Happy 2004 from the Appalachian Community Fund! Last year was an exciting year for ACF, as you’ll see when you look through this edition of the newsletter. This year we’re already busy with many new activities. We’re particularly excited to announce the kick off of the 2004 Drive for Change.

With the support of individual donors from Appalachia and beyond, ACF will raise $95,000 this year to increase grantmaking and our impact in the region.

An anonymous donor has made a lead gift of $10,000, which will be used to match the first $10,000 new dollars raised. Through the Drive for Change, ACF will be able to build a broader, more sustainable source of funding.

In each of the four states that ACF serves (Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee), co-chairs are helping to lead the Drive (see the sidebar for a list of co-chairs). Each co-chair has committed to help fundraise and increase ACF’s visibility in her or his state.

“As ACF continues to support organizations working for real change in southwest Virginia, I am honored to be working for ACF and to be part of the change,” says Beth Bingman, a Virginia co-chair.

Your gift to ACF is an investment in social change. The gifts to the Drive for Change will fund the organizations that empower people and build more resilient communities - Change, not Charity, for Appalachia.

“I am so excited to be working with ACF’s co-chairs and donors to make the Drive for Change a success,” says Marcelle Good, ACF’s development coordinator.

“The Drive will make it possible for communities in the region to build a stronger Appalachia.”

As you’ll read in the pages that follow, ACF’s grantees are speaking out against mountaintop removal, providing access to high-quality, affordable childcare for low-income families, working against militarism, and so much more.

If you are interested in participating in ACF’s 2004 Drive for Change, please contact Marcelle Good at the ACF office.

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR 2004 GIFT FOR CHANGE?

2004 Co-Chairs
Beth Bingman
Dungannon, Virginia
Margaret Feierabend
Bristol, Tennessee
Karen Jones and Bev Futrell
Lexington, Kentucky
Robert Kegley
Wytheville, Virginia
Robin Lambert
Harlan, Kentucky
Rich Stonestreet
Charleston, West Virginia
Marcus Wilkes
Welch, West Virginia

Moonscape or mountaintop? As mountaintop removal persists in Appalachia, ACF grantees like the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition organize citizens to protect their mountains and their communities. For more information about what ACF’s grantees have been up to, turn to page 4.
The community organizing initiative between the Ford Foundation and the partners in the Southern Funding Collaborative (ACF, Fund for Southern Communities, and Southern Partners Fund) received a second grant of $750,000 for two years for continuing the initiative, which began three years ago. Eleven southern and Appalachian organizations were funded through this program and the second phase will enable further grants, collaborative technical assistance and funder education.

Darryl Cannady, Board Chairperson, and Gaye Evans participated in two Funding Exchange (FEX) gatherings in the last few months. In the fall in Tucson, FEX met to further its network goals by revising the criteria for membership. The February meeting in Santa Barbara finalized that work and set out the directions for the next years. FEX has also recently announced a new grants program on Media Justice. FEX – a national association of 16 community-based funds like ACF, will celebrate its 25th anniversary in San Francisco this June.

ACF is happy to announce a partnership with the Joint Center for Economic and Political Studies on their project “Creating Collaborative Approaches to Address Racial Injustice in Communities.” The program will involve workshops, discussions and planning with local and regional groups to explore different approaches to building anti-racist communities.

Marcelle Good, ACF’s development coordinator, attended the annual gathering of the Young Donor Organizing Alliance (YDOA) to develop strategies for mobilizing young people with access to wealth. She joined YDOA’s Steering Committee in February.

As ACF does its ongoing anti-racism work, we continue to find new resources for improving our work to fight racism. The books and web-sites that follow are a combination of popular, political and academic writing. We invite you to join us in our continuing education about race and racism. These resources are a great start!


**Critical Race Theory: An Introduction.** Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic, ed.


**Applied Research Center** [www.arc.org](http://www.arc.org)
**People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond** [www.thepeoplesinstitute.org](http://www.thepeoplesinstitute.org)
**Center for Democratic Renewal** [www.thecdr.org](http://www.thecdr.org)
**Rethinking Schools** [www.rethinkingschools.com](http://www.rethinkingschools.com)

For more resources, please contact the ACF office.
In 2003 ACF awarded $6,000 to three organizations improving women’s lives through violence prevention, child care reform, and education. Grants were made through the Alice Jennings Fund, organized by Kevin Jennings in 2002 to honor his late mother. The fund specifically recognizes social change organizations that benefit low-income women in Central Appalachia.

One of the grants went to the Sunrise Center, run by a group of low-income women to organize support networks in Richlands, Va. around issues of domestic violence and developing workplace skills.

Ten women at the Center have been certified to lead workshops addressing the impact of violence on people’s lives. Last year the Center gave 35 workshops to over 400 residents in the community. The Center’s efforts have provided local women with the skills necessary to begin healing the wounds wrought by domestic violence.

