



**APPALACHIAN  
COMMUNITY FUND**  
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**APPALACHIAN COMMUNITY FUND ★ CHANGE, NOT CHARITY**

# APPALACTIONS

## RAISING THE VOICES OF IMMIGRANTS AND UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS

The United States depends on the labor of undocumented workers, but it forces them to break the law and take great financial and personal risks in order to work. In 2001, Tennessee proposed legislation that would make life a little easier for immigrants by allowing them to get a driver's certificate. This in turn would enable them to get car insurance, obey traffic laws, and avoid unnecessary hassles with police. The bill caught the attention of immigrants across the state. But few of them had access to or knew how to influence the state's political power structure. In that vacuum, the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC) was born. With an agenda set by its members—who come from Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe—TIRRC gives a voice to both documented and undocumented immigrants struggling to get by.

"Before getting involved with TIRRC, I didn't know much of anything," says Alma Vazquez, a member of TIRRC. "I didn't know how to help myself or others so that things would happen or wouldn't happen."

Because immigrants are concerned about many of the same things that other Tennesseans worry about—education, health care, public safety, worker's rights—TIRRC connects immigrants into progressive groups already working on these issues. Until there is meaningful immigration reform, immigrants will continue to have a tough time here. But with TIRRC, they have a voice. "Sometimes you feel there's nothing you can do, you're just a Hispanic person. Being involved with the organizing makes you feel like you can do something—every voice counts," Vazquez says. "TIRRC helps make your self-esteem go up and makes you feel like you can do things."

The urgency and importance of TIRRC's work is increasingly evident. At the state level, Tennessee recently abolished the 2001 law that allowed immigrants to receive certificates of driving. At the federal level, the House passed the Sensenbrenner-King bill and the Senate is considering a similar bill proposed by Arlen Specter that makes unlawful presence an aggravated felony, instead of a civil violation. These bills also criminalize social service

workers, medical professionals, and anyone else who helps illegal immigrants in any way – including providing food or shelter - by citing them as human traffickers.

Lisa Barba joined TIRRC in December 2005 as its East Tennessee Regional Organizer. "I am proud to be working for TIRRC," Lisa says. "TIRRC's responsibility to the community is to empower immigrants and refugees to take control of their future and to advocate on their behalf

at the local and national level." The Appalachian Community Fund (ACF) is proud to support TIRRC's work in East Tennessee. TIRRC received its first grant from ACF in 2004.



**YOUNG TIRRC MEMBERS  
SPEAK TO OVER 400  
IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES  
ABOUT THEIR DESIRE TO ATTEND  
COLLEGE AND THE LEGAL  
BARRIERS THAT WILL PREVENT  
THEM FROM DOING SO.**



### 2006 GRANT AWARDS

ACF's 2006 grant awards will be made later this spring. Please visit ACF's website at [www.appalachiancommunityfund.org](http://www.appalachiancommunityfund.org) for the most up-to-date information about our grantees.

Are you working for social change in your community? Your non-profit organization may be eligible to receive a grant from ACF. Please visit ACF's website for more information about funding opportunities: [www.appalachiancommunityfund.org](http://www.appalachiancommunityfund.org).

**THE APPALACHIAN COMMUNITY FUND (ACF)**  
IS A GRANT-MAKING RESOURCE FOR GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS  
WORKING TO CHANGE SYSTEMIC ECONOMIC, RACIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL,  
AND SOCIAL INEQUALITIES IN CENTRAL APPALACHIA.  
SINCE 1987, ACF HAS DISTRIBUTED MORE THAN \$3.6 MILLION DOLLARS TO  
GROUPS WORKING FOR CHANGE, NOT CHARITY IN THIS REGION.

