



Transparency
Accountability
Vision

The Nathan Cummings Foundation

2003 Annual Report

Table of Contents

Message from Chair.....	i
President's Report.....	ii
Arts and Culture Program.....	1
Environment Program.....	11
Health Program.....	20
Jewish Life and Values/ Contemplative Practice Programs.....	28
Interprogram Initiatives for Social and Economic Justice.....	39

Message From The Chair

The Nathan Cummings Foundation is inspired by Jewish tradition and the concepts of tzedakah (charity) and tikkun olam (repairing the world). As a learning institution we are enriched by the languages and cultures of the different traditions that we encounter in our work. As Rabbi Avraham Kook of Israel once taught:

“G-d dealt kindly with his world by not putting all the talents in one place...Who is wise? – he/she who learns from all people...no individual knows all of the truth, and each person knows a piece of it...”

As our work illustrates, The Nathan Cummings Foundation is committed to this ethic and spirit as we strive to incorporate and internalize the lessons of a diverse world.

As we completed many of our pragmatic transitions in 2003, we began to look inside ourselves and recognize the impact that we, as individuals and as a collective organization of Board, Staff and grantees, can have on the world. It was a year of reflection and new directions as we challenged ourselves to identify opportunities for investments in new visions, ideas and activities and in people themselves. We challenged the world of social justice - reframing age-old debates; helping realize pioneering visions; developing creative models; and providing support for new voices.

We have been fortunate to have an ever-increasing participation by the family's 4th generation having worked over the years to develop a structure and place for all voices. We continue to pursue our mission of creating a better world with vigor and commitment understanding the lesson of Pirkei Avot (Ethics of Our Fathers): “It is not our duty to complete the work, but neither are we free to desist from it.”

Ruth Cummings Sorensen
Chair

President's Report

As part of NCF's commitment to maximize the resources devoted to grantees we have converted our annual report to an online version. Enclosed you'll find summaries of each program areas' grantmaking activities during 2003.

The guidelines that we began to implement in 2002 helped focus our grantmaking strategically. Interprogram Initiatives for Social and Economic Justice became a tool not only to help break down our programmatic silos, but also to aid in focusing the programmatic efforts. The Arts & Culture Program supported artists and organizations raising social justice issues. The Environment Program focused on corporate internalization of costs and reframing the environmental debate. The Health Program continued to fund organizations that promoted health care access through litigation and community organizing. The Jewish Life & Values/Contemplative Practice Programs supported organizations that helped mainstream social justice within the Jewish communities. And on numerous grants, these programs came together and jointly funded projects to leverage their combined power.

In addition to its grant-making programs, the Foundation encourages the accountability of corporations through its activities as an engaged shareholder. As an institutional investor the Foundation believes that the way a company addresses environmental and community issues has important implications for long-term shareholder value. In 2003 the Foundation brought its first shareholder resolutions, one at a major pharmaceutical company about patent extensions and one at the largest hog producer / processor in the world about environmental impacts. In both cases the Foundation worked in collaboration with other institutional investors including members of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility and the Council of Institutional Investors.

Internally, The Nathan Cummings Foundation has continued to expand and in 2003 we welcomed additional family members from the fourth generation as Associates on our Board. As the family grows, we continue to embrace the challenge of incorporating new members.

In recent years there has been increased scrutiny of foundation practices in the public sphere. It is our responsibility as foundations to practice proper governance and to support procedures and regulations that effectively address illegal or unethical practices. We have lost some of the public's faith in us – it is our responsibility as members of the nonprofit sector to conduct ourselves in a manner that regains that trust. We at the Nathan Cummings Foundation are dedicated to this goal.

Lance E. Lindblom
President & CEO

ARTS AND CULTURE PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

In an effort to build and strengthen the field of art and social justice, the Arts and Culture Program of the Nathan Cummings Foundation seeks to support the works of artists and arts institutions committed to working with communities; and addressing issues of significance to society as a whole. We promote this work by supporting media and research that articulates the power of art used in a social context and we sustained this work by supporting public policies that empower creators to speak with diverse voices.

GOAL

To support artistic practices, programs and policies that encourage cross-culture and multidisciplinary collaborations, and give voice to the issues and experiences of underrepresented communities, in order to build a stronger society.

OBJECTIVE I:

To support arts and cultural organizations partnering with community groups that engage in responsive processes, collective problem solving, cross-cultural initiatives or the education of a broader public about social justice issues and shared community concerns. These programs should have national or multi-state impact and might include: residencies; new works of performing art or exhibitions of visual art that have more than one committed venue; documentation initiatives that have commitments for comprehensive distribution plans; cross cultural and multi-state collaborations; and the dissemination of existing works that have resonance in other communities.

Strategy 1:

To identify, support and document key projects that involve cultural institutions working collaboratively with multigenerational, multiethnic, multidisciplinary and/or broad geographic communities in response to economic and social justice issues articulated by those communities.

In implementing Strategy 1, Art and Social Justice, the Arts and Culture Program targeted four types of organizations: 1) universities that teach young artists community-building skills, 2) service organizations that conduct research, convene and regrant to individual artists, 3) social justice organizations that work with artists to convey their messages and 4) arts organizations that have a history of exploring issues of social justice and shared community concerns. The combined efforts of these organizations will produce artists who are dedicated to and appreciated for their willingness to work towards change; institutions that teach artists and communities how to work together to achieve change and works of art that redefine the canon by affirming the experiences and concerns of the nation's culturally and economically diverse populace.

1) Universities (and arts organizations) that teach young artists community-building skills:

There is a generation of young artists who are currently in high school and college who desire to work in communities, but lack the skills necessary to work effectively with community residents who have compelling needs and overwhelming challenges. We have been identifying a growing

cohort of art schools and universities that are developing degree-granting programs in this area. There are also programs, such as Artists for Humanities and others that successfully engage high school students in cultural processes that allow them to reconnect with their communities, affirm their own self-worth and build relationships with groups and individuals whose backgrounds are different from their own. We supported the replication of model programs with proven track records.

In mid-May, teams from six universities that were developing new curriculum, protocols for working in communities, internships and residency programs convened at the University of Southern California at Monterey Bay. Each team included university administrators and faculty, student mentors, community cultural workers and in some instances high school students. Each university approached this work being mindful of the demands and challenges of its local community, the structure and culture of the university and the local support that might be available to continue this work over time. **California College of the Arts, Columbia College** (Chicago), **Foundation of California State University Monterey Bay** and **New York University** (Tisch School of the Arts) have all created degree-granting programs that teach community organizing, team leadership, organizational management and art-making skills to students who want to work in and with communities. Though the programs vary in structure and content, all of them provide opportunities for students to work with adolescents, community leaders and established artists; and many of these students have now chosen to live in the communities where they have worked.

Youth and social justice We also gave support for the replication of **City Kids,' CKIOI** program. CityKids is an organization that provides adolescents with an opportunity to grow creatively, intellectually and morally through the creation of performances that address issues of concern to them. CK101 is an experiential learning laboratory where young people receive training in the performing arts, as well as leadership and organizing skills. Our support enabled CityKids to refine and document their practices and create a kit that can be disseminated to the more than 75 communities that are interested in creating similar programs. Additionally, it is our hope that organizations such as this prove to be feeder institutions and community partners for some of the universities that we are working with. **Artists for Humanities Inc.** is a Boston based, visual arts organization for youth that espouses that art is a powerful force for social change and creative entrepreneurship. We also supported replication of their program. College students who were participants in the program during their teens primarily run this organization.

Additionally, our office exhibition, *Confrontation or Commentary: The Role of Political Art in Society* which was sponsored by **Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation** examined gender and racial stereotypes, police violence, prison reform, as well as African iconography in the new world. Rush Philanthropic supports youth arts and individual artists committed to social justice.

2) Service organizations that conduct research, convene and regrant to individual artists:

In order for us to grow a field of artists who embrace and practice art addressing issues of social and economic justice we need to develop research that defines and critiques the field. We need to convene practitioners so that we can identify their challenges, document their successes and facilitate peer learning. We also want to advance the delivery of services and the creation of work in communities throughout the country. Service organizations have a broad view of the state of the field. They often are aware of the communities that are most in need of or are receptive to this type of work and they know the practitioners.

We targeted two service organizations that represent the interests of artists who are committed to social justice working in the theater, visual and media arts. **Creative Capital** has identified and supported a cohort of artists who have rapidly gained recognition as risk-takers and community catalysts. Under the leadership of Ben Cameron, **Theater Communications Group** has waged a campaign to strengthen and stabilize small-to mid-sized theaters that are struggling to stay afloat during the current economic downturn. Both organizations support community-practice in areas that are not on the radar screens of national foundations.

3) Arts organizations that have a history of exploring issues of social justice and shared community concerns:

Media projects were supported as art that addresses issues of social justice. The methods of distribution for most of these projects can also serve as effective communications tools for conveying a message to broad and diverse constituencies. In recognition of the importance of race as an historical divisive factor in the forging of the “more perfect union,” the Arts and Culture Program supported the **Camera News** documentary series, *Matters of Race*. This four-part program explored race in the United States in all of its complexity--from the plight of new immigrants to issues of entitlements for indigenous peoples. This series examines tensions arising from historic practices, as well as the challenges that arise as we evolve new sets of values. Camera News developed educational materials and public programs that helped individuals throughout the country examine these issues.

Other initiatives under this strategy target very specific communities of interest. **Talking Eyes Media Inc.** built on the success of *Denied: The Crisis of the Uninsured* publication by traveling an exhibition of the photographs and personal accounts of the uninsured. The Arts and Culture and Health Programs supported Talking Eyes Media as well as the **Catticus Corporation** and Quest Productions’ *Lideres Campesina: Doing Away with Barriers*, a one-hour documentary detailing the struggles of Latina farm workers in California.

The theatre community has assumed a leadership role in exploring issues of social justice through their processes of developing plays with their communities on topical issues; their engagement with their audiences through collaborative programs and the dissemination of their messages in other communities. The subjects of these works are often historical events or acts of injustice. These works challenge preconceived understandings, inspire discourse, and in some instances completely transform the participants. **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** explored the ethics, ambitions, ideals and political legacies surrounding a gubernatorial debate in a set of plays. One examined the life and motivations of a Democratic candidate and the other examined the Republican candidate. The company does not endorse the views of either candidate. However, it demonstrates the complex process of decision-making that can affect the lives of hundreds of thousands of citizens.

The Hip Hop Theatre Junction brings the messages of hip hop poets, playwrights and dancers to audiences in New York, San Francisco and Washington, DC. In each city, they are attracting young audiences to traditional theater venues, raising issues that are of concern to their peers and providing workshops and classes so that aspiring young artists can develop new works. The **Los Angeles Poverty Department** created theater that has enabled them to broker relationships with groups working towards prison reform. **Pangea World Theater** provided an opportunity for immigrant and minority artists to create theater that incorporated their shared values.

Perseverance Theatre in Alaska worked with its community to develop *The Cannery Project*. This play explored the harsh economic and social conditions encountered by first generation Filipino immigrants who came to Alaska in the 1930's and 1940's to work in salmon canning factories. The playwrights interviewed workers to capture their stories. Participants also included Tlinglit families. Many early Filipino workers married members of the Tlinglet tribe. This play traveled down the West Coast and was presented in other communities that are involved in the salmon canning industry.

We also supported for the **Fiji Theater Company's** presentation of Ping Chong & Company performing *Children of War*. This original work, based on the oral histories of diverse young people who have experienced war, civil turmoil and /or domestic trauma, was presented at the opening of our office exhibition in June 2003. The exhibition featured photographs of children who are the victims of war who have suffered displacement, disfigurement, homelessness, hunger, abuse and the loss of loved ones.

