

Welcome to Our New Program Officers for OUT & Saguaro

Aleah Bacquie Vaughn is our new Grants Department program officer. She comes to FEX as the Director of Grants and Training at the Peace Development Fund, a national, progressive foundation based in Amherst, Massachusetts. Aleah has been involved in the funding community since 1996. Her Grantmaking experience spans a broad range of issues including cross-border, criminal justice, and LGBT organizing. Internationally, she has funded organizing in Haiti and several countries in Africa. Her own activism is rooted in the civil rights movement and includes multi-issue organizing for peace and justice. Aleah started with us just in time to dive into this year's OSD grants cycle.

Gail Drakes is our new OUT Fund Program Officer. Gail has been the much-loved Grants Administrator at the Funding Exchange, on a part-time basis, since 2002. She will continue that work as she takes on her part time duties with the OUT Fund. As Grants Administrator, Gail has worked closely with Grants Department program staff and has played an important role in the FEX grantmaking process. In addition, Gail is a doctoral candidate in American Studies at NYU where she studies documentary film and teaches African American and Asian American Studies. Gail brings experience organizing in AIDS prevention, anti-racism and education reform.



MTV FUND GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT

Voice and the Vote on the Border

Border Action Network (BAN) - Acción Fronteriza is a constituency-led immigration rights organization in the border communities of Southern Arizona. BAN received a \$20,000 Mobilize the Vote grant for their *Organizing the Border Vote Project*, which will register 10,000 Latino immigrants and border residents for early mail-in ballots and increase voter turnout in the border communities of Nogales and Douglas, Arizona, by 20%; a significant move toward reaching full democratic participation.

Increasing voter turnout among Arizona's Latino communities has never been more politically significant. Over the last three years, Congress has allocated more than \$8 billion in efforts to fortify and seal the U.S./Mexican border.

There are currently a dozen anti-immigrant proposals in the Arizona legislature and armed, camouflage-clad vigilante groups continue to hunt immigrants in the Arizona desert with impunity from state officials. As a result, the region is rife with fear and intimidation against speaking out and the subsequent treatment of Mexicans and Latinos, particularly non-citizens, as a second-class. The silenced voice of Latino immigrant and border communities on the Arizona/Mexico border has enabled elected officials to ignore the growth of anti-immigrant movements, to introduce anti-immigration legislation and to continue the egregious rights' violations that characterize the region.

With an increase in voter participation, Latino immigrant and border communities' voices can be heard and they can be

empowered to facilitate capacity-building efforts and initiatives within their communities. The multi-dimensional campaign consists of door-to-door absentee ballot campaigning; tabling to register new voters and sign up existing voters as absentee ballot voters; presentations to community groups and centers; house meetings to encourage community members in their homes about the importance of voter turnout; press conferences to mark each event; guest opportunities on Spanish media; letters to the editor and guest editorials in Spanish media, and phone banking to call registered voters in October and November, as Election Day nears.

Baltazar Garcia, a member of the group's Board of Directors, explained that "by registering as an absentee voter, many can avert time conflicts on Election Day as well as find time to be educated on issues being voted on. It will also make it easier for seniors who cannot make it to polling places to vote as well as lessen language barriers in the voting process."

Politicians highly favor and respond to communities with high voter turnout and provide more services to those communities. Rarely are such communities made up of poor and immigrant residents. Jen Allen, Director of BAN cites that: "For us, voting is about being heard and demonstrating a commitment to asserting and using the power of Latino immigrants and border residents."

As of mid-September, BAN has registered over 1,300 new voters in these two small Latino communities, and signed up even more vote-by-mail requests. Their work has drawn the attention of elected officials and candidates who are requesting meetings with members in both communities.

To learn more and get involved, call the Border Action Network at (520) 623-4944 or log on to www.borderaction.org

By Jerry Snee



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I am proud to share with you the National Office News. Mobilize The Vote Spring 2004 the Fund National Office launch. To date, we have granted \$400,000. We made a lot of large amounts - total about \$20,000. A big thank you who supported this effort and reading proposals. We appreciate your feedback.