### GAY AND LESBIAN INITIATIVE ESTABLISHED

ACF is pleased to announce a new source of funding for gay and lesbian organizing work in Central Appalachia: the Gay and Lesbian Initiative Fund of ACF. The Fund was established in early 2006 with an initial gift of \$10,000 from a donor in Sevier County, Tennessee. This gift is the first step in fundraising to sustain and expand the Fund. The Gay and Lesbian Initiative Fund will begin making grant awards in the next two-three years with a particular focus on funding capacity building for new and emerging organizations that are addressing equality and civil rights issues and strengthening gay and lesbian community institutional structures and resources. To earmark a donation for this fund, simply write Gay and Lesbian Initiative on your check's subject line or type it in the gift info box with your on-line contribution.

## MINING, GLOBALIZATION, AND WORKERS' RIGHTS

*"Because Appalachian coal is shipped across the country, almost anyone who uses electricity at home or work must acknowledge part of the responsibility." (Erik Reece, "Who Killed the Miners?")*  
Used with permission, Copyright© 2006, The Nation.

To read the full article, go to <http://www.thenation.com/doc/20060227/reece>

We offer our respect and condolences to all of the families and communities who are affected by the recent mine tragedies.

Linking Appalachian coal to the rest of the U.S., as Erik Reece does in his article, is only one way that recent events in the region and beyond point out once again the connections between issues facing Appalachia and those in other countries. Appalachia has long understood globalization because of the multinational aspects of many corporate presences in the region. Recent deaths in the mines of Appalachia and Mexico demonstrate vividly the ongoing danger for mine workers, and the lack of caring and attention on the part of regulators, mine owners, and governments to this danger.

Connections among mining, globalization, workers' rights and immigration are made more apparent through other notable items:

1. Mines are now seeking to hire immigrant workers, placing them in great danger due to language barriers and lack of training, and paying them considerably lower wages than those paid to American workers.
2. The Sensenbrenner-King bill (H.R.4437) recently passed the U.S. House of Representatives that, among other things, criminalizes undocumented people and those who assist them in any way. The Senate is now set to consider a version of this legislation.
3. Tennessee just rescinded policies enabling undocumented residents to obtain driver's certificates.
4. Anti-immigration legislation is being considered in many states, including Kentucky and Tennessee.

Hopeful news is represented by the work of an ACF grantee, the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC), featured in this issue. Other programs addressing immigrant and new arrival concerns in Central Appalachia include those of the Alianza del Pueblo in Knoxville, Tennessee; the Migrant Health Network Project, an outgrowth of work started several years ago through the Appalachian Peace Education Center in southwest Virginia; the Highlander Research and Education Center in New Market, Tennessee; and many other grassroots efforts to build bridges with, and address issues in, immigrant communities. As ACF continues its dialogues with donors, allies, and grantees through the State of the State meetings, the growth of the immigrant community in all parts of the region, and the lack of services and the political and economic exploitation of our new residents, are issues we will continue to learn about and try to address.

And although steps have been taken to improve mine safety, recent reports show that enforcement and fines for safety violations have decreased. Community-based programs like the Mine Safety Project of the Appalachian Citizen's Law Center in Prestonsburg, Kentucky, offer mine workers a voice for advocacy and policy.

These efforts and more exemplify the untiring work that goes on in Appalachia to protect human and worker rights for everyone.

--Gaye Evans  
Executive Director



### WELCOME NEW STAFF KIMBERLY NAUJOCK

ACF welcomes Kimberly Naujock as the new Development Coordinator. Kimberly has been in the non-profit sector for over ten years and brings a wealth of background experiences including interim assistant director at Knoxville's Promise – The Alliance for Youth, program officer at the East Tennessee Foundation and as an intern at the Highlander Research and Education Center. Along the way, Kimberly co-founded a for-profit clean energy entrepreneurial venture, Ecotera Energy, and a non-profit initiative, the East Tennessee Progressive Network (ETNPRONET). She has a BS in Human Services and a Doctorate in Education from The University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Kimberly, who began work at ACF on January 3rd, says, "I am excited to be a part of the Appalachian Community Fund family. ACF is an important asset for East Tennessee and all of Central Appalachia. In its grant-making, fundraising, and educational work, ACF exemplifies a fundamental respect for and inclusion of people of all backgrounds and communities. It is a model for democratic and community-based, progressive philanthropy. I feel that ACF's work provides more than just critical funding for groups addressing systemic change, but also reflects optimism that social problems and economic disparities can and will be solved - from the grassroots up."

