



APPALACHIAN COMMUNITY FUND

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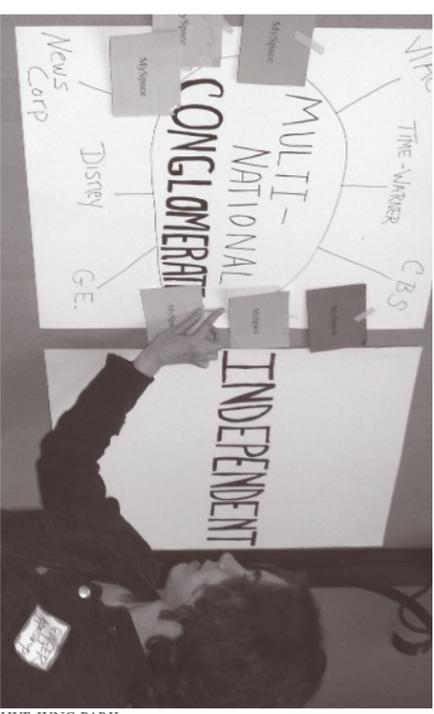
SPRING 2007

APPALACHIAN COMMUNITY FUND ★ CHANGE, NOT CHARITY

APPALACTIONS

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL MEDIA JUSTICE CONFERENCE

The energy and momentum of the National Conference on Media Reform in Memphis, Tennessee in the middle of January was a great lead-in to the Southeast Regional Media Justice Conference co-sponsored by the Appalachian Community Fund with its sister fund, the Fund for Southern Communities, which is based in Atlanta, Georgia. On February 2nd -3rd more than 75 organizers, artists, and media producers from seven Southeastern states gathered in Knoxville to explore shared stories, struggles for media control, and solutions for media justice and media reform.



HYE-JUNG PARK

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS CAST THEIR VOTE IN THE "CONGLOMERATE OR INDEPENDENT?" POPULAR EDUCATION SESSION ON CORPORATE MEDIA CONTROL LED BY THE EAST TENNESSEE PROGRESSIVE NETWORK

"I have a greater awareness and renewed sense of responsibility regarding media justice and a deeper appreciation of the need for true justice versus mere (media) access," a participant said during the conference's closing session. Several people also shared how the conference moved them to action. *"I will start a conversation with our Board about media justice and how or should it be incorporated into our strategic plan,"* one person reported. Others shared that the conference "opened doors to relationships" and gave practical tools that can be adapted to one's work such as digital storytelling, popular education approaches, and conducting media audits. To build on the learning and networking that grew out of the conference and to support media policy, awareness, and activism, ACF has issued a request for proposals (RFP) for grant support of media justice initiatives in the region. Grant funding will be focused on community media collaborations that address media policy and infrastructure issues as well as funding for media justice toolkits that provide popular education materials for media justice activism and advocacy. The Appalachian Community Fund and the Fund for Southern Communities received funding for the Conference and for regional, media justice grantmaking through the Media Justice Fund of the Funding Exchange in partnership with the Ford Foundation.



HYE-JUNG PARK

MARQUEZ RHYME OF CARPETBAG THEATRE LEADS EVERYONE IN THE "I COME FROM A PLACE...I'M GOING TO A PLACE...I AM" PARTICIPATORY STORYTELLING SONG



GAVE EVANS

MALKIA CYRIL OF THE YOUTH MEDIA COUNCIL SHARES A VISION FOR TRANSFORMING MEDIA AND COMMUNICATING JUSTICE

Malkia Cyril, a visionary leader in the media reform/media justice movement and Director of the Youth Media Council in San Francisco, California kicked off the conference with a keynote session on the structural problems with the media and suggestions for participatory strategies to fight media bias. *"I was honored to offer opening remarks and deepen our collective understanding of media justice, because media justice is more than sexy rhetoric: it is also a powerful re-framing of a centuries-old relationship: the relationship of disenfranchised communities to political power,"* Malkia said.

Conference organizers drew on local leadership and expertise in the Southeast to provide a participatory analysis of the change we must undertake. Organizations that shared their voice and ideas included the Carpetbag Theatre, Southern Media Justice Coalition, East Tennessee Progressive Network, Appalshop, American Forum, Richmond IndyMedia, Hazard Community Technical College, and the Center for Rural Strategies. Issues presented included inter-generational initiatives for media justice, corporate control of media, media democracy initiatives, public policy issues, and examples of collaborations on media activities among organizations.

