

SEPTEMBER, 2007

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FOUNDATION FOR CHANGE

A NEW LOGO ... AND A NEW FOUNDATION FOR CHANGE

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OUR MISSION & VISION

The Foundation for Change plants, waters and nurtures grassroots organizations working for progressive social change in the San Diego/Tijuana region.

We envision a flourishing "bi-national garden" of grassroots organizations working for social, economic and environmental justice.

Learn more by visiting us on-line:
www.foundation4change.org

The Board of Directors has approved a new logo and "tagline," but the changes are more than cosmetic. In fact they signal a number of significant shifts in the life of the Foundation for Change.

First, the Board has made a clear commitment to think and work "bi-nationally." The causes of social injustice in our region are deeply rooted on both sides of the border, and so our commitment to grassroots organizing requires that we seek out community-led efforts for progressive social change in Tijuana, as well as in San Diego. From this point forward we will present ourselves, quite simply, as the Foundation for Change.

Second, the changes also reflect a renewed commitment to movement-building as a pri-



Foundation for Change

Growing Grassroots Movements in San Diego & Tijuana

mary strategy for promoting progressive social change. The Foundation for Change is committed to funding community organizations that are the local expressions of world-wide

movements that all progressive-minded people care about, or ought to — the movements for human rights, for economic justice and for environmental sustainability. These causes are of paramount importance and demand the very best of what we have to offer, right here at home.

By promoting social movements like these on both sides of the border we aim to make a vital difference in the San Diego/Tijuana region. A new day is dawning in the life of the Foundation for Change.

As always, we thank you for your most generous support.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

NOVEMBER 11, 2007

The Foundation for Change has held four house parties in 2007, aimed at introducing new donors to our work of investing in and supporting progressive grassroots organizations in San Diego and Tijuana. Over \$25,000 has been raised

at these parties and over 150 households have made their first-ever donations to the Foundation for Change. The next house party is now being planned for the evening of Sunday, November 11 at the home of Drs. Ed & Wita Gardiner in La Jolla. For more information call 619-692-0527.

APRIL 5, 2008

On the evening of Saturday, April 5, 2008 the Foundation for Change will celebrate its 25th anniversary at the Birch Aquarium overlooking La Jolla Shores. Mark your calendars now and stay tuned for more information!

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Eight months ago I began my work as Executive Director of the San Diego Foundation for Change.

In this short time I have grown more and more impressed by the wonderful work accomplished since this organization began in 1983 as a San Diego chapter of the Los Angeles-based Liberty Hill Foundation. (The Foundation for Change became its own non-profit corporation in

1994.). Below — see “Success Stories” — you can read about just a few of the local organizations the Foundation for Change has helped to launch. The full list is too long to print.

That said, I and a new generation of leaders on the Board of Directors recognize the limitations of the foundation’s past work. Each year we have turned away qualified grant applicants and

funded others at only a fraction of their true needs. Downstream support to grant recipients has been constrained by our own limited staff and financial resources. Our annual grant-making has varied greatly — and has never exceeded \$74,000 — making it difficult for even qualified grant recipients to count on our support.

The Directors and I are now in deep conversation about

the future of the Foundation for Change. This conversation has led us to recast the organization ... and its image (see the cover of this newsletter.)

Above all this conversation has led us to renew our core commitments. We are committed to investing in and supporting grassroots organizations working for social change. We are convinced there are great things in store for our grassroots organization — and the grassroots organizations we support.

This work of creating a new Foundation for Change is just begun. Thank you for joining us in this time of new beginnings.

Looking forward,



John Fanestil

SUCCESS STORIES 1983 — 2006: A FEW SNAPSHOTS

Since 1983 the Foundation for Change has granted over \$800,000 to grassroots groups working for social, economic and environmental justice. Typically our grantees are overlooked by more traditional funding organizations, but many have gone on to great things after the Foundation for Change has helped them get on the “bottom rung” of the philanthropic ladder. This brief listing gives an idea of the kinds of organizations we have helped to launch (years funded in parentheses):

- **The Environmental Health Coalition** (1987, 1990, 1993, and 1996) promotes environmental and social justice by empowering

leaders in underserved communities to protect public health and the environment as these are threatened by toxic pollution. For more see: www.environmentalhealth.org

- **Supportive Parents Information Network (SPIN)** (1999, 2001, 2003, and 2006) helps low-income families break out of the isolation of poverty and achieve self-sufficiency. For more see: www.spinsandiego.org

- **The Employee Rights Center** (1999) helps non-union workers with a host of issues, including unemployment claims, wage disputes and proceedings at the National Labor Relations Board.

- **Shakti Rising** (2001) provides holistic, gender-specific and trauma-informed services to young women, ages 15–30, who are dealing with multiple issues including substance abuse, body-image issues, interpersonal violence, and depression. For more see: www.shaktirising.org

- **Interfaith Committee on Worker Justice** (2004) was the leading partner in a broad-based coalition that won a Living Wage Ordinance from the San Diego City Council in 2006. For more see: www.onlinecpi.org/icwj

- **Sun & Moon Vision Productions** (2006) is a non-profit organization with the mission to support women in producing documentaries, digital video and media art that nurtures a humanitarian vision. For more see:

So much of grassroots organizing is seat of the pants ... Where do you turn? I turned to the Foundation for Change, and they were there for me.

