



Building Refugee Women and Youth for a Change

The listserv for Community Collaboratives for Refugee Women and Youth

November 20, 2003

1. **Community Collaboratives Update**
2. **Resources for Refugee Women and Youth Programs and Services – Grant Writing Tools**
3. **Upcoming Events**
4. **Funding Opportunities**
5. **Policy News – 2004 Refugee Admissions Allocations**

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Community Collaboratives Update

The staff of Community Collaboratives is now receiving and assembling a wealth of materials and resources developed by a number of the sites funded throughout the three-year lifetime of this project. The project itself concluded on September 30, 2003. *The Refugee Women's Leadership Project* in Baltimore, the *Refugee Women's Initiative* in Minneapolis, and the *Refugee Women's Development Project* in Salt Lake City have either submitted to us or are in the process of completing comprehensive best practices publications on respectively refugee women's leadership development, partnering refugee women with American mentors, and a small business training model using a local farmer's market. *The Bridges Project*, a Community Collaboratives funded project in Raleigh, North Carolina whose objective was to help meet the mental health and domestic violence needs of refugee and asylee women, has developed three separate comprehensive curricula on the three interrelated aspects of this project. The production of these rich resources required additional effort on behalf of already very busy people, and we commend them for taking on these extra initiatives. With the permission of each project, Community Collaboratives will distribute these resources to wider audiences who will undoubtedly benefit from their lessons and ideas.

The Community Collaboratives staff is carrying out a number of wrap-up initiatives. Each site will receive a **customized prospect research report** identifying potential corporate donors in their city and region. Corporations identified on the report will be those that have a record of giving in program areas that correspond to Community Collaboratives-funded programs in that city.

Community Collaboratives has commissioned a number of **policy papers** to provide a forum for the analysis of a range of important topics related to the integration of refugee women and youth. Andrea Frodema and Margaret Weeks are also conducting **exit surveys** and will use the information to compile a final contact list to promote future information sharing among our ten funded sites.

Community Collaboratives will release a **publication** tentatively titled "Strength in Numbers" that will honestly examine the benefits and challenges to developing and implementing collaborative projects as observed by more than thirty individuals – program coordinators, refugees, advisory council members and others – who have worked closely on Community Collaboratives funded projects. Finally, the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation is conducting an **evaluation** of the entire project. Information on completion and availability of each of these resources is forthcoming.

AmeriCorps*VISTA Spotlight

IRC Training at AmeriCorps*VISTA Early Service Training

On October 21-23, 2003, AmeriCorps*VISTA members who attended the July and August Pre-Service Orientations attended their Early Service Training in Arlington, Virginia. During the training, IRC's AmeriCorps*VISTA members convened for an IRC training focused on carrying out our VISTA National Initiatives. The four asset development teams – Public Education/Communications and Media Relations, Resource Development, Financial Asset Development and Individual Asset Development – met with their team members and captain to plan the initial action items for their respective national initiatives. An integral component of VISTA National Initiatives calls on VISTAs to conduct outreach in their communities to local businesses, donors, and universities. IRC staff provided training to support this work in the field. First, IRC's Director of Immigration Abby Price led a conference call training on strategic communications. During the training Abby emphasized the unique and important role VISTAs play in public education efforts. She advised VISTAs on best practices for approaching and presenting to businesses and universities. Following the communications training, Project Officer Andrea Frodema conducted a training on the basics of grant writing and fundraising specifically for foundations and corporations to support VISTAs' grant writing efforts.

Ethnic Greeting Cards

The 2002-2003 Salt Lake City VISTAs worked together with local refugee women from eight different ethnic communities to create ethnic recipe greeting cards. The VISTAs and the women gathered a total of 18 recipes, experimented with them, and selected eight to be featured on ethnic greeting cards. Using parables and photographs representing each woman's ethnicity and country, the VISTAs designed striking cards that provide a glimpse of the cultures of these refugee women. Within each note card, the recipes (including Somali Sambusa, Cuban Coongre, Bosnian Chevapi and Armenian Hashlama) are featured. The cards are being reproduced in a collection of eight and can be purchased for \$10.00 per set. Proceeds from the sale of the cards will go to a scholarship fund for refugee women interested in receiving driver's education. If you would like to order a collection of cards or would like more information about the project please contact VISTA member Laura Lincoln at (801) 328-1091 ext. 115 or via email laura@slc.intrescom.org.

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Resources for Refugee Women and Youth Programs – Grant Writing Tools

Free Management Library is a free community resource to be shared among and contributed to by users and readers across the world. The overall goal of the library is to provide leaders and managers, especially those with very limited resources, basic and practical information about personal, professional, and organizational development. Grant writing tools available in this library include the basics of nonprofit program design and marketing, techniques in writing proposals and grants, and many other useful resources. This library is available at http://www.managementhelp.org/fndrsng/np_raise/np_raise.htm#anchor4293048930.

Grantproposal.com: Aesthetics & Technicalities for Grant Writers provides free resources for both advanced grant writing consultants and inexperienced nonprofit staff. This website offers information on successful grant writing skills, tips on careful proposal preparation, and in-depth research of targeted funders. Sample inquiry letters and a full proposal are available on this website. These resources are accessible at <http://www.grantproposal.com/starting.html>.

Non-Profit Guides are free web-based grant writing resources for non-profit organizations, charitable, educational, and public organizations, and other community-based groups. The guides were created to support non-profits through the grant writing process and offer full proposal examples. The online guide is available at <http://www.npguides.org/index.html>.