APPALACHIAN COMMUNITY FUND

Celebrating

20

YEARS

WORKING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE
1987-2007

The Appalachian Community Fund is a member of the Funding Exchange (FEX), a national network of social change foundations, and of Community Shares of Tennessee.

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www.appalachiancommunityfund.org

CELEBRATING 10TH AND 20TH ANNIVERSARIES

SPRING GREETINGS!

Ten years ago this month, I wrote my first “executive director message” for ACF’s spring newsletter. We were still in our original office then, on Union Avenue in Knoxville. On the occasion of my ten-year anniversary (which is also ACF’s 20th anniversary), I am looking forward with hope and excitement to the future for ACF and for Central Appalachia. ACF has entered a new level of growth and progress. Some initiatives have already begun, as you will read in this issue of our newsletter, and other plans and goals are being finalized and readied for implementation. Over the last two years, ACF’s board embarked on an ambitious organizational development project that has focused on visions and long-range planning and that included a meeting in each of the four states we serve.

Included in the plan are development of a fundraising campaign for the next five years to increase our grantmaking dollars; a fresh and focused study of our grantmaking, criteria, and how we can be more strategic as we make funding decisions; an examination of ACF’s role in movement building, regional leadership, and convening; and, assessing how we help support and nurture anti-racist organizations and networks. Within the next few months, ACF anticipates publishing a report highlighting findings from the state meetings and the strategic vision and plan for the next five years.

Some of ACF’s new growth and direction is featured in this issue of Appalachia with the highly energetic and successful Media Justice Conference co-sponsored with ACF’s sister fund in Atlanta, the Fund for Southern Communities. It is also featured in our donor relationships, which are stronger than ever, and we are honored by the FOCIS Giving Circle recently established at ACF and by the commitment of so many donors like you. We are honored to have Kevin Jennings, a donor and ally, sharing his time, skills, and expertise with ACF as our fundraising chairperson.

Thank you for your support, care, and commitment to Appalachia and ACF over the past ten years! I hope you enjoy reading these exciting stories and continue to partner with us for an even better next ten years!

--Gaye Evans

Executive Director



BLUEGRASS

AND BARBEQUE

NEW YORK CITY
2ND ANNUAL BENEFIT
HOUSE PARTY



On November 15, 2006, more than 125 people shared an evening of Southern-famous barbeque and cocktails in the home of Kevin Jennings and Jeff Davis in New York City to celebrate and strengthen ACF’s social change work. Darryl Cannady, Executive Director of South Central Educational Development (SCED) in Bluefield, West Virginia and past ACF board chair, shared his personal story about how ACF has provided critical grant support for SCED and other social change organizations throughout Central Appalachia. This 2nd annual event raised a record-setting \$26,000 for ACF!

DARRYL CANNADY SHARES ABOUT ACF AND HIS WORK IN WEST VIRGINIA AS NYC BENEFIT FOR ACF HOST COMMITTEE MEMBERS KEVIN JENNINGS AND HEATHER MARS LISTEN INTENTLY

KEVIN JENNINGS COMES TO KNOXVILLE

The son of a Southern Baptist evangelist, the nephew of a Klan leader, and the first of over 40 first cousins to graduate from college, GLESEN (Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network) Founder and ACF Fundraising Chairperson Kevin Jennings has traveled a unique road from a North Carolina trailer park to the halls of Harvard to



KEVIN JENNINGS, ASHE SMITH, PRESIDENT OF THE UTK LAMBDA STUDENT UNION, AND KIMBERLY NAULOCK AND GAYE EVANS OF ACF

his current position as the head of the nation’s leading education organization working to end LGBT prejudice in schools. Kevin began supporting ACF in 2002 to honor the legacy and spirit of his mother, Alice Jennings, a remarkable woman who was from Knoxville and grew up in Appalachia.

On February 8th Kevin was the guest of honor at an ACF benefit in Knoxville where over 75 members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender community and their allies filled Martha and Terry Uselton’s beautiful home. Kevin read a moving passage from his most recent book, *Mama’s Boy, Preacher’s Son*, and gave an inspiring speech about the importance of ACF’s work. This benefit was a record setting regional house party for ACF with \$4,585 raised!