Ellen Gurzinsky, Executive Director

We are proud to announce that our donors have been eager to initiate Mobilize The Vote. An informed electorate in this pivotal election is nevertheless rewarding. FEX has interests and from all parts of the Fund far beyond our goal. Vote Fund has given away ne

Wendy Chavkin, whose gift initiated that voter mobilization begins to know that small, community records and credibility to reach unlikely to respond to strange. And she knew that these organizations important work, long after November.

Before opening the Fund we gathered information on voter mobilization efforts to determine our work. Equipped with information and turnout rates in various communities to grassroots groups seeking voter efforts with their ongoing

Mobilize The Vote Fund grantees

as of 08/31/04

9 to 5 Colorado Chapter - Denver, CO \$20,000

This 9 to 5 Chapter is encouraging the vote of low-income women by focusing their voter registration, education and mobilization activities in welfare assistance centers throughout Colorado.

African American Voter Registration and Information Project - Denver, CO \$20,000

AA-VIP uses internet-based technology to identify eligible African American voters, correct outdated registrations and register new voters, and coordinates the voter education efforts of more than three dozen African American member organizations.

Border Action Network - Tucson, AZ \$20,000

(See Grantee Highlight section on back page.)

Colorado Progressive Coalition - Denver, CO \$20,000

Drawing on their presence in more than 80 Colorado towns, history of advancing health care reforms and organizing for civil rights and racial justice, CPC is registering 27,000 new voters at urban bus stops, citizenship ceremonies, housing complexes, mobile home parks and community events, and conducting a door-to-door GOTV campaign in 200 neighborhoods.

Contact Center - Cincinnati, OH \$8,000

Working in a predominantly low-income African American community, Contact Center is targeting their voter mobilization efforts in two areas where voter turnout is low and poverty is high, registering 750 new voters and turning out 1,500 infrequent voters.

Deep Dish TV (Wake Up and Dream Tour) - New York, NY \$35,000

The Wake Up and Dream tour is engaging young people by using video in a dynamic issue-base education and voter registration initiative. They will bring twelve short discussion-provoking programs made by independent video makers on 40 day tour in a mobile media van that stops in North Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

Delaware County Wage Peace & Justice - Media, PA \$10,000

This coalition of community groups, religious congregations, unions, women's organizations and student groups in the Delaware County, PA is registering 2004 new voters. They are reaching traditionally disenfranchised constituents such as African American, Latino, women and youth voters.

Grass Roots Organizing - Mexico, MO \$15,000

GRO is registering low-income people of color in the central Missouri counties of Audrain, Boone, Cole Montgomery, Callaway and Randolph, and, conducting voter education through door-to-door leafleting, phone conversations and community voter trainings. GRO is fighting for polling sites to be located within reasonable distance from public housing high-rises.

Iowa Citizen Action Network - Iowa City, IA \$20,000

ICAN Vote is a project that targets African American and Latino voters in four counties: Polk, Waterloo, Scott and Muscatine. ICAN is planning to register 10,000 unregistered eligible voters and turn out 27,000 voters through a combination of door-to-door canvassing, phone contact and radio ads.

Just Harvest - Pittsburgh, PA \$20,000

Just Harvest plans to register 1,000 voters before Pennsylvania's October 4th deadline, collect voter participation pledges from 3,000 constituents, and distribute 5,000 low-income voter guides.

Miami Workers Center - Miami, FL \$20,000

The Miami Workers Center is a strategy and organizing center for non- and low-wage workers in low-income communities in Miami and Dade County, FL. The Center is educating their constituents—welfare recipients, low-wage workers and public housing residents—about the issues that are at stake in the current election and spearheading a local

effort to bring independent observers to monitor the presidential elections in the Miami-Dade to ensure that the elections in communities of color are fair and transparent.