The **EPA Grant-Writing Tutorial** was developed by Purdue University and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to help non-profit organizations identify financial assistance opportunities for their development programs and make it easier for applicants to produce more competitive grant applications. The tutorial provides tips for completing governmental forms, mock grant writing activities, sample proposals, additional resources, and contacts. This tutorial is available at <http://www.epa.gov/seahome/grants/src/msieopen.htm>.

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) evaluates hundreds of proposals each year for a variety of funding purposes. CPB has published an easy guide on the basic elements of grant writing. The publication can be viewed at <http://www.cpb.org/grants/grantwriting.html>.

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Upcoming Events

United Nations Universal Children's Day, November 20th

The UN General Assembly recommended that a day should be chosen to promote children's welfare after it had adopted the UN Convention of Rights of the Child in 1989. This suggestion resulted in the creation of the UN Universal Children's Day, which is celebrated annually on November 20th. The day is recognized worldwide as a day to promote the welfare of the world's children. For more information about global celebrations of this day, please visit www.un.org/Depts/dhl/children_day/.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, November 25th

In December 1999, the United Nations General Assembly declared November 25th the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women to highlight the important advances made in the campaign against violence towards women. This day provides an opportunity for the humanitarian assistance community to share their dedication and efforts to end gender-based violence and increase awareness about current and future challenges. More information about this day is available at www.unifem.org/campaigns/november25/.

World AIDS Day, December 1st

As of the end of 2002, UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, estimated there were 38.6 million adults and 3.2 million children living with HIV, and 5 million new people infected with the virus in that single year. To recognize progress made in battling this epidemic and remaining challenges, World AIDS Day was first commemorated in 1988. The theme for World AIDS Day 2003 is "Live and Let Live", and events will focus towards eliminating the stigma and discrimination that are the two major barriers to HIV/AIDS prevention and care. For more information about events in your region, please visit www.unaids.org.

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Funding Opportunities

The Candle Foundation is the giving arm of The Candle Corporation, one of the world's largest independent software and services companies. The foundation funds innovative, high-impact, low-overhead projects to 501(c)(3) organizations around the United States, with grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Funding is awarded in five categories: Community Investment; Education and Information Dissemination; Hunger and Homelessness; Medical Research; and Preventive Health

Services. Essential overhead expenses should be funded entirely by other resources. Where this is not possible, no more than 15 percent of The Candle Foundation grant should be directed toward overhead. Funds must be proposed for application to a specific project. Proposals must be postmarked between January 2 and May 1, 2004, to be eligible for 2005 grant awards. For proposal and application guidelines, see <http://www.candle.com>. Click on "About Candle, and choose "Candle Foundation."

Tom's of Maine's Giving for Goodness Program funds in communities around the country where Tom's products are sold. Funding priorities are in the area of Human Needs, favoring programs that address social issues, especially those affecting youth, people with disabilities and indigenous people; programs related to health and well-being; and programs that enhance family and community life, nurture a sense of community among diverse groups, and build community capacity to address and solve local problems. Education is the other funding priority, which favors programs that address innovative educational programs for children and adults, especially ones that foster understanding of the natural environment and encourage community outreach. Other funding areas include the arts and the environment. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Applications will be accepted between November 1, 2003 and February 1, 2004. Visit <http://pages.ebay.com/community/aboutebay/foundation/grantprogram.html>

The American Honda Foundation is the giving arm of the car manufacturer. The foundation funds programs oriented toward youth, including education programs and programs serving minorities. The first 2004 deadline is February 1. Grants range from \$40,000-\$80,000. See http://www.hondacorporate.com/community/AHF_app.pdf for an application.

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Policy News – FY2004 Refugee admissions allocations

On October 22nd, President Bush signed the annual Presidential Determination, establishing the number of refugees that the United States will admit during fiscal year 2004. Each year, the president is required by statute to authorize a set number of refugees from specific geographic regions around the world as eligible for resettlement in this country. The authorizations and geographical allocations for fiscal year 2004 are as follows: Africa- 25,000; East Asia- 6,500; Europe and Central Asia- 13,000; Latin America/Caribbean- 3,500; and Near East/South Asia- 2,000. In addition to these 50,000, another 20,000 slots are available to be allocated to regional ceilings as needed, bringing the total number to 70,000, the same admissions goal of the past two years.

Refugee advocates hope that the decision to maintain the admissions goal at 70,000 will be an important step in reviving the resettlement program, which has been facing a crisis in admissions since September 11, 2001. Even before the 2001 temporary halt and subsequent slow start up, refugee admissions had been declining steadily since the early 1990's. While this can be attributed to many factors, including the implementation of new security procedures, advocates maintain that a primary factor has been the structure of the resettlement program itself and its lack of accessibility to some of the world's most vulnerable refugees.

Voluntary agencies including the IRC support the President's decision to admit 70,000 refugees in FY 2004 and urge continued efforts to identify populations for whom resettlement is the only durable solution in order to maintain the United States' rich tradition of protecting those who have fled religious and political persecution.

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What is Community Collaboratives?

With funding provided by the Office of Refugee Resettlement at the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Community Collaboratives offers training, technical assistance, and funding nationwide to raise the level of programming for refugee women and youth. For more information about this program, please visit our website at: <http://www.theirc.org/resettlement/rwy>.

If you have suggestions or items you would like to see appear on future editions, please send a message to quocn@theirc.org. To subscribe to the Community Collaboratives for Refugee Women and Youth Listserv, please send an email to: rwy-subscribe@topica.com.