The museum community is taking risks and in many instances is opening itself to the possibility of sharing authority with its communities. The **Queens Museum of Art** collaborated with the Schomburg Center and the United Nations to produce the touring exhibition, *Ralph Bunche: An American Legend*. The exhibition explored the life of this Nobel Peace Prize winner who was active in the Civil Rights Movement, the decolonialization of several African states and the negotiations for peace between Jews and Palestinians between 1947 and 1949.

4) Social Justice organizations that collaborate with artists in order to advance their message: The Arts Program collaborated with the Health Program and Interprogram in support of arts programming at two social justice organizations. The **Institute of Public Life**, an organization that advances the Foundation's interest in safe work places, using the arts as a tool for educating communities about working conditions among low-wage laborers. In 2002 they presented a theatrical production of excerpts from Studs Terkel's *Working* which attracted more than 1,000 individuals for two performances. In 2003, they developed a theatrical work to educate their constituents and they increased the number of venues for their performances.

The Arts and Culture Program supported the **Jobs with Justice Education Fund** for a second year. In 2002, we supported a collaboration with filmmakers who used testimony from town meetings to create a short documentary film that provided viewers with concrete examples of the struggles of workers who lack basic benefits such as health care. In 2003-04 we supported artists who attended their annual meeting and the development of projects based on their mutual concerns and interests.

The Foundation's commitment to Art and Social Justice focuses on building a field of artists who empower others by assisting communities in articulating their concerns; facilitating partnerships and broad-based collaborations and documenting and sharing promising practices. Our strategy has been to engage adolescents, students, and working artists of all ages who are committed to this work. At the **Ella Baker Center for Human Rights in California** in San Francisco, teens create rap music and spoken word poetry to educate their peers through a *Books Not Bars, Schools not Jails* initiative. This project seeks to improve the quality of life for young people by strengthening public education while discouraging the building of new youth detention centers.

Strategy 2:

To identify and support museums that have re-envisioned their institution's relationships with underserved constituencies.

The American Association of Museums (AAM) has made *Museums and their Communities*, (an initiative to help museums recognize and address the changing demographics in our nation as they build audiences), a field-wide priority. Our grantees have been identified as leaders in the field and have been featured speakers in regional meetings in throughout the country. These individuals are pushing for a field-wide effort to establish new practices that embrace new audiences and engage all constituents in a manner that makes museums more meaningful and accessible.

Three museums that re-envisioned their institutions were granted final support. The **Chicago Historical Society** planned an exhibition for, with and about teens. Public programming began and once each month teens developed and hosted a major event. The **Please Touch Museum** in Philadelphia engaged in audience development and worked with underserved ethnic communities and parents living in stressful situations. The **Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum** brought in artists to work, who collaboratively develop works of art with community members that address issues as wide ranging as displacement, personal safety and teen violence.

Each of the museums that was funded under this initiative sent a staff member and a community partner to a meeting in Seattle in September. They shared practices, successes and failures. Some agreed to present their work at national conferences and they all made recommendations about how we might publish our findings.

Strategy 3:

To develop and support a communications strategy that includes the publication and dissemination of research that substantiates the importance of the arts in influencing social change; and the dissemination of information about collaborative projects that leads to effective public education as well as social and political action.

The Arts and Culture Program's communications strategy has been implemented in three ways. We have supported the publication of new research that will define and inform the field. We have supported websites, hard-copy publications and media created for public and cable broadcast that relay key messages to broad segments of the population. We have also supported media organizations that identify media makers and projects that are significant and are in sync with our over-all goals.

Kings Majestic Corporation's initiative, *Inclusive Relationships: Developing Community Together/Phase 2* involved the development of an *Institutional Guide for Participating in Community Development*. **Art in the Public Interest** continues to build its website, the *Community Arts Network*, a site that documents practice among community arts practitioners. In addition to using our strategy to build the field of Art and Social Justice workers, we are also making sure that alternative points of view are readily accessible. **Pacific News Service** provides opportunities for homeless and incarcerated youth around the country to share their concerns on the web and in hardcopy publications; and the

Independent Press Association facilitates the distribution of mission-driven periodicals that cover social change issues.

We have determined that documentary films with broad distribution plans that are shown on PBS or a major cable franchise, that also have innovative outreach components can be powerful tools for social change. **Camera News, Inc., DBA third World Newsreel** and Roja Productions premiered *Citizen King*, a documentary film that traces the last five years of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King and focuses primarily on his involvement with the Poor People's Movements. The Arts and Culture and Jewish Life and Values Programs supported **CLAL-The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, Inc.** to do outreach for the documentary film *Trembling Before G-d*. This film about homosexuality in the Jewish community and the accompanying curriculum, focus on tolerance, inclusion and social change through a 'faithful challenge.' Two of our grantees, the **Bay Area Video Coalition, Inc.** in San Francisco and **The Scribe Video Center Inc.** in Philadelphia facilitate the work of professional media makers and community residents who are seeking to tell their stories. BAVC was also funded by the Environment Program for their support of films addressing environmental concerns.

The **New York Foundation for the Arts** (Lumiere Productions) developed a media project, *To Tell the Truth*, a documentary series that traces the history of documentary film by exploring a diverse group of artists who struggled to use film to better society's understanding of the times they were living in, and to effect policy and social change. This film looks at the power of media, and the importance of the public having access to diverse voices, an issue that has immediate resonance during a period in our history when the media is increasingly being controlled by a few large corporations.

Strategy 4:

To convene artists and arts administrators to foster information exchange, coalition building, the development of collective strategies as well as to provide direct support.

This year the Arts and Culture Program supported two types of convenings. They include the conferences of service organizations that reach a broad sector of the field, and meetings of small cohorts of leaders within segments of the field. The Arts and Culture Program focused on solidifying its relationships with service organizations that have the ability to influence the work of an entire field. We focused on the visual and performing arts, two disciplines where there are a critical number of artists working to achieve social and economic justice. We referenced the Theater Communications Group (TCG) and Creative Capital under Strategy 1. Both organizations convene grantees, share research and provide specific support to constituents in need of technical assistance. **TCG** convened the leadership of theaters of color at White Oak to identify strategies to sustain these institutions and in doing so promote theater that represents diverse voices. **Creative Capital** convenes its artists so that they can develop business and promotional plans, receive technical assistance and explore opportunities that might lead to greater exposure for the work as well as creative collaborations.

We have continued our support of **Grantmakers in the Arts** (GIA), the national service organization for arts grantmakers. GIA has continued to implement a strategic plan that is closely aligned with the values of NCF's Arts and Social Justice focus and many of our grantees were

conference presenters. **Alternate Roots, Inc.** and **Appalshop, Inc.**'s *American Festival* provided an opportunity for artists who are working primarily in the Southeast to meet, share research, evaluate projects, and plan collaborative projects. We have also facilitated the work of leaders in the community-based arts, museum and environmental arts communities. The institutions that were funded through our *Re-envisioning Museums* initiative met in Seattle at the **Wing Luke Memorial Foundation, Inc.**, where they shared resources and assisted with the development of a dissemination plan. The **Orion Society** convened a group of eco-artists in Massachusetts who explored the concept of freedom and ecological responsibility; and **Intermedia Arts of Minnesota, Inc.** convened practitioners in the field of community cultural development, which will result in a written report documenting promising practices.

OBJECTIVE II:

To defend against adverse public, private and corporate policies, art censorship and other legal and social challenges that impact the wellbeing of the non-profit cultural community.

Strategy 1:

To identify and support arts policy organizations that facilitate discussion between policy makers and grassroots practitioners; and develop policy that is informed by research as well as evolving practices within the impacted communities.

The primary policy issues that the Arts and Culture Program were concerned with Health Care for Artists, Informal Arts in Immigrant Communities, Media Reform and the broad issue of Social Indicators that effects all of the Foundation's program areas. Arts and Culture and Interprogram supported two complimentary two-year grants that address health issues for artists. **Working Today, Inc** is engaged in a campaign to secure insurance for free-lancers in New York, a rapidly growing cohort that includes artists. **Leveraging Investments in Creativity** is an organization that grew out of a study that this foundation supported concerning the economic structural supports for individual artists. Leveraging is identifying existing health care for artists of all disciplines, which will be available on their website; and they will develop a plan of action for artists in need of insurance.

In 2002, **Cultural Initiatives-Silicon Valley** developed a report that outlined trends in cultural participation within immigrant communities. Additional support in 2003 enabled them to formulate strategies that will lead to a detailed plan. This research should be useful to cities throughout the nation that wish to welcome and incorporate new immigrants into the cultural life of a community.

On a larger scale, Arts and Culture and Interprogram's work with the **Media Education Foundation** supported a convening of leaders, policymakers and private individuals who are interested in media reform. This conference enabled the stakeholders to identify collective strategies for reform that will benefit the American public. In addition, both programs continued to support **Fordham University** for the *Institute for Innovation in Social Policy*; we are particularly interested in the publication that the Institute is producing that will include a chapter on *Arts, Culture and the Social Health of the Nation*.

Columbia College's Center for Arts Policy is researching the field of community-based art and documenting the work of artists whose community-based projects are often referenced as model programs. They have commissioned writings by public intellectuals who have critiqued this work;

and cultural commentators who challenge organizations to take next steps. *Democratic Vistas*, a series of essays, will be broadly disseminated to universities, artists, arts organizations, funders and policymakers. This material will be a valuable resource for the universities and art schools that are developing degree-granting programs in arts and community building.

On a broader policy level, we renewed our support for the **William J. Brennan Center for Justice** and their work on *Dobbins v. Legal Services Corporation*. This case responds to federal funding restrictions, which suggests that receipt of one dollar in federal funds will subject an organization to the restricted use of other funds in accordance with federal guidelines. Though the original defendant is a legal services corporation, we recognize that these restrictions could impact cultural, health and social services organizations that have broad missions and are currently dependent on federal support for the implementation of a part of those missions. The Arts Program collaborated with Health and Interprogram in support of the Brennan Center. We also worked with Interprogram and all of the other program areas to support the **Focus Project Inc.** and its *Estate Tax Research and Education Project*. This initiative involves an effort to address estate tax issues in order to maintain incentives for charitable giving that will enable continued private support of arts and culture.

Strategy 2:

To identify interventions and practices that will help enable non-profit arts organizations to enter into relationships with corporations that are equitable and mutually rewarding and that affirm the values and mission of the arts organization.

Today, there is a dawning public awareness that large companies have become commanding institutional forces, exerting immense influence on national governance, the media and the economy. The Arts and Culture program's commitment to corporate accountability mirrors the sentiments of a growing segment of the population. We have determined that one of the most effective means of addressing these issues is through the media.

Public Knowledge (Obj. II Strat. 3) examined current relationships between artists and corporations as well as proposed policies that may have an adverse impact on creators. The **William J. Brennan Center for Justice (Obj. II, Strat. 1)** is engaged in a lawsuit that will protect the interests of a variety of not-for-profit entities that rely on public support but seeks to maintain a level of autonomy in the implementation of their services.

We collaborated with Interprogram to support two projects, **WGBH Educational Foundation's Frontline** and **Earth Island Institute Inc.'s In the Light of Reverence**. *Frontline* examined a number of issues related to NCF social justice objectives in a series of investigative documentaries. The *Sacred Land Film Project* continues to use the film, *In the Light of Reverence* to educate stakeholders about the destruction of sacred lands by corporations. They also convened a group that included Native people, public workers, corporate officials, environmentalists, outdoor recreationists and journalists who will attempt to work out protocols for the protection of sacred lands. Finally, **Habitat Media Inc.** developed a two-part documentary series as well as educational materials that examine the historic relationship between corporate influence and democracy.

Strategy 3:

To support communications strategies, including convenings, research, the development of web-pages as well as hard copy publications that foster access, encourage the exchange of ideas and educate the field about the state of the art and the implications of policy decisions for the arts community.

