



*Philanthropy for
Active Civic Engagement*

Profiles of Engagement Investments

Winter 2006 Edition

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There are many ways in which people participate in civic, community and political life and, by doing so, express their engaged citizenship. From volunteering to voting, from community organizing to political advocacy, the defining characteristic of active civic engagement is the commitment to participate and contribute to the improvement of one's community, neighborhood and nation.

PACE – Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement collects and shares examples of philanthropic investments that have successfully advanced civic and community engagement. In this issue of *Profiles of Engagement Investments* we highlight 16 programs nominated by **PACE** members and friends, including several examples of citizen engagement in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The program examples in this issue range in focus and scope, from a classroom-based youth philanthropy project to a large statewide effort mobilizing civic participation in tax reform.

PACE is a community of grantmakers and donors committed to strengthening democracy by using the power, influence and resources of philanthropy to open pathways to participation. Our mission is **to inspire interest, understanding and investment in civic engagement**. We are interested in the full range of engagement strategies – community and youth organizing, civic education, voter education and mobilization, service-learning, national service, military service, public service and volunteering. We believe philanthropy can substantially improve the impact of civic engagement investments by better understanding and promoting the relationships between and among different engagement strategies. Our goal in finding and supporting the connections between engagement strategies is to leverage the value of each to maximize the collective impact of all.

We invite grantmakers and donors to nominate programs or projects that they are currently supporting or have supported in the past. If you want to know more about **PACE**, nominate a program or become more active in our community of donors and grantmakers, please contact us by phone at (510)665-6130 or at info@pacefunders.org.

*P.S. **PACE** continues to collect and expand our list of engagement investments. We invite all funders and donors to nominate your engagement investments, either online at <http://pacefunders.org/survey.html> or using the nomination form on the last page of print copies of this review.*

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NOMINEE	ACORN: Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now
NOMINEE CONTACT	Steven Bradberry 504/943-0044 (phone) www.acorn.org (website)
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES	
Immediately following Hurricane Katrina, the New Orleans chapter of ACORN helped launch extensive and creative grassroots efforts to help area families. In Houston, ACORN members helped refugees organize around their concerns and secure needed services. Chapters across the country called on government officials and relief organizations to recognize and respond to the immediate needs of affected families. In November 2005, ACORN members coordinated a public forum to engage residents and national representatives from the urban planning, architecture and community development sectors in exploring equitable and appropriate strategies for rebuilding the city.	
NOMINATED BY	
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	

NOMINEE	AmericaSpeaks
NOMINEE CONTACT	Carolyn J. Lukensmeyer 202/775-3939 (phone) cjl@americaspeaks.org (email) www.americaspeaks.org (website)
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES	
AmericaSpeaks is a national nonprofit dedicated to engaging large numbers of citizens in the public decision-making that affects their lives. AmericaSpeaks' "21 st Century Town Meeting" is a dynamic forum that links state-of-the-art technology with small-group, face-to-face dialogue to enable thousands of people to deliberate about important issues and come to shared priorities in a single day. These large, energizing meetings create safe democratic spaces to find common values, reconcile conflicting viewpoints and build strong, diverse coalitions. The 21 st Century Town Meeting has been used in counties, cities, states, regions and at the national level on issues such as social security reform, regional planning, city budgeting, disaster recovery and health care.	
NOMINATED BY	
Ben Shute of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund	

NOMINEE	Charity Checks: Giving Classroom
NOMINEE CONTACT	Lisa Sonne Lsonne.and.vdorff@charitychecks.us (email) www.charitychecks.us (web)
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES	
Charity Checks is a “charitable literacy” program. Students experience first-hand the process and rewards of philanthropy and civic engagement. In a sponsored classroom, every student receives a Charity Check for \$25 to donate to a nonprofit of their choosing. Students research community needs, talk with classmates and family members about values and collect information from local nonprofits. A classroom can be sponsored by an individual or a group, or they can raise the money themselves. Comments and curriculum from teachers who have used the program are posted on the Charity Checks website for teachers to use as a resource.	
NOMINATED BY	
Bruce Miller at Countrywide Financial	