— Joni Halpern, Executive Director
Supportive Parents Information Network

NEW TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors at the Foundation for Change has welcomed four new members in the past six months. They are:

Michelle Ciccarelli. A partner in the law firm of Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman & Robbins, LLP, Michelle represents workers, consumers and shareholders in a broad range of complex class action litigations.

Louis Terrell. Retired from the Political Science Depart-

ment of San Diego State University, Lou brings to the Foundation for Change a longstanding commitment to non-profit organizations, including Planned Parenthood of San Diego and Riverside Counties, ACLU of San Diego and Imperial Counties, and the Del Mar Foundation. A past City Councilmember and Mayor of Del Mar, Lou has also served on the Executive Committee of San Diego Association of Governments.

Michael Brau. The principal of the Elliot Consulting Group, a strategic and marketing consulting company focusing on entrepreneurial-based companies, Michael Brau is the co-founder of the Baltimore Bagel Co., a regional chain of San Diego bakery-cafes. Following the 1995 sale of the company to the corporation currently operating as Einstein Bros. Bagels, Mr. Brau was the Chief Product Officer and the COO of

the 500 store chain of Einstein-Noah Bagels. Mr. Brau was the President of The WineSeller Group, a San Diego company including fine-dining restaurants, wine shop, and on-line wine auction. He has served on the boards of Congregation Beth El, the United Jewish Federation (UJF), the American Jewish Committee (AJC), and the M. Larry Lawrence Jewish Community Center.

GRANTMAKING UPDATE

The Foundation for Change Grantmaking Committee is now reviewing applications submitted before the July 31 deadline. Grant awards will be announced by the Board of Directors in early December and the funds distributed before year's end.

Committee members this year include: Leiana Naholowaa (Chair), Larry Baza, Vernon Mitchell, Quynh

Nguyen, Mary Niez, Olivia Puentes-Reynolds, Kathy Sangha and Caroy Wilcher. They continue the longstanding tradition of "activist-led" grantmaking that characterizes the work of the Foundation for Change and the other member funds of the Funding Exchange. (See: www.fex.org.)

By trusting leaders familiar with San Diego's under-

served communities, we are able to pin-point our grants, placing resources in the hands of emerging organizations overlooked by more traditional funders.

The committee faces a difficult task, as the Board of Directors has authorized only \$25,000 for grants in this transition year. The Board has set a goal of \$100,000 in grantmaking for 2008.

ROUND TWO OF MEDIA JUSTICE GRANTS

The Foundation for Change has been awarded \$27,000 for grant-making from the Funding Exchange's Media Justice Program, a national program aiming to give grassroots organizers in local communities the resources they need to influence the media institutions and policies that affect their lives.

In January 2007 the Foundation for Change distributed \$22,000 of media justice monies to three local organizations in the program's first round. The next round of media justice grants will be distributed in the spring of 2008.

In anticipation of soliciting grant applications, the Founda-

tion for Change is planning a regional convocation for January, 2008, hoping to introduce local grassroots activists to the kinds of strategies that will help them reform and gain greater access to local broadcast media. Stay tuned for more information!



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John Fanestil, *Executive Director*
 Jean Fisher, *Administrator*

OPPORTUNITIES, NEWS AND MORE

VISIT THE TIJUANA TOURISTS NEVER SEE

On May 19 and August 18 friends of the Foundation for Change visited with leaders from grassroots organizations working for social justice in Tijuana. We also met with local activists at the border fence near Playas de Tijuana and enjoyed lunch together at a beach-front restaurant.

The next grassroots tour of Tijuana is set for Saturday, October 13. The cost — \$60 per person— includes travel, lunch and an honorarium to **Victor Clark-Alfaro**, Director of the Bi-National Center for Human Rights, a Foundation for Change grantee.

JOHN FANESTIL SPEAKING DATES

Foundation for Change Executive Director **John Fanestil** is speaking widely on changes in demographics, economics and culture along the U.S.-Mexico border and the implications of these changes for both charitable work and public life.

Upcoming dates include September 25 at the California League of Women Voters and October 19-21 at the Community Lecture Series of the First United Methodist Church of National City.

For more visit us on the web: www.foundation4change.org

NEWS FROM OUR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS

Eric Alan Isaacson, Foundation for Change Board President, recently joined the ACLU in challenging the San Diego County District Attorney's practice of sending law-enforcement agents to poke through the homes of every applicant for public assistance in the County.

Bruce Michael Abrams, well-known San Diego attorney and a member of the Mayor's San Diego Human Relations Commission, served as grand marshal in this year's 33rd annual San Diego LGBT Pride Parade on Saturday, July 21. Bruce is a member of the

Foundation for Change Honorary Board.

Deborah Smaller and Daniel Venzon were married on Saturday, September 15 in Escondido. Smaller, a San Diego >>>>>>>>>> judge, is a member of the Foundation for Change Honorary Board. Foundation for Change Executive Director John Fanestil — an ordained pastor in the United Methodist Church — presided at the wedding ceremony.

E-MAIL NEWSLETTER

Each month we distribute via e-mail the latest news from the Foundation for Change.

Sign up at our website: www.foundation4change.org



3758 30th Street
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www.foundation4change.org

OPEN THIS NEWSLETTER TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE FOUNDATION FOR CHANGE...