Our communications strategy involves support for policy think tanks that are examining the impact of new media on the cultural community. We are supporting documentary film, which analyze the roles of media in society, and we are assisting grantees that seek to use media to tell their stories more effectively. In 2002, the Arts and Culture Program supported the work of **Public Knowledge**; a public interest organization that is addressing the impact of digital technologies and copyright policies on creativity. Public Knowledge engaged in a series of individual and group conversations with representatives of over 70 arts, culture and humanities organizations to assess how well informed their constituents were and to develop strategies for educating them about the implications of new laws and proposed regulations that will effect their work. One of the key findings was that each artistic discipline has different issues. Accordingly, no single set of strategies will effectively address the issues of the cultural community. In 2003, Public Knowledge identified issues within specific sectors of the cultural community, i.e. theater, film, visual arts, literary arts, etc.; and developed strategies for new public policies and private initiatives that promote free speech and creativity that also support the creator's ability to earn an income from her creative products. This project also received support from Interprogram.

The New York Foundation for the Arts (Guerrilla News Network) developed *True Lies*, a documentary film that examined how the media has ceased to be a public service and increasingly serves the interests of the corporations that own and control it. A group of young filmmakers who have worked for MTV worked on this cutting edge film using fast cuts and popular music to appeal to the younger generation and encourage media literacy. This project also received support from Interprogram.

In 2002, all of the Nathan Cummings Foundation program areas supported the work of the **Independent Media Institute**. We supported the ongoing work of AlterNet, an alternative media outlet; and some of our grantees received SPIN training, which is a workshop that imparts effective media skills to organizations. Just as Public Knowledge determined that the issues of importance for segments of the cultural community depend on the type of institution, its size and its mission, we have determined that the best way to direct cohorts of grantees to SPIN Academies is for us to identify groups of institutions by size, discipline and mission. In 2003 we targeted the theater community for training. Other communities that have expressed strong interest are the media community and some alternative visual arts institutions.

The **Independent Media Institute** was also responsible for the *Cover the Uninsured Week Campaign*. While the grantees were originally seeking support to commission a photographer who would document the uninsured across America for a proposed book, the Arts and Health Program directors encouraged them to consider traveling an exhibition of the photographs so that the campaign would have an impact beyond the life of the single one-week initiative. These works have been exhibited in libraries, at foundations, healthcare facilities and in municipal buildings throughout the country.

The Arts and Culture Program recognizes the importance of the **Tides Center** (Rockridge Institute) work with NCF grantees representing all program areas in framing for social change. The skill sets that the Institute is developing will be useful to creators who want to get their messages across within in the context of millions of competing voices in the twenty-first century.

NEXT STEPS

During this second year of funding in the Arts and Culture Program, a community has emerged that shares beliefs, practices and commitments. Nonetheless, the arts community continues to define itself by discipline and by size of institution. Leaders also continue to describe themselves in terms of their points of entry into the field. Therefore we have the self-declared Civil Rights leaders who are now in their forties and fifties and the Hip-Hop leaders who are in their twenties and thirties, as well as an emerging group of Social Justice leaders who overlap the other two groups. One of our challenges will be to get groups to work collaboratively and share information across discipline and we will need to facilitate conversations between generations of leaders.

Our initial approach has involved our seeding the field with artists committed to social justice who are fourteen and older. We have been able to reach adolescents through key community-based programs that can be replicated nationally and through our work with universities. Our university programs serve youth, college students and working artists; and our work with service organizations allows us to reach artists committed to issues of social justice throughout the nation. We look forward to learning more about the impact of social justice organizations that are working directly with individual artists. While both the artists and the organizations see this as an incredible opportunity, we would like to convene these groups so that we can get a clearer sense of what successful engagements look like.

ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

When a company pollutes a community's water supply, destroys the beauty of a landscape or pumps greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, it appropriates something that belongs to everyone - a common asset -- for its own private gain. Because the company has not paid for the asset, the public is placed in the position of granting an involuntary subsidy to the company. These involuntary subsidies allow companies to shift many of the burdens of their business practices onto the general public – with a disproportionate share of the burden borne by those least able to afford it.

A core strategy of the Environment Program is to support organizations that are working to win concrete, near-term victories that advance long-term, common sense changes in the principles that govern economic activity. The groups NCF funded in 2003 work to ensure free and fair competition in the market place by eliminating environmentally destructive subsidies – of both the direct and involuntary varieties. They work to establish the principle, over the long-term, that a precautionary approach should be taken to the production and marketing of potentially dangerous chemicals. They work for large-scale public investments in a clean-energy future to establish the concept that our common assets – the land, water and sky – are priceless and should only be used in ways that create a net benefit for the public. And they take advantage of state budget crises to establish two new precedents – that polluters should pay to address the problems they create and developers should be contractually bound to deliver public benefits in return for public support.

This work is founded on the idea that environmentally safe technologies and practices will compete successfully when the prices of goods reflect the real costs and risks of production. The groups are finding opportunities to advance this concept in a political context characterized by assaults on a generation of environmental protections and severe budget crises. These challenges are forcing the development of new thinking, and principles are being established that will shape the next generation of environmentalism.

The emerging approach – to bring about changes in one area that create multiple benefits throughout the system – are what the fellows of the **Rockridge Institute** define as “strategic initiatives.” Rockridge has worked with many NCF grantees to assist them with their strategic framing and communication of issues. As a result, organizations funded during the year are gaining clarity about the importance of strategic initiatives and how to conceptualize and communicate based on core values. These organizations engage in the work of re-framing old debates in different ways. They questioned some basic assumptions, and they broaden their thinking to create the possibility of new alliances and broader constituencies.

GOAL

The goal of the Environment Program is to facilitate environmental justice and environmentally sustainable communities by supporting the accountability of corporations, governments, and other institutions for their environmental practices.

OBJECTIVE I:

To facilitate the accountability of corporations, governments, and other institutions for their environmental practices.

Strategy 1:

To facilitate the development of public policies and other approaches by which corporations, governments and other institutions take responsibility for the real environmental costs and risks of their activities.

In 2002 NCF made a grant to the **Rockridge Institute** (PAG), a project of the **Tides Center**, the nation's leading think tank on matters of framing, to work with our grantees, to establish a dialogue between academics and activists, and to encourage a more deliberate and thoughtful use of framing in the work of social change. The grant has succeeded beyond our expectations, with scores of organizations now engaged in their work in different ways because of what they have learned from Rockridge. A Presidential Authority Grant was made to renew support for this work in 2003 and help establish a program for young scholars.

The foundation also made a general support grant at a higher level to help build the infrastructure of the **Rockridge Institute**, including the development and implementation of a detailed business plan, improving basic administrative and fundraising functions, and building the capacity for expanded programming -- so that its work can be made available to many more leaders and organizations over time. Support for Rockridge met both objectives and all four strategies of the Environment Program, and was funded by all five program areas.

The Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) of **Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors** was given a Presidential Authority Grant by Environment and Interprogram early in 2003 to work directly with companies on climate change. CDP brings together institutional investors representing trillions of dollars in assets to encourage the world's largest corporations to consider the potential financial and legal issues associated with global warming. This work furthers the principles of responsible corporate ownership and shareholder activism.

By bringing together broad-based alliances that include labor unions, people affected by environmental health hazards, faith organizations and others, the following three grants made under this strategy also advance Strategy 2, building public constituencies, and Objective II, facilitating environmental justice.

Health Care Without Harm (HCHW), supported by Environment, Health and Interprogram, is working with large-scale consumers within the health care industry to establish a precautionary approach to the production and marketing of chemicals. The current paradigm assumes that chemicals are safe until proven otherwise. The precautionary approach to inevitable scientific uncertainty reverses the burden and simply applies the standard that society now uses for pharmaceuticals – demonstrate safety and necessity before a drug is licensed for introduction into patients' bodies – to chemicals that will enter our bodies through the environment. The strategic focus on health care and professionals who are sworn to “first, do no harm” has produced dramatic results. For example, doctors, hospitals and large health maintenance organizations have already acted to replace contracts with companies that market toxic vinyl – used in many applications including IV tubing – with contracts with companies producing safer alternatives.

And because of HCWH's work with large purchasers, thermometers containing toxic mercury will soon be a thing of the past.

Long-term, the adoption of a precautionary approach (the European Union is moving in this direction) would fundamentally alter the relationship between producer and consumer, and give healthy alternatives a competitive place in the market.

The **Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies (CEERT)**, supported by Environment and Interprogram, saw California's \$38 billion budget deficit as an opportunity to shift public policy toward the principle that the polluter should pay to address the harm it creates. Revenues from a CEERT-proposed \$1 per-barrel fee on oil refining would be used to offset proposed cuts in pollution mitigation measures, including mass transit for low-income communities. CEERT staff led the charge in 2002 for a first-in-the-nation, state-level, public policy on global warming, and has the experience and connections necessary to set yet another national precedent.

Environment and Interprogram teamed on a grant to the California Partnership for Working Families, a project of the **Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy** and partner organizations from California's major population centers. If the Partnership succeeds, it will create a new precedent: developers will be contractually bound to deliver specified environmental and other public benefits in return for public investment in their projects. Partnership strategies – focused on building community power in order to win commitments from developers who receive public subsidies – have been tested successfully at the local level and NCF support enabled the partners to take the strategy statewide.

Two Presidential Authority Grants and one core grant supported organizations that are deeply involved in voter education efforts, **Earth Day Network, Inc. (EDN)** (PAG), the **National Environmental Trust (NET)**, and the **League of Conservation Voters Education Fund (LCVEF)** (PAG). These grants, however, did not support those efforts directly, but rather helped the groups and their partners expand the scope of their work to include many people not usually thought of as environmentalists. Earth Day Network partnered with the NAACP Voter Fund, Southwest Voter and Education Project and Project Vote (the largest people of color voter education groups in the country) to build lasting relationships and solid connections to grassroots community organizing. NCF support (a Presidential Authority Grant) allowed these groups to work with Rockridge scholars on framing for broad-based constituency building. NET's effort focused on alerting diverse constituencies, including public health officials, businesses and people of color organizations, to the threats now posed to the environment by federal policies intent on maximizing resource development. And LCVEF, with the support of a Presidential Authority Grant, did research, relationship-building and communications work necessary to expand and deepen the connections between labor and environmental constituencies, working with, and building on, the work of the Apollo Alliance, NET and other allies.

These three grants met both Environment Program objectives, and strategies to hold institutions accountable, build broad public constituencies and increase public access to information and decision-making.

Ceres, Inc. is one of our leading organizations working with corporations and their shareholders to increase corporate accountability for the environmental impacts of their business activities. A

renewal grant was made by the Environment Program and Interprogram to support CERES' efforts on global warming and transparency in governance and accounting.

Strategy 2:

To broaden public constituencies that will encourage corporations and other institutions to internalize the true environmental costs of their activities, by connecting environmentalists to public health, labor, religious, minority, economic development, science, business, youth, academic, social justice and other groups.

A cluster of renewal grants was made to three groups working to bring together ranchers, farmers, property and business owners, consumers and environmentalists to create popular pressure for governmental and corporate accountability.

The first of these, the **Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC)**, supported by Environment, Health and Interprogram, finds opportunity in federal plans to rapidly expand fossil fuel development in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain States. Bedrock conservatives in those states are seeing an unprecedented assault on what they believed to be their private property rights; federal law allows the owners of subsurface mineral rights to destroy the surface in order to develop those resources. When even the ranch featured in the movie "The Horse Whisperer" is being dug up to get at natural gas deposits, strange new alliances become possible. Long-term, these alliances will be critical to the establishment of the concept that common assets are invaluable and must be protected.