### HAVE YOU MADE YOUR 2006 GIFT FOR CHANGE?



Thanks to donors like you, ACF is able to provide resources for grassroots groups working to nurture strong, healthy, and just communities in Appalachia. Please consider making your gift to the ACF this year – you can use the enclosed envelope or donate online at [WWW.APPALACHIANCOMMUNITYFUND.ORG](http://WWW.APPALACHIANCOMMUNITYFUND.ORG).

## MEET RICH STONESTREET AN ACF DONOR

While some feel that it was the National Labor Relations Act (or the Wagner Act) of 1935 that "gave" workers the right to organize, Rich Stonestreet believes that the labor movement always had the "right" to organize; the Wagner Act served to legitimize the power that workers had already seized. Rich was raised in Wheeling, West Virginia and learned at an early age the value and power of a union. "I am proud to wear the badge of the working class," Rich says.

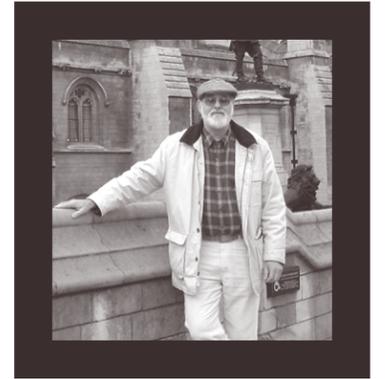
Rich learned the importance of social change work from his father and his mother. "My father taught me tolerance, and my mother taught me generosity," Rich says. "My father was a steelworker; the steelworkers union helped shape my sense of social justice." Combining these qualities, Rich believes that true empowerment necessarily requires helping create situations and learning opportunities for people to empower themselves. Rich is proud of the work that ACF and its grantees are doing to help people become empowered.

"The Appalachian Community Fund's work for Change, Not Charity™ really appeals to me," Rich says. "I value the fact that ACF understands the importance of going beyond well-meaning giving to funding work that equalizes the distribution of wealth and power in this country."

**"Through the wide range of projects and issues that ACF supports, I know that my donations to ACF really affect social change in a broad way."**

Rich is among ACF's family of donors who are entering their 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of gift-making to the Appalachian Community Fund. As a person of faith, Rich feels ACF speaks to his heart. "Whether it is Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, or any other faith, helping the poor and powerless is what every religion talks about," Rich says. "I don't know of a better way to do this than through ACF."

"I used to give when I thought about it, but it is so important to me to support ACF that I don't want to miss a year. So, I looked at what my budget could bear and used the easy, automatic, monthly contribution feature on ACF's website. This way I know that I'm sure to support ACF, and I like knowing that my recurring gift helps ACF build stability for itself as an organization and for its grantmaking." Rich is the first person to make monthly donations to ACF through its website: [www.appalachiancommunityfund.org](http://www.appalachiancommunityfund.org).



RICH STONESTREET OF CHARLESTON, WV  
GIVING TO ACF SINCE 1991

Rich started his professional life teaching college level chemistry for seven years until he became involved in a job action at a local community college in Maryland. He worked as an organizer for a year and then as a union field representative in Maryland for 12 years before returning to his home state of West Virginia where he spent the next 12 years with the West Virginia Education Association. Rich retired in 1998 and stays active in social justice work. Most recently, he shares his thoughts about current events on his Blog (<http://journals.aol.com/rockpath/WATCHALONGTHE-EKANAWHA/>). Rich is also co-managing an upcoming state legislative campaign for a West Virginian who is a former coal miner and United Mine Workers of America staff member.



**PLEASE CONSIDER becoming a regular, monthly donor to the Appalachian Community Fund. A gift of \$15 a month is equal to a cup of gourmet, designer coffee a week.**

**You can make a recurring gift via our secure donation page on [www.appalachiancommunityfund.org](http://www.appalachiancommunityfund.org). Thank you for your continued support!**