NOMINEE	Family and Community Service of Delaware City
NOMINEE CONTACT	Alan Edelstein 610/566-7540 x222 (phone) aedelstein@fcsdc.org (email) www.fcsdc.org (website)
Family and Community Service’s civic engagement plan focuses on persons in Delaware County, PA who are living with HIV and AIDS. Proposed cuts in federal funding (Ryan White funding) would seriously impact Philadelphia’s system of medical and social services for people with HIV / AIDS. As a result, consumers’ involvement in advocacy and public policy is essential. The organization has developed a series of leadership training workshops to consumers who want to bring their voices to the civic table. Future plans include monthly follow-up support meetings and training-the-trainers sessions.	
NOMINATED BY	
Linda Nguyen of the Alliance for Children and Families	

NOMINEE	Public Agenda
NOMINEE CONTACT	Lara Birnback 212/686-6610 (phone) lbirnback@publicagenda.org (email) www.publicagenda.org (website)
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES	
<p>For years, many New Jersey citizens, business leaders, and public officials were frustrated with what was widely believed to be an unfair and inequitable state tax system. In 2003, Public Agenda received an invitation from New Jersey's Coalition for the Public Good (the Coalition) to help create a forum to engage the public in the complex questions of tax reform. The result was a statewide "Citizen's Tax Assembly," a two-day event that brought together close to 100 diverse delegates representing every county in the state. Public Agenda created print and video discussion starter materials and trained the discussion moderators. Delegates participated in detailed analyses and negotiations, and came up with priorities and recommendations. Four regional tax forums, each with its own set of delegates, engaged additional residents in the deliberations. The Coalition took the Assembly's recommendations directly to the New Jersey Legislature in a set of special hearings and held a follow-up assembly for additional work on the recommendations. More than 200 New Jerseyans participated in the tax assemblies and contributed to the recommendations on how to improve the state's system of raising revenues for government services.</p>	
NOMINATED BY	
Mark Murphy of the Fund for New Jersey	

NOMINEE	River of Words (ROW)
NOMINEE CONTACT	Laura Paradise laura@riverofwords.org (email) www.riverofwords.org (website)
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES	
<p>River of Words is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting literacy, creative expression and community awareness around a critical environmental concern: water. Following the Gulf Coast Hurricanes, ROW provided young people with outlets for expression of concern and support for the affected communities. ROW is internationally recognized for its unique watershed education model which integrates art and poetry in a place-based curriculum. Through educational services, traveling exhibits, publications and community programs, ROW reaches thousands of educators and young people, grades K-12, around the world.</p>	
NOMINATED BY	
Jean Caiani of the Panta Rhea Foundation	

NOMINEE	TMO: The Metropolitan Organization
NOMINEE CONTACT	Renee Barrios 713/807-1429 (phone) www.tmohouston.net (website)
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES	
<p>TMO is a Houston-based community organization of churches, schools, unions and other organizations. Following Hurricane Katrina, Houston Mayor Bill White invited TMO to identify leaders among the evacuees who could work with local, state and national nonprofit and government agencies to resettle the 25,000 men, women and children seeking shelter in Houston. The Survivors Leadership Group (SLG) grew out of these efforts. The SLG established a child-care center and playground for evacuees. They also worked with city officials and local congressional delegation to secure a ruling from the Federal Communications Commission prohibiting the cancellation of cell phone services in the 504 area code. TMO continues to work with survivors on long-term recovery packages, including FEMA reimbursements, housing, food assistance, medical care and public-sector jobs.</p>	
NOMINATED BY	
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	

NOMINEE	Turning Point Center for Youth and Family Development
NOMINEE CONTACT	James Becker 970/221-0999 (phone) www.turningpnt.org (website)
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES	
<p>Youth graduates of Turning Point's adolescent residential treatment programs now have the opportunity to practice civic engagement in a supportive environment. With the Institute on the Common Good based at Denver's Regis University, Turning Point is sponsoring dialogues to engage youth and their families around significant social issues and give them a voice in community discussions. Following the dialogues, participants will be eligible to apply for mini-grants from the Institute on the Common Good to support the civic engagement projects.</p>	
NOMINATED BY	
Linda Nguyen of the Alliance for Children and Families	