Environment and Interprogram supported The Campaign for Family Farms and the Environment (CFFE), a project of the **Land Stewardship Project**, which represents statewide grassroots organizations throughout the rural Midwest. These groups bring together generations of farmers, business and property owners to work effectively to hold corporate agriculture accountable for the health, environmental and community costs imposed by factory farming's worst practices. They have had important successes, from addressing the problems caused by individual industrial agriculture operations, to shaping public policy at the state and national levels.

In 2002, with NCF support and with the legal expertise of NCF grantee **Farmers' Legal Action Group** (the third organization in this cluster, recommended by Environment and Interprogram), **CFFE and WORC** won an important legal victory against the unfair "Pork Check-off." This was a provision in federal law that required family farmers to pay a fee to support a program to promote factory farm operations. Ending the fee for good will deal a blow to what the court called a clearly unconstitutional mandate and stop a direct subsidy for environmentally damaging practices. 2003's grants were used to protect that victory through the appeals process, and allow the groups to continue their organizing, legal, public education and media communications strategies (shaped in part by "The SPIN Project," another NCF grantee on the docket for renewal funding).

By building broad alliances in favor of environment, community and worker-friendly agricultural practices, this cluster of grants also advances Objective II, facilitating environmental justice.

The second cluster of grants under this strategy, recommended by Environment and Interprogram, focused on shifting public investment in the direction of alternatives to dirty, fossil fuel energy sources and technologies. These alternatives are supported by new alliances that include

environmental, labor, economic development, business, health, consumer and faith-based organizations.

The Apollo Alliance, made up of the **Institute for America's Future (IAF)**, the University of Wisconsin's Center on Wisconsin Strategies, the **Common Assets Defense Fund**, and Americans for Energy Freedom, is promoting a program of significant public investment in energy efficiency and the infrastructure of a clean energy economy. The Alliance is focused on bringing together the primary interests of labor unions and environmentalists with a jobs *and* the environment initiative.

In the Spring of 2003 the Alliance was launched with a Presidential Authority Grant that allowed the groups to complete economic research and analysis, polling and focus group testing, bring together potential allies and continue outreach to labor unions and environmentalists. The studies – completed by the same researchers at the University of Illinois who did similar regional work for another NCF grantee, the Center for Law and the Environment -- show that large-scale public investment in efficiency measures and currently available clean energy alternatives could produce as many as four million good jobs nationally. Over 70% of respondents to the public opinion survey approved of the idea of this ten-year, \$300 billion investment in America's future. And this data was key to obtaining official endorsements from the International bodies of the Machinists, Steelworkers, Paper and Chemical Workers, Textile and Garment Workers, Transit Employees, Service Employees, Electrical Workers and Sheet Metal Workers unions.

Apollo is a genuine strategic initiative because – by leading with job creation -- it removes a key barrier to the formation of a powerful labor-environment alliance. It also presents a vision that simultaneously: creates a real alternative to public subsidies for polluting industries; elevates the common assets concept; re-invigorates the idea of government action to solve big problems; says that ingenuity and a can-do spirit can reverse the long decline in America's manufacturing base; offers a genuine solution to global warming and air and water pollution; and addresses the national and global security concerns caused by U.S. dependence on middle-east oil.

Augmenting and complementing the work of the Alliance, the **Public Health Institute (PHI)**, will work with 42,000 members of United Steelworkers District 11 to create a prototype "Green Union." With the full support of the union's elected leadership, PHI will move aggressively to educate the rank and file about environmental issues, with an emphasis on global warming. PHI and the Steelworkers will be working with Apollo Alliance members to incorporate in their curricula the concept that the only long-term future for the industrial unions will be in clean energy and sustainable manufacturing processes. By bringing labor to the table in a serious way for the first time, this represents a breakthrough for hopes of a genuine "blue-green" (labor-environment) alliance.

By focusing on the creation of good jobs as a pathway to environmental sustainability and community health, this cluster of grants also advances Objective II, facilitating environmental justice.

A grant was made to the **Greenpeace Fund, Inc.** to support its efforts to broaden constituencies that favor innovative solutions to environmental challenges, including collaborative work with the Apollo Alliance, labor unions and businesses. This grant also meets both program objectives, with an emphasis on building broad-based constituencies. Coming from a different angle, but also intent on building new constituencies for environmental solutions, **Honor the Earth**, a project of

the **Tides Center**, is an indigenous people's organization working to promote wind energy development on tribal lands. Honor the Earth works with the Intertribal Council and the Apollo Alliance to help Native Americans develop solutions to poverty on the reservations and ease American dependence on fossil fuels.

WGBH Educational Foundation in Boston will build on the outstanding work it did on the NCF-supported Frontline series during 2002. The program focuses on holding government and corporations accountable for the real environmental costs and risks of their activities. With an influential audience of over 4.5 million Americans, this programming has the potential to broaden the public's understanding of environmental threats and create popular pressure for positive change. Another quintessential Interprogram grant, this recommendation met both strategies under the first Environment Program objective.

The **Orion Society** (PAG) was supported to bring together the nation's preeminent nature writers, leading public intellectuals and storytellers for a conference on building a movement for responsible U.S. global engagement. The conferees will design a long-term strategy to communicate more effectively with broad audiences about the interconnectedness of the environment, social justice, and global leadership. This Presidential Authority Grant renewal, made with the Jewish Life Program, Arts and Culture Program and Interprogram, met both program objectives, with an emphasis on building better informed, broad-based constituencies for positive change.

The **Center for a New American Dream** will use NCF support to broaden its already large national audience of Americans interested in finding alternatives to the consumer culture. This grant made by the Environment Program and Interprogram was to help extend the reach of the only national organization seriously addressing the connections of over-consumption to environmental degradation and social and economic injustice.

Finally, the Environment and Jewish Life Programs made a grant to **Camp Isabella Freedman of Conn, Inc.** (PAG) to support ADAMAH, the Jewish Environmental Leadership Fellowship. This grant teaches the vital connections between Judaism and environmental stewardship.

OBJECTIVE II:

To facilitate environmental justice by ensuring that communities, especially those vulnerable due to low-to-moderate socioeconomic status, race, or ethnicity, are protected from environmental degradation.

Strategy 1:

To facilitate efforts which promote the environmental accountability of corporations, governments, and other institutions in communities, especially those vulnerable due to low-to-moderate-socioeconomic status, race, or ethnicity.

Environment and Interprogram made a grant to renew support for **Redefining Progress (RP)**, an organization that has become a key resource and clearinghouse for the environmental justice movement. RP's research and analysis, its effective use of media and its ability to bring together strategic alliances within the movement and across movements, is important to building the capacity of environmental justice organizing across the country. Among RP's long-term goals is

the establishment of the protection of common assets as a key principle guiding public policy. Of particular importance, and connecting RP to other grantees working on climate change, is RP's work to create an effective voice for environmental justice in the national debate over global warming.

The Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL) of the **Jewish Council for Public Affairs** received renewal support from the Jewish Life and Environment Programs in a continuing effort to infuse Jewish values into the environmental movement and environmental values into Jewish life. COEJL can play an important role in moving the environmental movement toward more values-based strategies and communications.

The **Front Range Economic Strategy Center**, made by Health, Environment and Interprogram, brings together labor, environment and environmental health activists to promote institutional accountability. Health, Environment and Interprogram also made grants to **Pesticide Action Network** and **La Union Del Pueblo**. With the Health Program taking the lead, these have the potential to be significant steps toward a fusion of environment, environmental health and environmental justice constituencies toward increased accountability as decisions are made that affect health, communities and the environment.

A small Presidential Authority Grant was made to the **Liberty Hill Foundation** to organize and facilitate an education day for national funders including staff from the Ford, Rockefeller and Nathan Cummings Foundations. Liberty Hill was able to educate funders about the lack of separation between the work of environmental, social and economic justice organizations that are making precedent-setting advances in Los Angeles. The hope is that more "Interprogram" type grants making will emerge that integrates funding across these separate categories.

The Health Program, Environment Program and Interprogram provided renewal funding for **Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education** (SCOPE) to help support the continuing development of the California Alliance. The Alliance would create, for the first time, a powerful statewide organization to hold governments and corporations accountable for social, economic and environmental justice in the nation's most populous state. In the environmental arena, this will mean more effective public pressure will be brought to bear for a precautionary approach to toxins in the environment, community benefits agreements to hold developers accountable for their activities, and cumulative impact assessments to help communities better understand the overall impact of proposed land uses.

Communities for a Better Environment also plays an important role in California that has national implications and is therefore recommended for renewal funding by the Environment and Health Programs. The organization is a key member of the emerging California Alliance and is one of two anchor environmental justice organizations in the state. It has a seat on the State's Environmental Justice Taskforce, which is forging one of the most positive statewide environmental justice policies in the country. In addition to effective work on behalf of hard-hit communities, CBE is moving with its partners to establish the simple but revolutionary principle that the cumulative impacts of business activities on communities must be addressed.

The **Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law** received renewal funding from the Environment Program and Interprogram to continue its activities on behalf of communities of color in Gainesville, Georgia. The Committee's class-action lawsuit has the potential to set the

nationally significant precedent that civil rights laws can be used to redress adverse environmental impacts through legal theories that address discriminatory land use planning.

Along with the Jewish Life Program and Interprogram, a grant was made to **Judson Memorial Church** (PAG) for the New York Jobs with Justice initiative. This grant was intended to explore the intersection of social movement building and personal transformation. This may be a key to enlarging the frames used to understand the work of social, economic and environmental justice (we might even start talking simply about “justice,” instead of carving it up into separate pieces).

Strategy 2:

To increase public access to information and decision-making about environmental policies.

Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE) is the most effective environmental justice group in the Northeast and has become an anchor for other environmental justice groups in the region and nation. ACE has been very effective at providing its low-income constituency with access to the decision-making process and winning concrete improvements for people in South Boston. Building on the strength of its base, it was also instrumental in getting Massachusetts to adopt a state environmental justice policy. Funding for ACE was provided to build the capacity of this anchor organization and free some of the staff’s time to ensure that the other groups in the environmental justice community in the Northeast can play an effective role, both in their own communities and eventually in the region.

The **Independent Media Institute’s** SPIN and AlterNet programs won renewed support by all of the core programs, to advance each of the environmental objectives and strategies, and especially the facilitation of environmental justice through increased access to information. Based on its successful work with NCF grantees in 2002, SPIN would provide media trainings to additional environment program grantees to raise their ability to tell their stories to larger audiences. AlterNet’s rapidly growing reach will be instrumental in communicating the stories that the mainstream media misses, and in helping to establish alternative frames and values in the coverage of events.

The **Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) at Syracuse University** (PAG), through an Environment Program and Interprogram Presidential Authority Grant, assists NCF grantees and others to provide public access to information about environmental decision-making. TRAC’s searchable on-line databases make it possible for reporters and non-profit organizations to understand and publish information about the policy-making and enforcement activities of each branch of government.

Working with the Health Program, Arts and Culture Program and Interprogram, a grant was made to **Fordham University’s Institute for Innovation in Social Policy**. This grant was made to support the continued development of a powerful set of social progress indicators that will open the frame of economic progress to more accurately reflect what’s happening to the environment as a part of our thinking about “progress.”

In partnership with the Health Program, Presidential Authority Grants were made to support **Consumers for Dental Choice, Inc.** (CDC) (PAG) and the **National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice** (NICWJ) (PAG). The grant to CDC helps make information about potential

toxicity in dental fillings available to consumers (and especially the low-income patients who most often receive fillings containing mercury) and to address the resulting adverse impacts on the environment. The grant to NICWJ intends to help the religious community address the environmental practices of the laundry industry simultaneously with work to improve wages, benefits and workplace health standards.

Similarly, a grant to the **Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston** was made with the Jewish Life Program to assist the Council's work with the Massachusetts Interfaith Environmental Network's efforts on global warming and childhood exposure to toxic chemicals. And Presidential Authority Grants renewed NCF's membership in the **Consultative Group on Biodiversity** (PAG) and the **Environmental Grantmakers Association** (PAG), a project of **Rockefeller Family Fund, Inc.** These are both national organizations that bring funders together for collective learning about environmental issues.

