more humane and democratic direction, we will need to work and think together in more visionary and creative ways. ■

The views reflected in this article are the author’s. See also, Mallika Dutt, *With Liberty and Justice for All: Women’s Human Rights in the United States*, (Center for Women’s Global Leadership, 1994).

Globalization and indigenous peoples

Debra Harry Executive Director, Indigenous Peoples Council on Biocolonialism

GLOBALIZATION SEEKS to establish corporate regimes on a global scale, designed to benefit those who can afford to participate, and the shareholders who will profit from it. Globalization, in many respects, is a modern-day version of an age-old process: colonization. In the old days, piracy and slavery were sanctioned by the Queen; now the agents of resource theft and exploitation are multinational corporations, sanctioned by themselves.

Indigenous peoples represent much of the world's biological and cultural diversity. Their lands and territories are resource rich. In order for Globalization to achieve its goals, Indigenous peoples must be kept powerless, silenced, invisible and ignored while they bear the brunt of Globalization.

Indigenous peoples, undoubtedly, are the ones most adversely affected by globalization and by the WTO Agreements. However, we believe that it is also us who can offer viable alternatives to the dominant economic growth, export-oriented development model. Our sustainable lifestyles and cultures, traditional knowledge, cosmologies, spirituality, values of collectivity, reciprocity, respect and reverence for Mother Earth, are crucial in the search for a transformed society where justice, equity, and sustainability will prevail.

—Indigenous Peoples' Seattle Declaration,
on the occasion of the Third Ministerial
Meeting of the World Trade Organization
November 30-December 3, 1999

Indigenous peoples from around the world attended the World Trade Organization (WTO) demonstrations in Seattle in an effort to raise their collective voices in opposition to common issues, and to appeal for the support of those who care about human rights and justice. They shared tragic stories of exploitation of their peoples; forced removal from their homelands, extraction of their resources, and policies that deny them protection within the dominant legal structures of the nation-states they exist within. Native people are concerned about corporate domination that commodifies their water, forests, genetic resources, indigenous knowledge, and erodes tribal sovereignty.

The situation for Indigenous peoples in South America is getting worse; our lands are contaminated because of oil, mining, damming and dredging of our rivers, and clear-cutting of our forests. Current WTO policies have encouraged murder, genocide and dislocation of Indigenous peoples in their homelands.

—Nilo Cayuqueo of the Aby Yala Fund

The weakening of trade policies and mining laws allows the free entry of corporations to take over Indigenous lands, evict Indigenous peoples and claim the rights over their resources.

—Victoria Tauli-Corpuz of the Indigenous Peoples Network for Policy Research & Education, based in the Philippines

Who are we, as Indigenous peoples, in a globalized world? We are peoples, struggling for nothing less than survival as land-based, spirit-centered communities of culturally-distinct peoples. Our societies are bound by cosmologies and belief systems that mandate we do what ever is necessary to ensure the survival of our peoples; to protect our territories, our rights to self-determination, and to ensure a healthy future for coming generations. Our cosmologies are based on principles and values that oftentimes stand in direct contradiction to the values espoused by those who advocate free trade, global domination, ownership and control.

When I talk about current issues with an indigenous audience, I remind them that we are talking about two all too familiar problems: greed and racism, and I see the nods of agreement around the room. Greed, in all of its manifestations, is easily recognized and results in the appropriation and theft of natural resources and traditional knowledge. Racism is at the heart of oppressive policies because it allows for the de-humanization of peoples. This mindset, that holds Indigenous peoples as not fully human, facilitates policies and actions that one would never impose upon someone considered of equal humanity.

Greed and racism have been the driving forces behind a process of colonization, and now Globalization, that violently oppresses Indigenous

peoples the world over. The severity of the violence varies in different parts of the world, but the intent behind the oppression has never wavered.

To support a profit-based system, people need to be oppressed. This system requires everything to be commodifiable. It requires access to resources that are unavailable because indigenous peoples are standing in the way.

—Jeannette Armstrong,
Biopiracy: Colonialism in the New Millennium

Paulo Freire wasn't thinking about Globalization when he wrote his seminal work *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* in 1968, but it is easy to see that the old paradigm of oppression continues to play itself out in the new world order, some thirty years later:

The oppressor consciousness tends to transform everything surrounding it into an object of its domination. The earth, property, production, the creations of humans, humans themselves, time—everything is reduced to the status of objects at its disposal. More and more, the oppressors are using science and technology as unquestionably powerful instruments for their purpose: the maintenance of the oppressive order through manipulation and repression. The oppressed, as objects, as 'things,' have no



purposes except those their oppressors prescribe for them.

