Dear Friends,

Thanks to your generous support, the Institute continues to be very busy, as you can see in these pages. Over the past few months we have been able to support many exciting grassroots organizing and activist campaigns through our grantmaking and sponsorship programs. With your continued help, we can reach even more worthy projects with our crucial resources.

We are grateful to all of you who responded to the July letter from our Board of Directors about the Youth Manifesto Campaign’s counter-recruitment victory in Oakland, the massive anti-nuclear march in New York, Haitian resistance to corporate agriculture and other movement milestones. Thank you for being inspired to give so generously.

If you haven’t donated yet, or if you did and are able to give again, please take a moment to send us a check in the enclosed reply envelope or contribute through the JustGive button on our website. With your help, we can continue to grow our support for the many groups locally, nationally and around the world who are using nonviolent action as an instrument to further the struggle for peace and social justice.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Strole
Co-Director

Jane Guskin
Co-Director

Building Community, Fighting Displacement

In January 2010, the Muste Institute took on fiscal sponsorship of Movement for Justice in El Barrio (MJB, also known by its name in Spanish, Movimiento por Justicia del Barrio), a community organization founded in 2005 in East Harlem, New York City. The Movement is made up of more than 600 immigrant and low-income families fighting displacement from their homes in this neighborhood known as El Barrio, and building solidarity with like-minded grassroots social justice movements around the world.

The Movement’s mission incorporates struggles “for the liberation of women, immigrants, gays, lesbians, the transgender community, people of color, and indigenous communities.” Because many of its members are Mexican immigrants, MJB has close links with Mexico, and identifies itself as part of “The Other Campaign,” a nonviolent civil society movement started by the Zapatista rebels.

In February 2010, MJB hosted its Third Encuentro for Dignity and Against Displacement. Hundreds of activists from across the city took part in the gathering. Also present via live video link were South African activists from townships in Cape Town and Durban, where residents were resisting forced displacement ahead of the 2010 World Cup, and Mexican activists from San Salvador Atenco, who have been defending their community from the planned construction of a commercial airport.

February 2010: The Third Encuentro for Dignity and Against Displacement, organized by Movement for Justice in El Barrio, ends with a crowd of excited children helping to smash the “neoliberal piñata.”

The Visitors Hits the Screen

The Visitors, a Muste Institute-supported documentary about families who travel from New York City by bus every weekend to visit relatives in upstate prisons, was released in April 2009 to great acclaim. The story follows Denise, the bus coordinator (pictured here), whose husband is coming home soon after 17 years of imprisonment. The Muste Institute granted $2,000 in June 2006 through the Prison Action Network for production expenses of this film by Turkish-born director Melis Birder, which seeks to raise awareness about the impact of incarceration on prisoners’ families. In early 2010 the film screened at three New York prisons and at the Museum of Modern Art, and aired on the Documentary Channel. It will be shown this November at a meeting of the American Society of Criminology. It is also available on DVD; for details see http://visitorsdocumentary.com/.
Counter Recruitment Grants, June 2010

Community Alliance of Lane County, Eugene, OR: $1,500 for a project challenging the militarization of youth while working to support the movement for immigration reform, and focusing on the connections between these two issues.

Peace House, Ashland, OR: $1,500 for a program fighting the poverty draft by reaching out to high school students in the southern Oregon area of Ashland, Phoenix, Talent and Medford with information about the reality of military service and alternative education and career options.

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), San Francisco, CA: $1,500 for Full Picture, a project to increase the number of classroom presentations by recent veterans and to provide informational literature and resources on alternatives to the military to students in the San Francisco Bay area.

Adalys Travel Grants, June 2010

Activists from the Agroecological Movement of Latin America and the Caribbean (MAELA) gather in August in Asunción, Paraguay for a continental assembly held in conjunction with the Americas Social Forum. The Muste Institute’s Adalys Vázquez Solidarity Travel Fund helped a Guatemalan food sovereignty network, Redsag, send a representative to the meeting. The grant was one of seven the Adalys Fund made in June, totaling some $4,500; other grantees were from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and Mexico. For a complete list, see the online version of Muste Notes.