Finally, a renewal Presidential Authority Grant made with the Arts and Culture Program, to **Bay Area Video Coalition, Inc.** (PAG) brings powerful, highly creative media expertise to bear on the problem of engaging larger constituencies in the work of social, economic and environmental justice. And with all four other programs a renewal grant was made to the **Independent Press Association** to make high-quality alternative journalism which address environmental issues broadly available throughout the country.

NEXT STEPS

The groups that received support in 2003 represent a wide range of approaches and commitments to the work of expanding our frames of reference. To some it is central, and to others the language of framing would be barely recognizable. But each of them was selected because they understand that we need to think about and do the work of social change more effectively. We need to keep challenging our own assumptions about what the work is and what our roles are. And we need to keep expanding our understanding so that we can bring in and connect more potential allies who escape their issue silos through a broader social justice agenda.

As we move forward, the Environment Program will focus on connecting organizations that can benefit from each others' work and thinking; encourage groups to increase their capacity to communicate effectively by working with organizations like the SPIN Project and the Rockridge Institute; and seek out additional organizations that connect the short-term work to the long-term establishment of paradigm-shifting principles and precedents.

While it is too early to say what the long-term effects will be, it is not too early to observe that grants made in 2003, including those made to the Rockridge Institute, the New Apollo Project and Health Care Without Harm, are injecting new thinking and new approaches into the social change sector. New conversations have begun, and old debates are being reframed in ways that are opening doors to the possibilities of new alliances and new political realities. NCF is proud to have played a role in this and looks forward to encouraging fresh thinking and strategic innovation as we move into the future.

HEALTH PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Over the years, Foundation grantees have helped place and maintain health care coverage and policy in the mainstream of national discourse. In June of 2003, the Health Program reported on one significant contribution after another that grantees had made towards preserving or gaining health care coverage for families. Approximately two months later, a headline in *The New York Times* proclaimed, “Big Increase Seen In People Lacking Health Insurance.” The number of uninsured increased from 14.6 % of the population to 15.2%; 43.6 million people lack insurance.

The state of the economy is the subject of heated public discussion as the federal budget is considered. Arguments remain the same. Tax cuts for those who are better off financially and a corporate sector unfettered by government regulation will lead to prosperity. Public policies that assure working people a healthy environment and a livable wage, including health care and other benefits, and a more effective and holistic means of achieving a more universal prosperity. As the debate is waged in a volatile election year, the number of people without adequate health insurance increases and the ability of government to enforce environmental health protection laws wanes.

As part of its effort to improve health and well-being, the Health Program supports projects that increase the number of people who are informed and active participants in this public discussion, from both offensive and defensive postures. Three basic strategic criteria are used for project selection. The first is whether the project will highlight the need for private and public policies that assure access to health for all. The second is whether the project builds social alliances that make it possible for seemingly disparate constituencies to discover and act collaboratively on their common concerns. The third is whether the project addresses and begins bridging issues of class, race and gender.

GOAL

The goal of the health program is to improve people’s health and well being, especially those who confront barriers due to low- to moderate-socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, or gender; recognizing the link between physical health and the economic, social, environmental, psychological, and spiritual factors that affect individuals, families, and communities.

OBJECTIVE I:

To assure access to quality health care, goods and services, especially for those who confront barriers due to low- to moderate-socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, or gender.

Strategy 1:

To support efforts that reduce corporate, governmental, and other institutional practices that create barriers to quality health care, goods and services, especially those confronted by people as a result of their low-to moderate-socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, or gender.

Partly as a result of the significant contributions made over the years by NCF grantees and others, the stark increase in the number of uninsured did not result from cutbacks in government-

supported health insurance. For example, although there are still 8.5 million children in the country without health insurance, that number has not increased since 2000 because of the State Child Health Insurance Program, which was created during the Clinton Administration. That program resulted from the public education and advocacy work of a number of organizations that NCF has supported, including Families USA Foundation, the Children’s Defense Fund, and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

The stories of the uninsured told by **Talking Eyes Media, Inc.’s** pictorial essays in the Arts and Culture docket, the policy analyses of national organizations such as the **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities** and the public education work of state-based organizations such as the **American Institute for Social Justice, Inc.** played an important role in building public support for state fiscal relief and demonstrating the need for continuation of the state-supported medically needy programs, which preserved benefits for 27,000 people. The \$10 billion in federal fiscal relief specifically earmarked for Medicaid enabled many states to curtail plans to cut program enrollment drastically. Other state-based public education efforts made a difference as well. The fiscal crises faced by the states due to the economic downturn and tax cuts are not over, and the work to preserve and expand government-supported health insurance continues.

One of the major causes of the increasing number of uninsured is cutbacks in employer-based coverage. NCF grantees are addressing this issue in a number of ways. The work of Health and Interprogram grantees such as the **Interfaith Education Fund, Inc.** led to public policy changes requiring employers, especially those that receive public subsidies, to pay living wages with health benefits. The work of three California-based organizations, **Strategic Concepts In Policy Education** (SCOPE), **Center on Policy Initiatives** (CPI), and **Working Partnerships USA**, combined with the work of other NCF grantees in the state, contributed to a change in state policy. Employers will be required to either provide health coverage for their employees or contribute to a state fund that will do so. Presidential Authority Grants awarded to Working Partnerships USA and CPI on the recommendation of the Health Program and Interprogram enabled those organizations to continue building community support for expanding employer-based health care coverage. The grant by the Interprogram, Health and Environment Programs to SCOPE supports the organization’s ongoing efforts to involve organizations throughout the state in projects to resolve the twin crises of inadequate access to quality health care and the lack of quality jobs.

In addition to preserving benefits for those who have them, grantees are reaching out to immigrant communities, encouraging them to apply for the government-supported benefits for which they are eligible. For example, organizations that have received training from the **Interfaith Education Fund** have convinced the state of Arizona to recognize identification cards from the Mexican Consulate as proof of residency, which has made it possible for Mexican immigrants to receive health benefits. **Unite for Dignity, Inc.** provides training to Haitian and Latino immigrants in Miami, Florida who do outreach in their communities around eligibility for health-related programs, including Medicaid.

Over time, NCF grantees addressing the high cost of prescription should have a positive impact on the cost of government supported and employer-based health care coverage. (Prescription drug costs account for up to 25% of total Medicaid spending and contributes to double-digit increases in the cost of employer-based health benefits.) By challenging the allegedly illegal practices used by pharmaceutical companies to keep the cost of prescription drugs artificially high, **Community**

Catalyst, Inc. worked to build public pressure for an end to such practices. Community Catalyst's *Prescription Access Litigation Project* (PAL) has filed over 48 high profile class action suits, most of which deal with individual drugs and discrete industry practices, including alleged anti-trust, deceptive advertising and Racketeering Influenced Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act related activities. It has won a \$42 million judgment against Bristol Meyers Squibb and it has established a Health Care Justice Foundation to receive *cy pres* funds, which will be used to support health advocacy work.

In 2003, PAL continued to explore the potential for encouraging business to join with community, constituency, labor, and health professional groups in achieving more affordable prescription drugs. Corporate accountability issues related to the pharmaceutical industry are among the possible stories being explored by **WBGH Educational Foundation**, funded along with the Arts, Environment, Interprogram and Jewish Life Programs. In addition, our work in this area has been complemented by the Foundation's proxy actions.

Increasing the affordability of prescription drugs contributes to the quality of care enjoyed by eligible patients (predominantly senior citizens and the disabled.) The **National Women's Law Center**, by working to assure that restrictions religious institutions place on health care do not limit consumers' ability to obtain information about and gain access to all treatment options, works on the quality of care as well. The social indicators being developed by **Fordham University** will define quality of life and offer measures that can be used to assess progress towards improving access to health and quality health care.

In order to achieve universal access to health care, the program supports projects that advocate for policies that yield affordable, quality, employer-supported health care coverage and an expansion of government-based coverage for those who remain uninsured. The Health Program has supported a defensive national and state-based strategy that has protected government-supported coverage for millions across the country. Consistent with that approach, the Health Program awarded a grant to **Families USA Foundation, Inc.** to educate opinion leaders, policy makers and the public about the long-term negative impact on the health of low-income people and the economy if the Medicaid program is cut substantially. With the Environment Program and Interprogram, a renewal was awarded to the Tax Policy Analysis and Communications Project of the **National Women's Law Center** (NWLC). NWLC is one of the conveners of the Fair Taxes for All Coalition, a coalition of over 300 organizations, including environmental organizations, concerned about the impact of additional tax cuts on the ability of the federal government to protect the health of the citizenry and of the environment.

The Health Program, often in collaboration with the Interprogram, has supported a proactive strategy to increase employer-based coverage in four states: California, which enacted a law requiring employers with 50 or more employees to provide coverage or pay into a state pool; Maine, which enacted a law that will provide universal access to all state residents; Arizona, which has achieved health care benefits and increased wages for approximately 3,000 government contract, university, and private employees, and the creation of a hospital district in a poor county that will result in an additional \$40 million in health care services for county residents; and Florida, which has mounted living wage with health care benefits public education campaigns in at least two counties and a statewide public education campaign on the need to increase the state minimum wage.

The victories that have been won are fragile and are dependent on committed public support and citizen participation. A Presidential Authority Grant was awarded to **Consumers for Affordable Health Care Foundation** to promote Dirigo Health, Maine’s new universal access program, especially to small businesses, which can begin enrolling in the program during the summer. A Presidential Authority Grant was awarded to the **Jewish Council for Public Affairs** to deepen interfaith commitment to cover the uninsured. Four projects were funded to broaden the capacity of state-based organizations or affiliates of national organizations to engage in public education activities that broaden public commitment to universal access. The **National Breast Cancer Coalition Fund** was supported to build networks among breast cancer survivors and their families. The **Applied Research Center** grant focused on the immigrant and civil rights communities. The **Center for Community Change** grant was made to build bridges between national community organizing networks, health care advocates, disease organizations and others concerned about access to care. The **Pacific Institute for Community Organizations (PICO)** grant focused on its national network of predominantly church-based community organizations.

In addition to increasing the number of PICO affiliates nationwide involved in effective work on health care access, a grant helped enable PICO California to expand its work on employer-based and government-based coverage in that state. The **Center for Labor Research and Training’s** effort to mobilize youth in support of better wages and health benefits in the food service and retail sectors will demonstrate how to engage this constituency in achieving universal access. The work of the **Tides Center/Florida Black Church Organizing Project** focused on two things: increasing the capacity of Black Church leaders to meet the health-related needs of their congregants, and building an alliance between Black Churches and other organizations addressing health issues in the state.

In addition to projects highlighting the importance of access, the Health Program and the Arts Program awarded a grant to the **Film Arts Foundation** in support of a PBS documentary, *Remaking American Medicine*. This four-part documentary will educate consumers, providers, policymakers and opinion leaders about the need to improve the quality of care. An outcome of the production’s outreach campaign will be the formation of coalitions committed to advancing quality care for all.

Thanks to the work of NCF grantees and others, the demand for affordable prescription drugs is mounting. Projects supported by the Health Program and the Interprogram have exposed the illegal practices employed by some pharmaceutical companies to inflate drug prices and have led to the adoption of public policies that will make prescription drugs more affordable in a number of states. When the federal government could no longer ignore mounting pressure to address the prescription drug issue, it responded by creating a prescription drug program for Medicare. This program, however, prohibits government from negotiating for reduced drug prices and bans purchasing drugs in Canada where prices are significantly lower — proscriptions around which controversy is mounting.