KEVIN JENNINGS WITH KNOXVILLE HOUSE PARTY HOST COMMITTEE MEMBER LELAND WYKOFF

gave a powerful lecture on LGBT history to a standing-room only audience at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK). ACF was proud to co-sponsor Kevin’s lecture with UTK’s Lambda Student Union and UTK’s newly formed Chancellor’s Commission on LGBT People.

FOCIS GIVING CIRCLE ESTABLISHED

We are pleased to welcome the

FOCIS Giving Circle to the Appalachian Community Fund! This February, the non-profit organization FOCIS (Federation of Communities in Service) Incorporated established the FOCIS Giving Circle at ACF with an initial gift of \$50,000. FOCIS was founded by Catholic Glenmary nuns in 1967 when they left the Order to embrace a particular way of engaging in the joys and struggles of community. Over the years, FOCIS has grown to approximately 45-50 members including women and men, Catholics, Protestants, and people of other faiths.

FOCIS has had a tremendous influence in Appalachia and individual members of FOCIS continue to be leaders in community efforts in some of the region’s most oppressed areas. FOCIS members have positively influenced many people and groups in the region, including ACF, through their example of being in community with others, developing a deep understanding of the realities facing Central Appalachia, and working collectively for long-term solutions to problems based on the assets and hindrances found in Appalachian communities.

The depth of FOCIS members’ commitment can be seen in the more than 50 non-profit organizations members have founded in partnership with Appalachian communities and people. These organizations include land trusts, artist co-ops, health clinics, and worker-owned restaurants. FOCIS’ rich history and work for social change is recorded by well-known Appalachian authors and activists, Monica Appleby and Helen Lewis in *Mountain Sisters: From Convent to Community in Appalachia* (University Press of Kentucky, 2003).

The FOCIS Giving Circle was established to encourage others who share the values emerging out of the FOCIS experience to continue on this path. FOCIS made the decision to share their modest financial resources with people who have the energy, spirit, spark and fire to build on the strength of Appalachian Communities and confront the powers at work to destroy community. The FOCIS Giving Circle



FOCIS MEMBERS (FAR R, 2ND AND 4TH FROM R) LINDA MASHBURN, MARIE CIRILLO, AND ANNE LEIBIG; ACF BOARD MEMBERS (1ST ROW, L TO R) JAY MAZON, JESSI TURNER, FRANKI PATTON-RUTHERFORD, HANNAH CROWE (ELIZABETH’S DAUGHTER), ELIZABETH CROWE, BACK ROW (L TO R) TRACY FRAZIER, JEFF MOLEND, JONATHAN DUDLEY, AND RENE SCOTT

was established at ACF to honor and preserve the commitment to communities of place and to encourage future generations to nurture and sustain these values. Giving circles are a growing area of philanthropy, where a group of people pool their resources and make collective decisions on how to socially invest their dollars.

The FOCIS Giving Circle will support art events, environmental awareness, community building processes and creating a place in which people’s work nurtures dignity and self respect. In particular, the Giving Circle’s funding priorities are to support (1) marginalized communities and their efforts to foster economic opportunities and inclusive organizational structures, (2) programs promoting the growth and development of women, and (3) new elder initiatives that are developing communities of mutual support and spirituality.

“We chose to establish our Giving Circle to pass on our values and vision of being in community with others and to create a legacy that would live on after we are gone,” said Anne Leibig, FOCIS President. “It was important to us in selecting an organization to work with that it has a policy of socially and environmentally responsible investing of assets, as well as a

social change grant distribution process. The Appalachian Community Fund has both of these in place.”

“This is an honor for us and is very exciting,” said Gaye Evans, ACF’s Executive Director. “It’s an opportunity to model a different relationship between and among donors, funders, organizations and the community. We are honored by FOCIS’ faith and trust in ACF to house their Giving Circle, and affirmed that we share the same vision and goals for Central Appalachia.

We look forward to the growth of our work together and of the FOCIS Giving Circle!”

UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

MEDIA JUSTICE GRANTS

Applications are available on our website, appalachiancommunityfund.org, and by calling us at 865.523.5783

2008 GENERAL FUND GRANTS

Applications will be mailed and posted on our website in the fall. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please call us at 865.523.5783