—Paulo Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*

It is important to recognize that Indigenous peoples refuse to become a chapter in history. Indigenous peoples represent some of the oldest continuous societies on Earth. They have not, and will not, abandon their identities, nor their human rights to exist as self-determined, autonomous peoples, and continue to stand firm in their traditional homelands. Indigenous peoples are voicing their pleas to the world for basic respect as human beings with a right to exist as who they were created to be. ■

Membership Form

NAME AND POSITION _____

GRANTMAKING INSTITUTION/AFFILIATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE/FAX/E-MAIL _____

Preferred method of contact: Fax E-mail Phone

NNG is a membership organization of and for individuals involved in progressive philanthropy.

NNG Individual Membership **\$150**

Tax-deductible contribution _____

Total _____

Please make checks payable to: **NNG** • 1717 Kettner Blvd., Suite110 • San Diego, CA 92101
Contact Membership Coordinator, Nicole Trombley with any questions at **619.231.1348** or nicole@nng.org

Our Newest Members

NNG is a membership organization. Our direction and work comes from the ground up—our members. Welcome to our newest members!

Chris Allan, Global Greengrants • **Anne Bleecker Corcos**, Seeds for Communities • **Philip Blumenthal**, Director, Blumenthal Foundation • **Karen Byers**, CFO, Markle Foundation • **Shannon Cain**, Program Officer, Amazon Foundation • **Rick Cohen**, President, National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy • **Amina Dickerson**, Director of Corporate Contributions, Kraft Foods • **Juan Dominguez**, Program Manager, Grants for the Arts/ SF Hotel Tax Fund • **Ellen Fennell**, Grants Director, Heifer Project International • **Julie Herman**, Program Officer, Beldon Fund • **Donna House** of San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico • **Benita Kline**, Vice President, Leventhal/Kline Management Inc. • **Meagan Labriola**, Director of Special Projects and Development, National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy • **Ruby Lerner**, Executive Director, Creative Capital • **Tim Little**, Executive Director, Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment • **Peg Logan**, Executive Director, Chinook Fund • **Jerry Mander**, Program Director, Foundation for Deep Ecology • **Jennie Miller**, Operations Director, Colorado Energy Assistance Foundation • **Anne Mosley**, Senior Vice President, Center for Policy Alternatives • **Susanne Paul**, President, Global Action on Aging • **Mary Phillips**, Vice President, Grants Management Associates Inc. • **Carol Prins**, President, Jessica Fund • **Sushma Raman**, Program Officer, Open Society Institute • **Suk Rhee**, Program Director, Arsalyn Foundation • **Julie Robbins** of New York City, New York • **Lucy Salcido Carter**, Program Officer, David and Lucile Packard Foundation • **Sheri Sandler**, Reba Sandler Foundation • **Lani Shaw**, Executive Director, General Service Foundation • **Frances Sowers**, Associate Director, McCune Charitable Foundation • **Ruby Takanishi**, President, Foundation for Child Development • **Ernest Tollerson**, Program Officer, Beldon Fund • **Frances Vilella-Velez**, Trustee, Valentine Foundation

Changes in the Network

- We would like to welcome **Kolu Zigbi** to the **Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation**. She joins as a Program Officer responsible for Sustainable Agriculture and the New York Metropolitan Area Programs. She comes to Noyes from the **Citizen Committee for New York City**.
- At the **Arca Foundation**, **Donna Edwards** has joined as the new Executive Director. She was formally with the **National Coalition Against Domestic Violence**.
- After almost six years as the **Norman Foundation's** Program Director, **Michelle Lord** has left. She and Donald Ross have launched **Lord, Ross** a philanthropic consulting firm that assists both veteran and emerging philanthropists. And, the Norman Foundation is undergoing some restructuring due to a generational transition and will not be considering grant applications or new proposals until June 1, 2000.
- **Marcia Festen** has left the **MacArthur Foundation** after seven years. Her new consulting practice **Marcia K. Festen Associates** provides services to non-profit organizations and foundations.
- **Joan P. Garner** is the new Executive Director of the **Southern Partners Fund**. SPF was created in 1998 by grantee partners of the **Bert and Mary Meyer Foundation**, which has pledged its entire \$5 million asset base to SPF's endowment campaign.
- **Hugh Burroughs**, has been named External Affairs Director for the **David and Lucile Packard Foundation**, where he has been a Senior Program Officer.
- **Carol Pencke** has joined the **Applied Research Center** as the Director of Development.