Presidential Authority Grants were awarded to continue and expand efforts to provide affordable prescription drugs. **USAction Education Fund** makes it possible for senior citizens to determine whether the new Medicare prescription drug program helps them. USAction Education Fund coalitions have made significant contributions to increasing the affordability of prescription drugs in Illinois, Washington, and Oregon. It has been suggested that campaign contributions made by pharmaceutical companies have given them far greater influence in drug policy determination than

is appropriate. **Connecticut Citizen Research Group, Inc.** (CCRG) engages the labor, health care, corporate accountability, and campaign finance communities in 10 states in a campaign to encourage pharmaceutical companies' to disclose company resources devoted to supporting political entities or candidates.¹ The Pharma Futures project of **Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc.** convenes representatives of pharmaceutical companies and key stakeholders, such as companies with high health care costs and industry analysts, to explore a business model that will provide more affordable prescription drugs and better sustain the industry over time.

The Health Program and the Interprogram supported two organizations to address religious restrictions on publicly supported health care institutions, and to establish legal and public policy principles for the benefit of health care consumers. The Health and Reproductive Rights Project of the National Women's Law Center, which has primary responsibility for technical aspects of the project (monitoring legislative and regulatory processes that could affect consumer rights, materials preparation, and litigation strategies as appropriate), was awarded a renewal grant in December 2003. A renewal grant was also made to the **Education Fund of Family Planning Advocates of New York State, Inc.**, to organize a broad-based coalition to address the spread of faith-based restrictions in the health care system and the resulting loss of patients' access to services.

Two projects supported by the Health and Environment Programs and the Interprogram advance the Health Program's interest in reducing barriers to access to health care and its interest in improving occupational safety and health and environmental health. The Economic Justice Project of the **William J. Brennan Jr. Center for Justice, Inc.** provides legal and technical assistance to grassroots economic and environmental justice coalitions to help them more effectively develop, promote and defend policy initiatives that protect the health and well-being of low income families and the integrity of their living and working environments. The **Midwest States Center** offers opportunities for the leaders of state-based public interest groups and local and state elected officials to explore jointly innovative health care, energy, environmental, budget, corporate accountability and other local and state policy options.

Strategy 2:

To support efforts which increase access to and enhance end-of-life care, especially for those who confront barriers due to low- to moderate-socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, or gender.

In addition to contributing to access to care, grantees are contributing to the quality of care. The Health Program awarded a grant to the **Education Development Center, Inc.** (EDC) to enhance the capacity of children's hospitals to deliver culturally respectful, family-centered care to children with life-threatening illness. The National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions, the New York Academy of Medicine, the Society of Pediatric Nurses, and the Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs are EDC's partners in this effort to deliver the curriculum through a training-of-trainers model to children's hospitals nationwide.

NCF awarded a Presidential Authority Grant several Presidential Authority Grants for program development and testing. The **United Hospital Fund of New York** received support to convene a conference to share best practices in meeting the needs of and involving family caregivers as full partners in the end-of-life care decisions of their loved ones. The **University of Rochester**

¹This project complements the Foundation's support of resolutions requiring transparency of political contributions that are being presented at the annual meetings of three drug companies in April 2004.

received a grant to develop and implement a curriculum for teaching core clinical skills, including skills necessary to provide quality end-of-life care to residents who will be assessed based on their competency in each skill set. This program complements the university's medical school curriculum, developed with NCF support, which integrates end-of-life/palliative care throughout the four-year course of study for medical students. Finally, the Foundation supported the **Albert Einstein Healthcare Network** (AEHN) to pilot test a program for providing effective pain control to low-income patients with advanced, terminal cancer at no cost to the patients. If the program is successful, AEHN will make it available to all patients with advanced terminal cancer and share the findings of the pilot with other institutions.

OBJECTIVE II:

To assure that people, especially those that are vulnerable due to low- to moderate-socioeconomic status, race, or ethnicity, can grow-up, live, and work in a healthy environment and have access to products and food that have not been contaminated in ways that could undermine health.

Strategy 1:

To support efforts that address corporate and other institutional practices that have a negative impact on the physical health of workers, especially low-income workers.

On the recommendation of the Health, Environment and Interprogram, the Board awarded grants to two organizations addressing the health hazards faced by Californians as a result of agribusiness practices related to pesticide use — the Californian's for Pesticide Reform project of the Pesticide Action Network and La Union del Pueblo Entero. On the recommendation of the Health and Arts Programs, a Presidential Authority Grant was awarded to the **Catticus Corporation** to develop a documentary film, *Lideres Campesinas: Doing Away with Barriers*, which will complement those projects. Lideres Campesinas is a statewide network of Latina farm workers in California with a mission of developing women as leaders who will “serve as agents of political, social and economic change in the farm worker community.” Occupational safety and health and field sanitation are among the primary concerns of this innovative group that uses theatrical and cultural presentations to reach their audiences. The film will be shown on the Public Broadcasting System.

As with farm workers, the approximately 150,000 laundry workers in this country are predominantly immigrant and work in unnecessarily hazardous conditions. A Presidential Authority Grant was awarded on the recommendation of the Jewish Life, Health, Environment and Interprogram in support of the Laundry Workers Justice Campaign of the **National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice** (NICWJ). NICWJ engages the religious community in working collaboratively with community, environmental and labor groups to improve the occupational safety and health of these low-wage workers, conditions that can be eliminated by enforcing existing occupational safety and health laws and regulations. The work the Rockridge Institute project of the **Tides Center** (Environment docket) is doing on the Apollo Project advances both of the Health Program's environmental health strategies, as do a number of the magazines that the **Independent Press Association** is helping to reach mainstream audiences.

Human Rights Watch, Inc. released a report that will define the occupational safety and health and other work place abuses faced by predominantly immigrant workers in the meat, pork and poultry industries as human rights violations. The Health Program and the Interprogram awarded a Presidential Authority Grant in support of the development and implementation of the

communications strategy that will promote the study findings. In this docket, the Health Program and the Environment Program awarded a renewal grant for **Sacramento Valley Organizing Community** (SVOC). SVOC has developed church-based worker associations for predominantly immigrant farm, cannery, and other workers in agricultural industries in four counties of California's Central Valley, and plans to organize in another two to three counties in 2004. The Health Program and the Interprogram awarded a grant to the **New York Unemployment Project, Inc.** in support of the Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York, which developed in the aftermath of September 11th with NCF support. In addition to developing a restaurant cooperative with displaced restaurant workers², the project advocates for policies to protect the occupational safety and health of restaurant workers. During the grant period, it released a report showing that restaurants that ignore the occupational safety and health needs of its workers are more likely to ignore city health codes.

Strategy 2:

To support efforts to prevent and to reduce corporate and other institutional practices which have a negative impact on health because they degrade the environment of communities, especially low-income communities and communities of color, or contaminate products and food in ways that could be injurious to health.

While environmental degradation affects everyone's health, residents of low-income communities and communities of color are affected disproportionately, as evidenced by high rates of asthma and other respiratory problems as well as traditional environmental problems such as ground water contamination. The Health Program has taken the lead on community health projects that are closely linked with worker safety issues. For example, the Health Program, the Environment Program and the Interprogram supported two projects in California addressing the environmental health affects of the irresponsible use of pesticides by agribusiness — the California Pesticide Reform project of the Pesticide Action Network and La Union del Pueblo Entero.

Low-income communities and communities of color continue to discover that their homes have been built on hazardous landfills or that their health is being threatened by environmentally hazardous waste. These communities need assistance to demand redress for these grievances and repair their health and well-being. To help provide assistance, the Health Program joined the Environment Program to award a grant to **Communities for A Better Environment** (CBE). CBE, a California-wide organizing and leadership training program, provides legal, scientific and technical assistance to low-income communities facing health threats due to toxic pollution.

On the recommendation of the Health, Environment and Interprogram, a Presidential Authority Grant was awarded **Consumers for Dental Choice** (CDC). No health group supports placing mercury in the body except organized dentistry. The Environmental Protection Agency reported that eight percent of this nation's pregnant women of childbearing age have so much mercury in their bodies that they are at risk of having retarded babies and the United States Public Health Service states that dental fillings are one of the major sources of mercury contamination. Nonetheless, the American Dental Association and state dental boards allegedly contend that mercury in dental fillings is safe, and bar dentists from contesting that position. CDC's commitment is to lift what they refer to as "the gag rule" from dentists so they can discuss the possible adverse effects of mercury in dental fillings. This organization's work complements that

² A restaurant cooperative in Italy is providing start-up funds for this venture.

of Health Care Without Harm, which has had considerable success in encouraging the health care industry to suspend use of toxic materials, including mercury.

In collaboration with the Environment Program, the Health Program awarded a grant to the **Environmental Health Coalition** in support of its work in San Diego and as a leader in the environmental justice movement in California. With the Environment Program and Interprogram, a grant is being recommended for the **Government Accountability Project, Inc.** to educate the public, labor unions, and corporate managers about a new federal law that protects corporate employees who “blow the whistle” when threats to public health or occupational safety and health arise. The three programs also awarded a grant to **Commonweal** in support of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment, a coalition of over 800 environment and health organizations committed to reducing exposure to toxicants. With all of the core programs, the Health Program awarded a contribution to the **Educational Broadcasting Corporation** in support of *NOW with Bill Moyers* for his final season when, among other topics, Moyers will advance issues of environmental health.

NEXT STEPS

In 2004, we are looking to increase our environmental health work, especially in Arizona and Florida, and also engage in discussions with past grantees and funding partners to determine where small investments could make a difference.

The Health Program plans to explore two program ideas over the next year or two. The first is to explore ways to encourage all health grantees and related organizations to operate their individual work within a common frame that affirms the idea that a healthy economy guarantees all workers a decent wage, health care benefits, a safe place to live and a safe place to work. The second idea is to explore ways to elevate blight as a major public health and environmental issue. A preliminary scan of the field suggests that many groups addressing issues such as asthma, lead poisoning and other environmental health issues that often result when there is a lack of investment in communities operate on too limited a scale to achieve improvements beyond their community. Yet, the problems they address are nationwide — rural and urban. The Health and Environment Programs have had a preliminary discussion about exploring an approach to blight collaboratively. The Arts program has indicated interest as well.

JEWISH LIFE AND VALUES/ CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICE PROGRAMS

INTRODUCTION

This year several serious challenges faced our efforts to strengthen the forces within the Jewish community that promote social justice and a deep spirituality that integrates the values of justice and compassion. The Jewish community faced the same crisis as the larger funding world: an economic situation that had both increased the demands from grantees and their clients and reduced the portfolios of most donors. In addition, the established Jewish community and many of its major financial supporters focused the bulk of their time, energy, and financial resources on the political and economic situation in Israel, and so allocated fewer resources for the domestic agenda in the US. Moreover, the continuing violence in Israel and the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe has pushed many Jewish leaders to the right and squelched dissent within the organized Jewish community.

Yet there were also important long-range opportunities for us in this situation. The economic and political situation in the US is becoming so dire that Jewish organizations are having to turn attention to the domestic agenda. Many of our grantees are strategically positioned to promote progressive policies and to form coalitions with other faith groups and labor and environmental organizations. New leadership is called for at times like these, so it has been important to support emerging leaders whose agenda for Jewish life is more progressive, inclusive, and risk-taking. In this climate it also has been advantageous for grantees to work together more closely, and we have helped them to do that.

In this context, we made some new grants focusing on emerging alternative leadership and networking. We also maintained funding for the key grantees in the fields of spirituality and social justice who are most vitally linked to our goals and objectives, as they are facing serious funding challenges in the current economic situation. They are crucial to achieving our goals, and we are important to their continuity.

This docket also marks the full transition to our new guidelines and from the founding Program Director for Jewish Life and Values and Contemplative Practice to her successor. As such, it both harvests the past and anticipates the future. It contains some exit grants for projects that have been developed over the past years, as well as some grants supporting new initiatives that the new Program Director will develop in her own way going forward.