Michigan Citizens Education Fund - Kalamazoo, MI \$20,000

This is statewide effort with a coalition of over 400 member organizations that have already registered 30,000 new voters and are on course to register a total of 80,000 new voters by the October 4 deadline. This grant also support their plans to contact 285,000 low-propensity voter households.

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center - Milwaukee, WI \$20,000

The Center's goals are to increase the number and participation rate of LGBT voters by collecting voter pledge cards and building lists to support their GOTV activities, reaching approximately 6,000 infrequent voters. Their mobilization activities for the 2004 general election is building base to defeat a likely 2005 referendum on an anti-gay constitutional amendment.

Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Action Education Fund - St. Paul, MN \$10,000

MAPA is bringing together organizations that have no working relationships—from environmental groups to labor unions to build long-term, cooperative strategies around the 2004 elections and beyond. They are encouraging organizations to share information, reduce duplication and address barriers to voting.

Missouri Citizens Education Fund - St. Louis, MO \$10,000

The goal of this project is to register 37,600 African American voters throughout Missouri by October 1st. Their follow-up activities including direct phone contact, trainings on voting machines, a cable access television program, a report on the "confederate flag" controversy and candidates forums.

Native American Community Organizing Project - Phoenix, AZ \$11,000

NACOP is a non-partisan effort that reaches out to urban Indians in Arizona that is registering 3,000 Native American voters at medical facilities and via house parties. A crucial component of their work involves educating Native American voters on the historical struggle for the right to vote in their state and encouraging them to use their vote to voice their concerns on the modern day issues that affect their lives.

New Mexico Human Needs Coordinating Council - Albuquerque, NM \$20,000

The Council is a statewide coalition of organizations that is increasing the voter participation in communities where low-income voters and people of color live and elevating the visibility of health care, affordable housing and immigrant rights. They plan to register 5,000 new voters, educate and encourage voters about early voting events and encourage 1,000 people to vote via a mail-in absentee ballot.

SAGE Council/Native American Voters Alliance -Albuquerque, NM \$20,000

With this grant, SAGE will expand their Native American Voters Alliance database to 6,000 registered voters in the three counties, conduct outreach to urban Indian organizations, encourage the youth vote.

United for Peace & Justice - New York-based (national organization) \$20,000

United for Peace & Justice is mobilizing making the "peace vote" by strengthening the work of 300 chapters and member organizations located across the country. Their Voter Engagement Project will develop and distribute 1,000,000 handbills on the Iraq War and U. S. foreign policy.

Wisconsin Citizen Action Fund - Milwaukee, WI \$20,000

Building on their success in 2000 general election in which they increase voter turnout by 30% in 21 targeted Latino wards and added 2,453 new voters, Wisconsin Citizen Action Fund will work to increase voter participation in 105 low-turn out wards by registering 28,000 new voters, lifting voter participation among 15,000 infrequent voters and enrolling 3,000 people in the absentee ballot program.

Compiled by Trinh Duong

*FEX 25th Anniversary
Celebration
San Francisco*

Thank You Generous

Outside Agitators

Anonymous D

Red Diaper Babies

Shad Reinstein & Jo
Peter Reilly & Maureen
Agnes Gund & Dan
George Pillsbury & I
Jenny Warburton

Rabblers

Kimo Campbell
Marguerite Casey F
Jean Hardis
John C. & Diana L.
L. Diane Bernard & Jo
Michael & Frances I
Bert & Mary Meyer
Cathy R. Korn
Michael Ratner & Ka
Amelie L. Ra
Tides Founda
Mal Warwic

Treehugger -

A Territory Res
Astraea Found
Catherine Rap
Changemake
Chela Blit
Ellen Gurzin
Jean Entin
Lef Foundati
National Center for Le
Robert McK
Ronald P. Ha
Sandra Laure
The Women's Foundatio
Trillium Asset Manag

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*For event photos please
the 25th Anniversary s
web site: www.fex.org*