NOMINEE	AmeriCorps Hurricane Response and Recovery
NOMINEE CONTACT	Sandy Scott 202/606-6724 (phone)
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES	
<p>Through awards announced in December 2005 totaling more than \$5.5 million, the Corporation for National and Community Service is providing opportunities for 304 additional AmeriCorps members to participate in Gulf Coast community-building initiatives and recovery efforts. Member projects cover a wide range of support, including shelter services, after-school programming and permanent housing for evacuees. In all grants, members recruit and supervise additional community volunteers. The grantees are</p> <p>Southwest Louisiana Health Education Center — www.swlahec.org 115 new AmeriCorps members will help rebuild community infrastructure, including mentoring youth, coordinating medical service for the poor and elderly, and distributing food and supplies to area residents. (Subgrantee of the Louisiana Serve Commission).</p> <p>Trinity Christian Community AmeriCorps 90 new AmeriCorps members will clean and repair homes, establish a community center, and engage displaced residents in volunteer service in their community. (Subgrantee of the Louisiana Serve Commission).</p> <p>Louisiana Delta Service Corps — www.ladeltacorps.org 50 new AmeriCorps members in the Baton Rouge and Delta regions of Louisiana will provide a variety of human services, including clinic support, shelter services, health screenings, and training in life skills and violence prevention. (Subgrantee of the Louisiana Serve Commission).</p> <p>Boys and Girls Club of the Gulf Coast — www.bgcgulfcoast.org AmeriCorps members will provide consistent, predictable, after-school youth programming, both academic and social. (Subgrantee of the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service)</p> <p>St. Louis Safety Service Corps AmeriCorps members will work with the Salvation Army to help rebuild the town of Pass Christian, Mississippi, as shown through regular features on ABC television's "Good Morning America" program; will support the FEMA field office in New Orleans, including helping with services to people in Orleans, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines parishes; and will coordinate community volunteer projects in Montgomery and Mobile, Alabama. (Subgrantee of Missouri Community Service Commission)</p> <p>Hands on Network — www.handsonnetwork.org 15 AmeriCorps members based in Baton Rouge will serve as volunteer coordinators and as on-site project managers for clean-up and restoration in the Gulf Region.</p> <p>National Council of La Raza — www.nclr.org 19 AmeriCorps members will address education and housing needs for hurricane evacuees at five different sites. In Midland and Houston, Texas, members provide direct support in resettlement and housing issues; in Albuquerque, N.M., members tutor evacuee children, provide case management, and help adults with job skills; in New Orleans, members recruit and coordinate volunteers to repair and rebuild homes for low-income families; and in Jackson, Miss., members work with local community leaders to address the needs of returning community members.</p> <p>Hope Worldwide — www.hopeww.org AmeriCorps members are organizing and supporting volunteers in relief activities. In four Mississippi communities (Ocean Springs, Gulfport, Waveland and Biloxi), members mentor, tutor, and provide emergency services to displaced children. Members also support programs for evacuee children in Los Angeles and in Columbia, S.C.</p>	
NOMINATED BY	
Michael McKay of the Corporation for National and Community Service	

Profiles of Engagement Investments

Program Nomination Form

PACE invites grantmakers and donors to nominate programs that have successfully advanced civic & community engagement for the **PACE Profiles of Engagement Investments** project. To nominate a program, complete this form and return it by fax, mail or Email to the address listed at the bottom of this page.

Organization: _____

Specific Program/Project/Grant: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Contact person: _____ Email, if available: _____

Please provide a brief description of the program/project/grant (3-5 sentences), including why you think this is a successful civic engagement investment:

Organization: _____

Specific Program/Project/Grant: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Contact person: _____ Email, if available: _____

Please provide a brief description of the program/project/grant (3-5 sentences), including why you think this is a successful civic engagement investment:

NOMINATED BY

Your name: _____ Your phone or email _____

Foundation name: _____

PACE will print and distribute a list of the nominated programs, including your name and organization as the nominator. If you have any questions about this, please contact Leslie Patron at the Email, fax, or phone below. To refer additional program examples, copy this form or add additional pages.

THANK YOU!

Return this form to PACE:

Fax to 510-665-6129, or Email information to info@pacefunders.org or

Mail to **PACE**, 2550 Ninth Street, Suite 113, Berkeley, CA 94710.

You can also complete this form on-line at our Web site www.pacefunders.org.