GOAL I: Jewish Life and Values

To extend the presence and influence of the values of tolerance, social justice (*tzedek*) loving kindness (*chesed*), mutual respect, and ethical behavior within the Jewish world both to enhance Jewish life and to assist in the promotion of a more just society.

OBJECTIVE 1:

To promote a leadership and organizational culture within key Jewish institutions that reflects these values.

Strategy One:

To promote social change by supporting cohorts of activists and leaders from key organizations.

Shifra Bronznick conducted a study on the role of cohorts in making social and cultural change in both the Jewish and secular worlds. In "*Cohorts: How they Learn, Lead and Influence*," she concludes that NCF has an opportunity to leverage our past grant-making and maximize the influence of many of our grantees through helping them to develop alumni learning and networking programs, and to then make connections between these alumni groups to form a larger, informal network of leaders who share goals and values. Such initiatives help the individual organizations by helping them develop alumni as mentors to current participants, as advocates for the goals of the organization and the larger field in which it works, and as effective cultivators of donors. We have the opportunity to experiment with different formats for alumni initiatives and evaluate the effectiveness of different approaches. We can also document the lessons learned and share them with the wider foundation community.

A first grant to the **Tides Center's Rockwood Leadership Institute** supported a group of 30 Jewish activists in their late twenties through early forties - many of them our grantees from social justice organizations - to participate in a four-day Art of Leadership training program, with continuing mentoring and mutual support. This excellent program focuses on leading from within - combining extremely sophisticated leadership skill sessions with the articulation and development of personal vision and cultivation of a personally sustainable work style.

We were one of the earliest funders of **AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps**, and have seen it grow from an idea to the first group of nine volunteers in 1998 to its current size of four groups of nine volunteers each, living in New York and Washington, D.C., with plans to expand to another city (Chicago or Los Angeles) in 2005. We funded a program to focus and strengthen the efforts of alumni in their continuing quest to integrate their Jewish and activist lives, and to bring their commitment and their organizing capacities to the broader community, including the Jewish community. Through monthly study, training, and reflection sessions, annual conferences, issue campaigns, linkages with alumni of other Jewish service programs, and outreach to other young Jewish adults, the AVODAH alumni program effects social change by engaging alumni as ambassadors for passionate, pro-active forms of Jewish engagement in social justice work.

Similarly, in the past we have made seed grants to **American Jewish World Service's** Jewish Volunteer Corps, International Jewish College Corps and its Alternative Spring Break Program with Hillel. This year we funded the Alumni Involvement and Networking Program, an initiative to develop opportunities for volunteers returning to the US from international

assignments to learn more about social and economic issues, community organizing, and leadership through involvement in domestic social action projects combined with Jewish learning.

We also made a grant to the **Jewish Organizing Initiative** in Boston to support its alumni to build a strong network for skills development, organizational and personal mentoring, and organizing in the Jewish community.

Finally, we gave a grant to **FJC (Fund for the Jewish Community)** to support the **Jewish Coalition for Service** to run a broad initiative for alumni of service projects networking them, training them, linking them to social action opportunities, and advocating within the Federation system to fund more service opportunities. The interest in alumni cohorts is growing in the Jewish funding world through these efforts and we are working to develop partners in this approach.

***Strategy Two:** To continue the work of cultivating leaders whose work and values reflect those core principles that the Foundation holds dear.*

We renewed support for **Joshua Venture** to support the innovative work of Jewish social entrepreneurs in their twenties and early thirties. This project, which we helped to found, has proven to be a great investment in bringing new people, new ideas, and new energy into the life and culture of the Jewish community.

We also gave a grant to **Reboot**, a cutting-edge program designed by and for creative, talented, innovative Jews in their 30's and 40's who are looking for ways to find meaningful to expression of Jewish values, culture and practices. Through intensive communities in LA, New York, and San Francisco, and through their access to wide social networks and communications media, they, in turn, challenge thousands of their peers to find ways to express publicly their Jewish values and identities.

***Strategy Three:** To develop and disseminate a serious ethics of philanthropy to inspire funders to become more responsible and accountable, and to give priority to grantees whose work is founded on ethical ideas and practices.*

We made a grant to the **Jewish Funders Network** to develop and disseminate an experiential and philosophical curriculum on philanthropic ethics.

Last year we made a planning grant to a project called Fifty-Large. After the 36 members spent months organizing funding partners and developing their ethical principles and funding guidelines, it became an operational funding organization called **Natan**. Natan made grants totaling \$500,000 to innovative projects developed by young Jews. Some of their grants supported projects of the Joshua Fellows and the Rebooters.

All in all, we have supported significant young leaders to bring their passions into the Jewish community. With time, and with support from a network of cohorts, they are redefining Jewish meaning for a new generation.

OBJECTIVE 2:

To promote a Jewish spirituality and practice that reflects these values.

Our purpose is to create a rich theological, spiritual, and practical grounding for the integration of social justice and Judaism. Over the years we have funded several approaches – including modern orthodoxy, feminism, and healing. We have supported the spiritual transformation of synagogue liturgy and ritual. Of late we have focused on helping to revive, develop, and disseminate the teaching and practice of a post-modern, cross-denominational contemplative Judaism. Through meditation, prayer, and study of hassidic and mystical texts, hundreds of Jewish leaders are now able to feel more authentic as they teach and preach about God’s presence, compassion, justice, and love. We seek to revitalize a core component of Jewish religious tradition and to intensify the Jewish community’s engagement with programs promoting social and economic justice.

Strategy One: *To support the thinking, writing and teaching – in rabbinical seminaries and educational organizations – of the theology, the philosophy, the ethical teachings, the liturgy and the spiritual practices that are concerned with this nexus between the inner life and the outer world.*

We gave an exit grant to the **Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services** for the **Senior Resource Faculty Project**. This closes out our work in Jewish healing. This final grant is allowing the Center to complete phase two of a project to harvest the work and learning of Jewish Healing Centers over the past ten years by creating a senior faculty of 21 leading practitioners who in turn serve as resources for centers throughout the country.

We made grants to the **Shefa Fund** for its project the **Spirituality Institute**. The Institute provides a retreat-based program of text study, spiritual direction, and contemplative practice for cohorts of rabbis, cantors, educators, and lay leaders. We supported the completion of the first cantor’s cohort, the beginning of the third rabbinic cohort, and the inauguration of a cohort for Jewish educators who work with adolescents on prayer. Our grant also supported a more extensive exploration of ways of understanding and teaching about the nexus between social justice and spirituality.

A grant to the **Jewish Community Center in Manhattan** was the final payment for a Mussar project that we have funded in two other venues. The project developed from an idea for a course into a national web-based and personal program of study of Mussar - a Jewish practice of cultivating ethical, spiritual qualities such as truthfulness, courage, open-heartedness and wisdom. From this work the project director, Alan Morinis, has written and published a successful book, *Climbing Jacob's Ladder*. Through his teaching at the Spirituality Institute and other venues, he has brought Mussar study groups to synagogues of all denominations across the country. This grant supported a **Mussar Kallah** - a day-long conference on Mussar and its applications to Jewish life today.

We gave an exit grant to **Elat Chayyim** to complete a third cohort of its Mindfulness Leadership Training program, in which 22 rabbis and other educational leaders are cultivating the skills for teaching mindfulness meditation as a Jewish practice. The grant also supported meditation retreats for Jewish healers and social activists. Over the past several years, Elat Chayyim has become a serious and effective center for Jewish meditation.

Responding to an interest of the Board, we made a small grant to the **Tides Foundation** to support a study and evaluation of the scope and impact of Jewish contemplative practice in the United States. The purpose of the report was to acquaint people with the language, content, and importance of Jewish meditation, and to create a document that will educate funders about the importance of supporting this particular aspect of Judaism, and as to help better inform our approach.

Finally, we made an exit grant to the **Aleph Society** to support their work of harvesting the rich wisdom of the aging Reb Zalman Schacter-Shalomi and making it available through publications, CD-ROMs, and tapes to rabbis, educators, and seekers from all traditions.

Strategy Two: *To support community organizations – such as synagogues, schools, Hillels, camps and community centers – that are developing the spirituality that we are interested in and that have the capacity to influence religious thought and communal culture.*

We made a planning grant to **Hebrew College** in Boston to enable this prestigious center of adult Jewish learning to develop a course on Jewish spirituality -- with input from the staff of the Spirituality Institute -- for groups of adult learners throughout the Boston area.

Also in an effort to mainstream Jewish contemplative practice, we renewed a grant to the **Jewish Community Center in Manhattan (JCC)** for **Makom**, its Center for Contemplation. The grant supported the JCC's efforts to expand the program, build an advisory board with funding capacity, and work with other JCCs that are interested in adapting Makom for their sites.

Finally, we made a grant to **CLAL: the Center for Learning and Leadership** to support Rabbi Steven Greenberg to build on the dramatic success of the film *Trembling Before G-d* by developing a curriculum for Jewish high schools on homosexuality. The immediate goal is to make Jewish schools a safe emotional and physical space for gay students, while his long-range goal is to challenge halakhic rulings on homosexuality. This grant was also supported by the Arts Program.

OBJECTIVE 3:

To promote these values by strengthening the capacity of Jews and the Jewish community to engage with major issues of social and economic justice and stewardship of the earth.

We seek to strengthen the Jewish community's commitment to social justice, to enhance its capacity to organize for social change, and to advocate for the importance of social justice related activity as a key component of the community's mission. We also want to bring Jewish organizations into partnerships and coalitions with groups in the larger society that are working on issues of importance to the Foundation.

Strategy One: *To build a constituency for Jewish social justice work through supporting programs that provide experiential service learning opportunities infused with Jewish learning.*

We made a new grant to support Adam Berman, the talented young new director of **Camp Isabella Freedman** to develop **Adamah: The Sustainable Living Fellowship**. The program is an innovative, hands-on training program for young adults in their twenties. During a three-

month residential program, the fellows learn organic agriculture, study related Jewish texts, and teach students who come to the site on retreat from day schools and synagogues. The Fellows also learn to conduct environmental advocacy campaigns. The goal of the program is not to produce farmers, but rather Jewishly grounded environmentalists. This project is also supported by the Environment Program.

Strategy Two: To support and provide capacity building assistance to Jewish social justice organizations that mobilize and organize Jews in communities throughout the country around issues of social, economic and environmental justice.

We made a final grant to the **Union of American Hebrew Congregations** to provide general support for its **Religious Action Center (RAC)**. The Washington - based RAC is the most important Jewish progressive public policy institute in the country, and its Director, Rabbi David Saperstein, is extremely influential on debates that are related to the core values of NCF. Over the past two years, the RAC conducted a capital campaign to make needed renovations and expansions to its headquarters and to endow its core programs. Our support has enabled the core program activities to go on, while contributions from traditional donors were directed to the capital campaign. This grant is made in conjunction with Interprogram.

Because of NCF's commitment to environmental protection as a core program area, we have played a unique role in helping the Jewish community see the importance of environmental concern as a policy and religious issue. The grant to the **Jewish Council on Public Affairs** for its project **Coalition on the Environment in Jewish Life (COEJL)** supported COEJL's continued organizational growth and the strengthening of the Jewish content of its environmental message. This grant is made in conjunction with the Environment Program.

We also renewed support for some long-time grantees that are at the heart of the Jewish social justice movement. They are expanding traditional models of social action and tzedakah and linking Jewish institutions to interfaith umbrella organizations.

We supported the **Jewish Fund for Justice** in its adaptation and dissemination of faith based organizing models that link congregations to larger inter-faith social justice organizations – particularly those organized by the Industrial Areas Foundation. This program was also supported by Interprogram.

Our support of **the Shefa Fund** continues to promote Jewish communal investment in low-income community development financial institutions and to encourage institutions with large endowments to become involved in the shareholder proxy movement. Interprogram contributed to this grant.