Remembering Martha Friedlaender

I was saddened to learn of the death of Martha Friedlaender on September 3 at age 78, after a long illness. She served on the Board of the Muste Institute between 1982 and 1986, and was also involved with the Fellowship of Reconciliation and the Ethical Culture Society. I worked closely with her at the time of the New York City mobilization against nuclear weapons in June of 1982, when the crowds filling Central Park were too vast to count. She was cheerful, determined, vigorous and active; a woman who lit the room when she walked in. She is missed.

—David McReynolds, Board Member

Martha in February 1985, at an event marking A.J. Muste’s 100th birthday.

Help Us Bring Nonviolence Back into the Classroom!

Our best-selling pamphlet of Martin Luther King’s great writings and speeches on nonviolence has just gone out of print—at a moment when fall classes are starting, and the rush of year-end donations is still around the corner. We need your help to reprint this great resource as soon as possible, so we can get it into the hands of students and activists around the country. Please donate now! (If you want your gift to go specifically for this purpose, please indicate “MLK” on the memo line of your check or when designating your online donation.)
Nonviolence Training Grants, July 2009 - June 2010

The International Nonviolence Training Fund (INTF) makes grants for nonviolence trainings outside the U.S. or in indigenous communities within the U.S. The next deadline is December 3, 2010. Guidelines and application forms are on our website at www.ajmuste.org/guid-intf.htm.

Between July 2009 and June 2010, the INTF made the following eight grants totaling $22,588:

active Nonviolence Education Center, Dharamsala, India: $2,888 in June 2010 (via Tibetan Children’s Villages) for a Training/Workshop/Open Forum Discussion on Active Nonviolence Strategies with Tibetan refugees.

Combatants for Peace, East Jerusalem, Israel: $3,000 in June 2010 for a Training in Non-Violent Action – Learning the Comprehensive Meaning of Effective Non-violent Resistance, an educational and participatory workshop to be held with Combatants for Peace members in Beit Jalla, East Jerusalem.

Community Initiative for Change (CIC) Trust, Nairobi, Kenya: $3,000 in December 2009 for a gender and nonviolence training for community leaders within informal settlements in Nairobi for sustainable post-conflict peace building.

Grupo de Reflexión, Oaxaca, Mexico: $3,000 in December 2009 (via Educa Oaxaca, Servicios para una Educación Alternativa A.C.) to build capacity in nonviolence for social movements in Oaxaca. An intensive training involved 50 participants from Catholic base communities, indigenous and campesino communities organizing for territorial and resource rights, organic farmers, unionized teachers and other social movements. A follow-up public discussion of nonviolent strategies was attended by 85 people, including students, professors, activists and leaders, in the city of Oaxaca.

Kwale Interfaith Youth Association, Mombasa, Kenya: $3,000 in April 2010 for a three-day active nonviolence training with 25 leaders from this youth association.

Mizrahi Democratic Rainbow – New Discourse, Tel Aviv, Israel: $2,500 in December 2009 for a training with 20 young activists from the ethnically mixed Dora neighborhood, who are organizing themselves to change the current academic system because it creates and perpetuates economic inequalities between ethnic groups and limits educational options. The training came out of a long-term awareness process facilitated by Mizrahi Democratic Rainbow-New Discourse, in which community members learn about the root, structural causes of the social injustices they face and build campaigns for change.

Palestine Solidarity Project, Palestine: $2,800 in January 2010 for the Center for Strategic Alternatives Political Action Training, helping Palestinian community members to develop autonomous strategies of nonviolent resistance to displacement and violence.

Whatcom Peace & Justice Center, Bellingham, WA: $2,400 in April 2010 for a “Community Honor and Resistance Nonviolence Training” on the Lummi Nation Indian Reservation, as part of efforts to create an active, inclusive, community voice for peace and social justice in Whatcom County.

Nonviolence Training Needs Support!

Your donations are needed to sustain the International Nonviolence Training Fund, so more people can learn how to collectively apply the theory and practice of nonviolent action to effective campaigns for social justice. The INTF’s grant-making focuses on building local training capacity throughout the world, especially in areas where funding is scarce. To support this important work, indicate “INTF” on the memo line of your check or when designating your online gift.
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