Dear Allies and Friends,

2012 has been an exciting year for the Foundation for Change (F4C), partly due to funding received from the Ford Foundation to pilot a "Learning & Organizing Network" of community-based organizations in Tijuana.

For several years now F4C has provided small grants to grassroots groups in the Tijuana/Tecate region through San Diego-based fiscal sponsor organizations. In February 2010 F4C convened a grantee gathering in Tecate, the success of which led the Ford Foundation to seek us out for a more formal partnership in 2012.

Groups participating in the Learning & Organizing Network include F4C grantees and organizations recommended by other funders. At the Ford Foundation's request, we chose to “jump-start” the Network with groups linked to the issue of environmental sustainability in the Tijuana/Tecate region. The common thread helped to generate a learning space relevant to all; while at the same time it allowed groups to engage in a collective analysis of their work and to share organizing strategies that mobilize change.

All in all, 11 groups participated in monthly gatherings from January to July; and each gathering was hosted on the site of a Network participant. A highlight of our time together was a visit to a native Kumiai community in San José de la Zorra, southeast of Tijuana near the Valle de Guadalupe. The day represented an opportunity to learn to learn about land, water, and cultural struggles of native peoples of the borderlands.

To catch a glimpse of the Network in action, visit: foundation4change.org/tijuananetwork.

Our next steps for change in Tijuana include a broader proposal to the Ford Foundation focusing on campaigns related to basic infrastructure, transportation, and watershed planning: all issues of social justice and equity as articulated by members of the pilot Learning & Organizing Network.

I hope you are as thrilled as I am about this new and exciting prospect for working towards a greater degree of binational equity.

Con respeto,
Andrea Rocha
Program Officer, Foundation for Change

Tijuana Learning & Organizing Network, final gathering June 23, 2012

Tijuana Learning & Organizing Network Project Coordinators (LtoR): Laurie Silvan, Andrea Rocha, Beatriz Alfaro-Trujillo
A note from John…

Two words have been on my mind a great deal lately - "passionate" and "community." The words are drawn from our mission statement - "to create a passionate community of support for progressive leaders and organizations in the San Diego/Tijuana region."

Passion is a difficult thing to measure. In the world of philanthropy, dollars sometimes reflect passion, but not always. Here at the Foundation for Change we are well aware that a small check may represent greater commitment than a larger one.

Community, too, can be a squishy concept. What is it that causes people to identify with a cause - in our case, social justice - that is larger than themselves?

To be honest, there are times I wish these two words weren't a part of our mission statement. More than one marketing professional has told me the words may not provide the optimal punch for our messaging.

But for now I've decided these words are entirely apt. Because we have no endowment, we depend on a broad base of support. Every donation matters; your donation matters.

Why? Because we are creating a passionate community of support for leaders and organizations whose work San Diego and Tijuana could use more of.

I hope to see you soon.

John Fanestil

Allow me to share with you why I am involved with the Foundation for Change. Over 25 years ago my family crossed the Mexico-U.S. border for better opportunity. Like most immigrant families we strived for quality education, access to affordable and adequate health care, and ultimately, to have our voices heard as responsible, voting Citizens of the United States. I strongly believe in the power of grassroots efforts and through our Board-approved grants and Staff-implemented programs other immigrant families and potential leaders can be empowered to enjoy these same “better opportunities.”

My time as Board President has been a learning and invigorating experience as we continue pushing for social justice in our communities. Working with the Board of Directors on the development of a sustainability plan for F4C has been inspirational. We continue striving to support our core operations and mission while moving toward achieving our vision in becoming the “go-to” foundation for progressive philanthropists and innovative leaders committed to “making change happen” on both sides of the border.” This is why I am part of the Foundation for Change. Please join me and take the next step for change by becoming a member today!

In solidarity,

Geshalem Perez

Board of Directors
Geshalem Perez
  President
Aurora Cudal
  Vice President
Armin Kuhlman,
  Treasurer
Jaime Hernandes,
  Secretary
Amanda Allen
Peter Gourevitch
Robert P. Meinzer, Jr.
Quynh Nguyen

Staff
John Fanestil
Darrell Netherton
Bea Ramirez
Andrea Rocha
Michele Silverthorn

HOW DO YOU PREFER YOUR F4C NEWS?

Please let us know if you prefer email or snail mail.

Email us at: info@foundation4change.org

Or, sign-up at: “Sign up for e-News” www.foundation4change.org

Look for us on your favorite social network:

[Facebook Logo] [Twitter Logo] [LinkedIn Logo]
LEARN: Why I took the Next Step for Change
Diana Kutlow, Donor Profile

I was drawn to the Foundation for Change because of the fascinating research they were disseminating about changing demographics in the "southern" Southern California region. When I went to the first event describing the research, someone I knew there greeted me with "I didn't know your were this progressive" and I wondered why supporting democracy for all, health for all and equality for all was considered progressive? To me, that is just being American. The more I learn about San Diego, the better prepared I will be to contribute to those goals.

BENEFIT: Upcoming Events

EAST MEETS WEST GALA: 8/23 (Thursday), 6-10pm, Jacob’s Center Celebration Hall. Join F4C Board member Aurora Cudal and friends for dinner and a multicultural celebration of San Diego’s Asian-Pacific Islander communities to benefit F4C. Tickets $50 Tables $500 10% Discount for Next Steps Members

VISIT MIGRANT FARM WORKERS: 9/2 (Sunday), 8:30am-2pm. Join friends of F4C on a visit to farm workers in North County San Diego. This event will allow you to learn first-hand about the injustices agricultural workers are faced with daily.

THE SHAPE OF SAN DIEGO: 9/14 (Friday), 8-10am, Joyce Beers-Hillcrest. Join State Redistricting Commissioner Gil Ontia and California Common Cause Executive Director Kathay Feng for breakfast and a review of San Diego’s new electoral landscape.

GETTING OUT THE VOTE: 10/12 (Friday), 8-10am, Joyce Beers-Hillcrest. Learn about the latest strategy for mobilizing the vote in key San Diego communities while having breakfast with Andrea Guerrero (EA), Diane Takvorian (EHC) and others.

BREAKFAST WITH THE LATINO UNITY COALITION: 11/9 (Friday), 8-10am, TBA. Join F4C friends for breakfast with leaders from San Diego’s Latino communities.

Community Breakfasts general admission $10
Become a Next Steps Member and attend at no cost!

For additional details on all events: foundation4change.org/events
Sixteen organizations have been awarded grants totaling $45,000 as part of the Foundation for Change’s 2012 Health for All grant cycle through The California Wellness Foundation.

**Immigrant Worker Health Grant Awards $30,000**
- American Friend Service Committee (AFSC)/US-Mexico Border Program
- Center for Social Advocacy (CSA) for SD County
- Proyecto de Casas Saludables
- Somali Youth United

**Immigrant Day Grant Awards $15,000**
- African Coalition Workforce
- American Friend Service Committee (AFSC)
- Binational Front of Indigenous Organizations (FIOB)

- Center for Social Advocacy (CSA), for SD County
- Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice of SD County
- KAREN Organization of San Diego
- License to Freedom
- Proyecto de Casas Saludables
- Somali Youth United
- UURISE
- United Taxi Workers of San Diego
- Youth And Leaders Living Actively (YALLA)
- Council of Philippine-American Organizations (COPAO)

Learn more: foundation4change.org/grants