"We are delighted to have the Jennings family's support for the work that we are doing. Alice Jennings is a real inspiration to all of us who are working to improve what we’re doing for our families and our community," says Sister Carolyn Brink, Executive Director of the Sunrise Center.

Eastern Kentucky Child Care Coalition in Berea, Ky., was awarded a grant to organize 25 child care centers into “advocacy centers,” serving as connections among parents, child care providers and state policy makers.

The Coalition disseminates information about child care to families with limited resources and provides certification training, scholarships and college degree programs for women to become child development associates in 35 Appalachian counties.

"We educate child care providers to advocate for children and for the child care field,” says Beth Myers, Resource Development Specialist at the Coalition.

“They are already voices in their community, and this helps them become more effective voices.”

The final grant was made to the Cooperative Action Project of Southern McDowell County (CAPS) in Panther, W.V., an isolated area on the West Virginia/Virginia border. Established in 1996 by local citizens, CAPS is the only community organization in this part of the county.

The Alice Jennings Fund grant will support CAPS programs including a “Survival Skills for Women” course, literacy training, and GED classes. “Survival Skills for Women” offers education on topics such as skills development, job seeking, health, and domestic violence. One of the women who graduated from the course currently volunteers at the CAPS office.

“Survival Skills brought a lot of women out of male-dominated control. It showed from a moral and legal standpoint that women can get out of it,” says Ernest Leonard, President of CAPS.

All three grantee organizations represent the ideals of the Alice Jennings Fund. Despite her experiences with economic hardship and inequality, Mrs. Jennings demonstrated a consistent commitment to social justice throughout her adult life.

“This fund is a fitting tribute to a remarkable woman, whose gender and class denied her the opportunities that should have been hers. I hope that it will, in some small way, help women like her in Appalachia today have the opportunities she was denied,” says Jennings.
The Chattanooga Indigenous Resource Center and Library recently expanded its collection of books, audiotapes, and videotapes. The expansion includes works from the Cherokee Language and Culture Publications of Tulsa, Okla.

Citizens for Justice, Equality, and Fairness (CJEF) sponsored and organized the 6th annual MLK Jr. Day Observance and March in Jefferson County, Tenn., and has implemented a Community Listening Project.

Community Farm Alliance (CFA) received Keys to the City from the mayors of Lexington and Louisville, Ky., for their work in agricultural development. CFA recently created the Portland Farmers’ Market, the first urban farmers’ market in Louisville.

Community Shares of Tennessee (CS) recently accepted five new member organizations: Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance; National Conference for Community and Justice; Recycle! Nashville; Center for Independent Living; and Tennessee Coalition to Abolish State Killing. CS also completed its annual fundraising campaign, which will provide resources for 46 member groups.

Since launching a major statewide campaign for comprehensive tax reform in Kentucky with partners last spring, Democracy Resource Center has trained 250 people through its interactive tax justice workshops and presentations and 50 more in a Tax Justice Conference.

Kentucky Fairness Alliance celebrated the unanimous passage of the Covington Human Rights Ordinance banning discrimination on the basis of sexual and gender identity in Covington, Ky.

Members of Kingsport Citizens for a Cleaner Environment succeeded in getting community voices heard as they testified at a local public hearing of the Tennessee Air Pollution Control Board.

The Knoxville Region of the National Conference for Community and Justice led a community campaign to raise awareness of and ultimately defeat the so-called “God resolution” before the county commission. The resolution called for institutionalizing the connection between religion and state and is deemed unconstitutional by many.

The Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA) held its annual Peacemakers Awards. This year’s awards went to Shelley Wascom, Mary Dennis Lentsch, Anne Hablas, and ACF Board Member Lissa McLeod. More than 100 people attended the event, which raised funds to help abolish nuclear weapons production in Oak Ridge, Tenn. OREPA members are also planning a march, rally and action for peace this April.

Due to successful Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition (OVEC) campaigns, the Environmental Protection Agency received more than 84,000 comments from citizens, overwhelmingly against mountaintop removal. OVEC also lifted up community voices by organizing community members to attend a hearing in Charleston, W.V., on mountaintop removal.

Rural Cumberland Resources (RCR) celebrated MLK Jr. Day this year with a standing-room only crowd in Cumberland County, Tenn. RCR will be sponsoring small community groups throughout the year to discuss how racism and other forms of oppression function in the community and will share the results at next year’s MLK, Jr. Celebration.
Appalachian Happenings — Updates from ACF’s Grantees

Save the Children’s Appalachian Teen Leaders (ATL) program is currently preparing for the second of three ATL weekends in Berea, Ky., focusing on literacy skills for all ages. Save the Children’s VISTA project is helping to recruit and train teenagers to volunteer as tutors.