Please forward any changes, announcements and news to the NNG Membership Coordinator, Nicole Trombley at nicole@nng.org to be included in the next newsletter and to update our database.

Leading by Example

As we encourage NNG members to increase 1% More for Democracy, we would like to recognize those making a significant contribution to help empower and support communities and organizations whose voices have been traditionally unheard in the democratic process. In the philanthropic community we have remarkable institutions that can—and do—pay out to the maximum capacity of their organization.



- With assets of over \$14 million, the Butler Family Fund paid out **10.7%** in 1998, and **8.9%** in grants only. Foundation president Alan Morrison comments, "The question is not whether in the long run more money will be paid out by conserving assets and allowing reinvestment, but instead whether the current needs of our country are such that it is more important to try to solve these problems now rather than hope that more money will do more good at some indefinite point in the future."

On Funding

"... other affronts to human life and dignity"



Alan Rabinowitz Pequot Fund

WE ARE GATHERED here today to discuss the spat between the Center for Third World Organizing (CTWO) and the now Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) in order to shed some light on an important facet of progressive philanthropy, more explicitly the way in which "faith-based charity" fits into the whole matrix of grantmaking. Faith-based funders, Catholic, Presbyterian, Jewish, Unitarian and others, have been an intrinsic part of NNG from its start, so we must tread delicately into this subject. Accordingly I try below to turn a hot potato into tasty vichyssoise.

CTWO has been a racial justice organization dedicated to building a social justice movement led by people of color for 20 years now, and CCHD has been a domestic, anti-poverty, social justice program of the US Catholic bishops for 30 years. These two groups brought the matter to our attention, and without trying to estimate the extent of the problem in the field, I concluded it is important that we consider together the basic principles involved in the dispute.

The issue as I see it is the extent to which each of us honors the rights of others to be true to their own lights, so that we should feel fine if CCHD wants to stop funding groups advocating or abetting abortion, and we should also feel good about the right of CTWO to advocate for reproductive freedom and to train its practitioners.

I can remember a time when there was a nice relationship between the CTWOs and CCHDs of the world, each allowing some scope to the other, although neither was necessarily entirely "transparent" (a popular word these days) to the other. At the present time,

some of the faith-based foundations' positions are becoming more fixed, but, since every action (such as any foundation's decision to terminate a certain form of grant) can generate an equal and opposite reaction, we can profitably expend a little thought on what some likely consequences (other than a public spat) might follow from such a decision. Here are a few possibilities:

■ I would hope for wide defense of each community organization's right to promote and support what it feels is a worthy project, even though some potential funder might declare the project "an affront to human life and dignity."

■ Perhaps one of the reactions will be greater acceptance, however grudging, of the right of faith-based foundations to NOT fund "projects of organizations which promote or support abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty, or any other affront to human life and dignity."

■ Since for every right there are obligations and responsibilities, I feel both sides need to join in mutual recognition that our US Constitution and its Bill of Rights and other useful amendments are to be respected, regardless of how we might disagree about the proper separation of church and state matters.

■ And, lastly, I believe another most desirable outcome would be development, by both faith-based and secular groups, of new and improved sources of financial support for a broad range of activities to advance human welfare, to get fairness back into our democracy's social contract, to obtain just wages, to protect the environment, and to create a sustainable economy. This outcome is basically the essence of NNG's strategy for increasing the flow of money into progressive causes and its campaign to increase payout by

foundations. There's enough work here, jointly and severally, for all of us reasonably-progressive funders, whether we are faith-based or secular.

For years, religion has played an integral part in moving our society to the right. So, what might the long-term future have in store? How will the new funding guidelines of the Catholic CHD address the *multi*-issue work needed for community organizations to improve people's lives? As we write, the Catholic hierarchy is having its own internal traumas: how much of the Church's moral doctrine must Catholic professors conform to; how to deal with women wanting to be priests, and so on. The CTWO-CCHD spat is manifestly a part of these doctrinal struggles.

On the other hand, the grassroots supporters of projects that a faith-based funder (and many other citizens) would deem an "affront to human dignity" have their own challenges. Developing alternative funding sources is certainly one of the main ones, but the ultimate challenge is to be effective in helping people get enough power to convince legislators, administrators, educators, and police officers (to name a few) to protect the human environment as well as the property and natural environments.