South Central Educational Development organized a Minority Health Disparities Conference in Bluefield, W.V., which drew a crowd of 200 people to address HIV, cancer and diabetes in rural communities of color.

Tennessee Economic Renewal Network (TERN), formerly Tennessee Industrial Renewal Network, received an award in the labor category at this year’s MLK, Jr. dinner banquet in Knoxville, Tenn. Two delegates from TERN attended the 2004 World Social Forum in Bombay, India, in January.

TOPHAT Productions wowed audiences in Rogersville, Tenn., with three productions: a children’s play called, Dinner in Oz, written by Kandie S. Kelley; The Curious Savage by John Patrick; and most recently Five Women Wearing the Same Dress, by Alan Ball.

United Campus Workers at the University of Tennessee sponsored a rally and celebration on March 2, to honor its four-year anniversary.

Temp Workers participate in the VOP sponsored Richmond Coalition for a Living Wage campaign.

Eleven interns at Virginia Organizing Project (VOP) have organized a project to conduct a wheelchair accessibility survey of local businesses and public buildings.

From Our Allies...

The Hawaii People’s Fund, a Funding Exchange Sister Fund, will publish a socially responsible visitor’s guide to Hawaii Leaving A Gentler Footprint. The guide will be available this spring. Go to www.fex.org for more information.

On March 9-10, Responsible Wealth and United for a Fair Economy will hold their Education and Lobby Days to prevent repeal of the estate tax. Complete repeal would shift $1 trillion of taxes from the wealthiest 2% of taxpayers to everyone else over the next two decades. Meanwhile, simple reforms such as raising the exemption level would preserve most of the revenue while exempting all but the largest estates. For further information visit www.responsiblewealth.org.

The Southern Empowerment Project has copies of “You Can Do It! A Volunteer’s Guide to Raising Money for Your Group” available in English and Spanish. Go to www.southerneempowerment.org to order copies.

The National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP) released a new report on community-based public foundations, a subsector within philanthropy committed to funding grassroots social-change organizations and promoting long-term social change. “Our study suggests that community-based public foundations constitute a force in philanthropy that adds up to more than the sum of its parts,” said NCRP Executive Director Richard Cohen.

The Funding Exchange has published “Colonies in Question: Supporting Indigenous Movements in the U.S. Jurisdictions.” It looks at local economies and industries in relation to modernization, development, and globalization, and it surfaces community needs as well as existing organizing work. It highlights the need for U.S. foundations to support community-based efforts in the territories. You can find the report at www.fex.org.
You Should Have a Will

Re-printed with permission from Kim Klein. This article is for general information only. The specific laws of your state may vary. Seek appropriate legal advice for your specific situation.

Everyone should have a will. In the same way that you have authority over what to do with your property during your lifetime, you can take responsibility for what happens to it after your death. Or let the state decide. But seven out of ten people don't have a will and of the 30 percent, who do have a will, 50 percent leave their entire estate to their spouse.

Further, half of all people with wills have wills that are five years old or more. To get a sense of just how much money is distributed from estates without wills, $100,000,000 a week goes through probate courts from intestate estates here in the United States.

If you die without a will (intestate), the law specifies who will receive your estate. If you are survived by a spouse and not by a child or a parent, your spouse receives all your property. If you are survived by a spouse and if you have no surviving children, your spouse will receive your entire estate. If you are survived by a spouse and children, and all the children are the children of the spouse, your entire estate also goes to your surviving spouse.

In this case, your children would not share in your property. If, however, a spouse and children survive you, and if your children are not the children of your surviving spouse, then your children would share in the estate.

A few examples of people who died without wills may convince you: First, there is Mary Springhill, a 40-year-old woman who died recently of breast cancer. She had no children and her parents were dead. She was separated, but not divorced from her husband. Legally, he is the surviving spouse. Mary was a successful artist, and her estate, including a house, new car, and some savings, was worth a little over $400,000. Mary mistakenly believed that, since her estate was under $600,000, there was no point in getting a will.

During the time she had cancer, she was too sick to think about preparing a will, and was probably not aware of how much she was worth. What's sad about Mary's husband getting her entire estate is that she left him three years prior to her death after enduring his physical and emotional abuse for more than 15 years.

In another example, Alice Williams, a pro-choice activist was killed in a car accident at age 33. She and her parents had clashed about her pro-choice views, and her general progressive attitude toward all issues.

Her parents were active in their fundamentalist Baptist church and had told their daughter, on a number of occasions, that she was going to hell. Although there were on speaking terms and Alice spent some holidays with them, their relationship was very strained.