Meanwhile, back at the NNG ranch, I find us seeing the strong positions of both CTWO and CCHD. Yet, both sides need to understand the other—funding carries with it the legitimate power to choose, and the effectiveness of grantmaking is partially dependent on hearing the voices of grantees. Both sides have much to do in their own bailiwicks, and you never can tell what drastic changes in forms we cannot yet imagine will affect both sides in this new century. ■



Now giving is just a click away

Michael Kieschnick President of Working Assets, the parent of GiveForChange.com

THE WORLD OF PROGRESSIVE philanthropy may never be the same. In the space of a single month, no less than four philanthropy portals appeared, each seeking to become the place that donors go on the internet to make donations to non-profit groups. Given the pace of change, *allcharities.com*, *charitableway.com*, *helping.org* and *giveforchange.com* will have been joined by others by the time this article appears in print.

Trends in philanthropy are not particularly promising for progressive non-profits. The average age of direct mail donors to such groups is now over 60, while the great majority of the exploding fortunes from the stock market are going into far more traditional philanthropy. Unless progressive grantmakers engage in this new arena, most of the benefits will go to traditional and even conservative groups.

Helping.org (run by AOL!) and *allcharities.org* specifically do not endorse groups on their sites, instead opting to cover all non-profits. However, it is well worth it to look a bit more closely. A search on *allcharities.com* under the category of abortion offers up primarily right-to-life groups, with no particular regard for ordering by either the alphabet or position. *Giveforchange.com* is the only explicitly progressive donation site, and essentially endorses the goals of any public interest group appearing on the site. *Giveforchange.com* relies upon *e-grants.org*, an affiliate of the Tides Foundation, to select progressive non-profits that appear on the web site, and then to pass the funds along to groups.

Progressive grantmakers can make a major impact by posting notes (essentially a Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval) for groups they have funded, much like Amazon posts reviews and comments by individual readers. Where this capacity is not available (it already is on *giveforchange.com*), grantmakers should lobby to make it possible.

Appearing on these kinds of sites raises tricky regulatory questions for a non-profit. States have provided consumer protection for groups raising money by requiring registration, typically with

either the State Attorney General's office or Secretary of State. Such rules have tripped up many groups raising money through direct mail. By raising money on the internet, a group may face a requirement to register in all states unless the donations actually got to an intermediary which itself has registered. Beware of sites which are not really clear on this point.

Two features of these new sites should be of major interest to progressive grantmakers—their search capabilities and the possibility of leveraging individual donors. Grantmakers, like just about everybody, get stuck in ruts. A daily search for new non-profits, or groups working in a related field, is far easier to start with an extra hour on a donation site than most other means.

Both *charitableway.com* and *giveforchange.com* are offering the service of administering matching grants, under which a donor can post a matching offer, hoping to interest donor surfers looking for places to give. Any foundation that does not wish to be a permanent funder should use this feature to help public interest groups widen their base of donors, by making some of their grants contingent on raising matching funds. It would be a major advance in progressive philanthropy if a foundation can help to wean groups that are wholly dependent on foundation funding by making it particularly attractive for individuals to fund them. A two for one offer might just attract thousands of individual donors into groups now invisible to millions of liberal direct mail donors.

The internet world is full of giveaways to attract attention, and these donation sites are no exception. *Giveforchange.com* launched with an offer to match \$1 million of contributions made to groups on the site, and individual donors also get a free pint of Ben&Jerry's ice cream for each contribution. There is no reason for progressives to pass up free money or fun! Grantmakers would do well to post their own recent grantees on-line and let roving donors search for matching offers or incentives anywhere on the internet. ■

Make democracy work

Ellen Gurzinsky Co-chair of the NNG Board of Directors

Now is the time for the citizens' backlash to become the "frontlash" for a new global economy. Unions, environmental groups and other citizens' organizations are demanding a place at the negotiating table to craft new rules to guide Globalization. And they are taking direct action to make their feelings known.

—Sarah Anderson & John Cavanaugh with
Thea Lee, *The Nation* (12/6/99)

IT'S GREAT TO BE the Co-chair of NNG with Ron at this moment in time. I am excited by the visibility of the *1% Payout Initiative* and by the discussions that they have sparked in philanthropy. And, the discourse in the last issue of **NetworkNews** about what that vision of democracy looks like is most interesting to me.

Clearly, no matter what the vision might be the direct action we witnessed in Seattle last month at the demonstrations outside the World Trade Organization meetings further the momentum for social economic and political justice. Unable to attend the demonstrations, I watched the TV and felt some familiar doubts about the coverage that we were being fed. And how quickly those doubts were confirmed when I received numerous e-mail accounts the next morning which described the "real deal"—the pre-demonstration activities, the street theater, the seminars and the meetings in a way not being covered by the mainstream press. Should I be surprised? I don't think so. Even more amazing were the accounts of demonstrations in other parts of world. Hurray for technology.

As I think about my own first direct action—anti-war demonstrations—I am reminded of the

frustrations we had with the media coverage. After a full day of stopping traffic in the middle of the Junction (where Flatbush and Bedford Avenues meet and a major thoroughfare near Brooklyn College... my alma mater... she says proudly!) I remember sitting by the TV at some friend's house waiting to see if there was coverage of our bold actions. No mention... we made no impact. We were so dependent on the mainstream news. And there were no technological ways to link our activities with those of other universities, cities and organizations. Does anyone even remember what a mimeograph machine looks like?

The work of the Seattle demonstrations continues in international and local struggles for environmental justice, economic equity and safe working conditions. It continues in the organizing around criminal justice issues and the privatization of the prison system. It continues in the organizing for education and housing. It continues in the building of strong, sustainable communities, both urban and rural. It continues in the ongoing organizing across race, class, gender and sexual orientation. This issue of **NetworkNews** is just a beginning—the upcoming national conference on March 15-18 in Boston on the impact of Globalization will be a tremendous resource for all grantmakers.

These struggles require resources for grassroots organizing and well mounted media campaigns. And they require grassroots organizations to upgrade technologically so that their campaigns are even more effective. As progressive grantmakers we need to take our kind of direct action. 1% More for Democracy, anyone? ■



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NNG's activities for the upcoming year include:

- Build our membership base
- Foster the Payout Initiative: 1% More for Democracy
- Enter into a joint campaign with the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy
- Advocate pragmatic strategies to increase funding of democratic, community-based initiatives, as well as progressive policy work
- Host a national conference
- Publish a revised Grantmakers Directory
- Update our 1998 research on social change giving
- A comprehensive study on diversity in philanthropy
- Collaboration with a broad base of allied organizations in the field, and
- Maintain our visibility in the philanthropic and mainstream media as the "voice of progressive philanthropy."



Staff Report

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NNG IS CELEBRATING OUR 20th anniversary this year. In two decades, the philanthropic field has grown tremendously. The number of grantmaking foundations has more than doubled, from 22,000 to over 45,000. The relatively high rate of foundation formation, combined with a rapid growth in investment income as a result of the booming stock market, has led to a situation in which foundation assets are increasing more rapidly than grants to non-profit organizations. Yet, contributions to charities that serve the poorest in our society have decreased over 4% in the last two decades. NNG's own research estimates that less than 3% of domestic grantmaking goes to social and economic justice organizations.

Recently, NNG has evolved from its longstanding role of membership support. Program activities since 1998 have focused increasingly on campaign related work and media outreach as well as research to support advocacy. NNG's primary mission is to increase philanthropic funds and resources for progressive groups.

1999 was a productive, if tumultuous year at NNG. We attained high visibility in the philanthropic and mainstream media. NNG experimented with a co-directorship structure and opened an office in Atlanta. As a result of Joan Garner's decision to leave, all our activities were centralized back in San Diego by September. The NNG staff is currently the most committed, stable and talented of my tenure. I hope you'll all take a moment to get to know them better.

At present, everyone in the office is focusing on our upcoming national conference, **Globalization: Why Should We Care?** From NNG's earliest days, sponsorship of a national conference of social change funders has been among the

most valued and vital activities of the organization. For the first time, participants in the conference can register on-line. Our web site www.nng.org has been key in building the organization.

Four newsletters will be published in 2000, with an enhanced design, and with our membership's pleas for more in-depth content and involvement. Our conference brochure and this **NetworkNews** are the first in these series of redesigns, and our web site will be revised to include more user-friendly functionality.

Much of our work in 2000 will involve showcasing grantees and highlighting social justice work in action. Payout is not an end in itself. While most of philanthropy is focused on payout as simply a numbers game of finances and investment banking, NNG has placed social change values at the heart of our initiative.

Research is essential as we move and educate the funding community around payout. Collecting the IRS form 990 and 990 PF from our membership has and will continue to enable us to analyze philanthropic trends within NNG. In 2000, our *Payout for Change* publication will present a payout trends analysis; highlight exemplary foundation leaders who have chosen to place grantmaking ahead of investment banking; and feature grantees that demonstrate the real impact of increased funds for social justice causes.

Through careful coordination of our communications strategy, membership involvement, and undertaking strategic, action-oriented research, NNG will continue to build our network of progressive grantmakers, and actively move more money to organizations working to build a more just and equitable world. ■

Globalization

Why Should We Care?

Boston, MA
March 15-18, 2000
Register at www.nng.org
or call us at 619.231.1348