Alice thought she was too young to need a will and, again, that her estate did not warrant the cost of going to an attorney to draw up a will. (Alice erroneously believed that only attorneys can make legally binding wills.) She had an inheritance of $100,000 that she received from an aunt when she was 21. She had never spent it, although she occasionally augmented her meager salary with the interest generated. Through her work, she had a life insurance policy worth $25,000.

This estate of $125,000 went to her parents. Alice may not have objected to that, however, her parents believed that her money could, as they put it, "nullify some of the evil work poor Alice had done," and they gave it all to a wide variety of far-right organizations.

Everyone is probably familiar with the high number of AIDS patients who leave no wills, causing estates to return to parents who had not spoken to them in years. Or the classic case of a daughter caring for an aged parent until the death of the parent, then being forced to share an estate with a sibling who had not shared in the care or expense at all.

Most people underestimate the worth of their estate and overestimate the ability of themselves or others to handle money. They overestimate the time and cost of setting up a will, and do not realize the work involved in getting an estate in order after someone is dead. Finally, besides the distribution of your property, a will can express your desire about how you want to be buried, who you want to care for your children or pets, and other legal and moral obligations you need to make your heirs aware of.

The Bequest

A bequest is one of the oldest methods of supporting non-profits. One of the first and most famous bequests was given by Ben Franklin in 1790. He left the equivalent of $4,000 (in British pounds) to be split between the people of the State of Pennsylvania and the city of Philadelphia. The state received 76 percent of the bequest and the city 24 percent. He left it on the condition it not be touched for 200 years.

In 1998, his bequest was worth $2.3 million and it can now be spent. A group of Franklin scholars was given authority to recommend the best use of the money. It has been decided that the money belonging to the people of Philadelphia will be kept in a permanent endowment at the Philadelphia Foundation; the state's money will be shared between the Franklin Institute and a consortium of community foundations around the state. Franklin himself had put no strings on the money.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals received one of the first bequests explicitly designated for an endowment. In 1867, Benjamin Hicks left his estate to his mother, with the stipulation that, on her death, $20,000 went to the society. On the death of a cousin, another $20,000 went to the society. His mother left her

continued on page 7
When a group of West Virginians realized just how many rural students were turning to the military because of a lack of other opportunities, they organized West Virginia Patriots for Peace. “For many rural West Virginia youth, joining the military is the twenty-first century equivalent to the now defunct choice of taking a job in the coal mining industry,” says Jim Lewis, President of WVPP.

With a grant from ACF, WVPP educates students about alternatives to military service, and work to decrease the military’s access to high school students. WVPP was one of six groups receiving grants from ACF’s Just-Cause Initiative. The Initiative was set up through the Funding Exchange by an anonymous donor for anti-war work.

Groups funded through Just-Cause address issues from immigrant rights, civil liberties, the economic impact of war, and other peace work and organizing around the “war at home.” Beyond their specific issues, each of these groups focus on resisting and providing alternatives to war and militarism in their communities.

Amelia Kirby, co-director of Appalshop’s Haller to the Hood project, builds exactly that kind of community of young people in eastern Kentucky. “At the root of our work is the idea that young people are stakeholders in the future of our region,” says Amelia. “They can provide a strong voice for building a socially and economically just community.”

### JustCause Initiative makes Peace Grants

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### You Should Have a Will, continued

own bequest of another $20,000. In today’s dollars, each $20,000 gift would be worth about $350,000. Hicks specified that only the interest from his gift could be used and the principal has to remain intact.

**Making a Bequest**

Anyone can make a bequest. All that is required is that you are alive and of sound mind when you make your will, and that you own something that you can’t take with you.

**Wording of Bequests**

**The General Bequest**

This is the simplest bequest in which a donor gives a stated amount to the non-profit without any conditions attached. This bequests reads: "I give and bequeath to the _____ the sum of $____ to be invested or re-invested so that the income only may be used as the Board of Directors directs." A phrase should indicate how long the principal should remain intact and what should happen if the organization should terminate.

**Bequest of a Percentage**

"I give and bequeath _____% (name a specific percentage) to the _____.

**Bequest of Residue**

This is a provision in a will leaving the remainder of one’s estate to an organization after all other bequests are fulfilled. "The rest, residue and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, wherever situated, I give and bequeath to the _____ to be used as the Board of Directors directs."

**Contingent Bequest**

This leaves a bequest to the non-profit if any other beneficiaries are unable to receive their bequests because of death or other circumstances. Generally this reads, "Should _____ (name of person) predecease me, the portion of my estate going to (person) I give and bequeath to _____.

Everyone should have a contingent bequest in their will in case the will becomes very dated and circumstances have changed since it was drafted.

All bequests are revocable during your life because you can change your will as often as you want. For your own sake, please make a will. For the sake of social change organizing in Appalachia, please consider making a bequest to the Appalachian Community Fund.
Appalachian Community Fund News

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  • ACF kicks off its 2004 Drive for Change

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