The **Boston Jewish Community Relations Council** continues to be the most outstanding, innovative, and effective social action organization within the Jewish mainstream. Our grant this year supported their work in environmentalism, community economic development, and advocacy for restoring cuts to social services. Interprogram and Environment also contributed to this grant.

We also made an exit grant to the **Shalom Center** in recognition of Rabbi Arthur Waskow's work as a prophetic organizer for social and economic justice and as a bridge between the interfaith and the Jewish communities.

Finally, our work in Israel with the **New Israel Fund** is focused on spirituality and social justice and falls within Objectives 2, 3, and 4. This grant was the final installment of a three-year grant and partnership with the Dorot Foundation, Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies, and the New Israel Fund. Our support was for grassroots organizations advancing religious pluralism in ways that broaden and amplify a "Jewish Social Voice" and the Israeli Environmental movement, with a focus on environmental justice. We supported NIF grantees in Religious Pluralism that: bring new immigrants into the circle of liberal Judaism; foster diverse expressions of Jewish identity and practice; enable large numbers of Jews to participate in Jewish life as they see fit; promote state recognition of and equitable resource allocation for diverse expressions of Judaism and Jewish identity; and strengthen liberal elements within Orthodox Judaism to increase their influence in areas where ultra-Orthodoxy currently defines the content and character of Jewish life. We supported the Green Environment grantees that: increase the size, effectiveness, and sustainability of the nation's grassroots environmental movement; spur grassroots organizing and policy advocacy on key issues, with emphasis on water and environmental health; strengthen the ability of marginalized constituencies to defend their rights, especially by increasing public participation in the planning process, empowering local populations, and raising the profile of public health issues; and enhance relations among Jews and Arabs within Israel, particularly through joint projects of Jews, Arabs, and other national minorities to address local and national environmental issues. This year we also supported a public education, community organizing, and coalition building campaign addressing the critical challenge of status, recognition, and relocations faced by the Bedouin in the Negev. NCF staff and Trustees involved in the partnership were able to affect priorities and strategies and bring a focus on social justice to grant making in all three areas.

Strategy Three: To promote Jewish involvement in interfaith efforts to address issues of social justice through partnership with Interprogram.

Our purpose here is not only to bring the influence of the Jewish community to bear on issues of concern to the Foundation, but also to increase the capacity of Jewish organizers and their organizations to work more effectively and with more influence through access to the resources of some of the Interprogram grantees.

Funds from the Jewish Life Program supported the **Independent Media Institute** to provide media trainings to increase the communications capacity of our grantees and other Jewish grassroots and issue groups. This grant was made in conjunction with Environment, Health, Arts and Interprogram.

Funds from the Jewish Life and Values Program made the resources of the **Communications Consortium Media Center** available to Jewish organizations and to our grantees such as the Jewish Fund for Justice, the Progressive Jewish Alliance, and Synagogue 2000. The aim was to connect them with the Strategic Communications and Advocacy Campaign to Improve the Lives of Workers in Low-Wage Jobs project. The goal of the project overall was to promote policy change that will ensure that low wage-workers have health care and other basic benefits, a

safe work environment, and a livable wage. The grant was made in conjunction with Health and Interprogram.

Funds from the Jewish Life and Values program supported the **Focus Project, Inc.** in their efforts to develop an estate tax model that can be used for distributional analysis, public opinion and policy research, and public education. The project seeks to demonstrate and gain support for the positive value of an estate tax as well as develop reform options that will preserve the progressive nature of the tax, its fundamental role in curbing the buildup of concentrated wealth, and its incentives for charitable giving. This grant is made in conjunction with Interprogram, Environment, Health, and Arts.

We also made contributions to five programs in effort to add a Jewish or religious dimension to the work of Interprogram grantees. The Jewish contribution to **Orion** for a conference of environmental writers emphasizes the importance the Jewish Life and Values program places on values and spirituality in environmentalism. The grant to **WGBH** for Frontline 2004 supported their investigation of religious issues and their impact on politics and society. We contributed to the **Independent Press Association** grant as it provided support to a number of Jewish publications. The **Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice** mobilized support in the religious communities, including Jewish congregations and communal organizations, for bettering the health, safety and living conditions of 150,000 laundry workers. Finally, the grant to the **Tides Center** in support of the **Rockridge Institute** allowed several Jewish organizations access to consulting on how to reframe some of their central issues.

OBJECTIVE 4:

To promote communication, understanding and partnerships between Jews and peoples of other faith traditions through programs that focus on shared values and common goals.

The overarching goal of this objective is to strengthen the pluralistic dimension of civil society by promoting participation by the broadest range of religious and ethnic groups through bringing people of different religious and ethnic backgrounds together to work on important issues of social justice. Two strategies have emerged of particular relevance to the Foundation.

Strategy One: *To promote interfaith coalitions around issues of social and economic justice, which include people of all faiths and backgrounds, with an emphasis on outreach to Muslim and Jewish participation.*

Funds from the Jewish Life and Values program will support the **Jobs with Justice Education Fund** to support the Multi-Constituency Movement for Healthcare for All to broaden the involvement of religious leaders -- with special emphasis on Jewish leaders -- and their congregations in activities aimed at improving access to, and the quality of, healthcare. The grant is made in conjunction with Health, Arts, and Interprogram.

A renewal grant to the **Jewish Council on Urban Affairs** (JCUA) supported the fruits of a year's planning and pilot work in building relationships between Chicago's Jewish and Muslim communities. When JCUA began this work by organizing support for Muslim communities threatened with violence after 9/11, they did not have deep connections with Muslims. After a year's effort, they found five fruitful areas of work: dialogue and cultural exchange; cooperative programs for youth; educational programming and relationship building with mosques and

synagogues; advocacy and policy work on shared concerns and issues; and community technical assistance.

A grant to **Facing History and Ourselves** supported the implementation of the curriculum development work they had done through prior support. They were able to launch a comprehensive program of conferences, workshops, training sessions, and global internet to teach people to use their new curricula on global citizenship, including religion, human rights, and conflict resolution. Their goal is to foster tolerance by presenting new resources to young people, educators, and the larger community in order to create a deeper understanding of the ways people everywhere are linked.

Strategy Two: *To promote the peace process in Israel.*

This grant to the **Israel Policy Forum** built on a prior planning grant to create a highly sophisticated public education program aimed at business people and Christian and Jewish leaders in support of the Road Map (the plan for resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict drawn up by the US, the European Union, the Former Soviet Union, and the UN). This coalition of groups and leaders interested in a stable and peaceful Middle East will need to remain active for the next several years to ensure that a peace process is initiated and then implemented - and that adequate funding will be provided to both States - to ensure its success.

This year we sought out new grantees that involved new populations and fresh insight and energies in addressing the peace process. The **United Religions Initiatives** will organize leaders from the four major faith traditions in the US to pressure the US government to take a strong role in promoting a just peace in the region. Leading Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and Muslim clergy held high-level meetings with State Department officials in Washington, D.C.

The **PeaceWorks Network Foundation's OneVoice Initiative** is designed to engage hundreds of thousands of Israelis and Palestinians in the Middle East peace negotiations through an intensive outreach process. With our support, organizers recruited thousands of members, and gave people a chance to vote on their priorities for a final peace plan from among ten pillars identified by a panel of expert Israelis and Palestinians. OneVoice is dedicated to strengthening the moderate voices on both sides of the conflict.

Goal II: Contemplative Practice

To promote the development and dissemination of contemplative practice programs – from all traditions – which address the foundation's core values: concern for the poor, disadvantaged and underserved; empowerment of communities in need; respect for diversity; and promotion of understanding across cultures.

We completed the transition in the focus of the contemplative practice program to grantees that reflect our new emphasis on social justice.

OBJECTIVE 1:

To cultivate the development and teaching of contemplative practices linked to engagement with areas of concern to the foundation.

The **Center for Contemplative Mind in Society**, created through support of NCF, mapped the social justice organizations in this country that incorporate a range of contemplative practices into their office culture and their outreach activities. Our support enabled them to implement their research by producing training materials, linking activists, and providing mentoring.

The **Garrison Institute** is a new organization, (on whose board Ruth Cummings Sorensen serves). We gave a grant to support a retreat for college chaplains from four faiths to learn about contemplative practice and its connection to social action. The focus was on the college campus in an effort to reach students who are exploring their values and commitments and beginning to seek ways to put them in practice.

OBJECTIVE 2:

To enable the teachers, practitioners and organizations devoted to contemplative practice to make their work available as a resource for non-profit organizations devoted to social, economic, and environmental justice.

The grants to **Spirit in Action**, **Judson Memorial Church**, and **Stone Circles** supported young leaders of grassroots organizations to bring contemplative practice into their organizations in order to promote diversity, sustainability, and effective action. The grant to **Vallecitos Mountain Refuge** was to support a retreat for Christian, Jewish, and Muslim religious leaders to explore the role of contemplative practice in their faith traditions and ways it might strengthen the social action work in which they are involved.

NEXT STEPS

With the close of 2003 we have now fully transitioned to our “new” guidelines instituted in 2002. The end of the year also marked the departure of the founding Program Director for Jewish Life and Values and Contemplative Practice. Her successor is working to determine how The Nathan Cummings Foundation’s Jewish Life and Values and Contemplative Practice Program can build upon its past successes while ensuring that the ways in which we do our work continue to develop to most effectively transform our world. To this end we are working to:

- ◆ Further develop our cohort strategy, especially as it relates to: 1) the field of Jewish service and social justice work; 2) engagement of the next generation; and 3) the leaders and institutions at the core of the Jewish social justice movement.
- ◆ Apply the “generation-lens” to our work with current and potential grantees, ensuring that more of the organizations and programs we support are engaging and empowering the next generation.
- ◆ Further develop our strategy to promote a Jewish spirituality and practice that reflects the values of social justice (*tzedek*), loving kindness (*chesed*), mutual respect, and ethical

behavior. This includes seeking out serious initiatives at the nexus of Jewish social justice work and Jewish spiritual and religious life.

- ◆ Strategize about how to make Jewish service and social justice work a more core communal value and practice in the Jewish community. Create effective networks to maximize the cumulative impact, expand capacity, and seek out additional funding partners.
- ◆ Identify best practices for synagogue faith-based organizing and effective ways to proliferate successful models.
- ◆ Hone our strategy for funding the peace process and clarify the most impactful foci (i.e., American government – local or national, the Israeli government, the Jewish public, Jewish communal institutions, interfaith clergy, etc.) Exploring a possible convening of the myriad of groups and individuals currently doing this work in non-coordination.
- ◆ Determine the most effective and promising ways to fund in Israel reflective of the Foundation’s overarching goals and objectives and the current realities on the ground.
- ◆ Seek out potential grantees doing effective work to promote the integration of contemplative practice and action in the world reflective of the Foundation’s core values: concern for the poor, disadvantaged, and underserved; empowerment of communities in need; respect for diversity; and promotion of understanding across cultures.
- ◆ Explore the implications and applications of strategic values framing (the work of George Lakoff and others) for the Jewish community and the collective work of our grantees.
- ◆ Continue to see how the Jewish Life and Values and Contemplative Practice Programs’ Goals, Objectives, and Strategies are working and evaluate their effectiveness in the context of the various fields in which we work.

INTERPROGRAM INITIATIVES FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

INTRODUCTION

2003 was Interprogram Initiatives in Social and Economic Justice's second year. The grants described here supported the building of social alliances that are necessary to create a countervailing power that will hold corporations, governments and institutions accountable for the adverse impacts of their activities. Increasingly, grant recommendations take an integrated approach to issues of health, the environment, arts and culture, and Jewish life as we learn to formulate larger frames to advance our goals, objectives and strategies more effectively. Each grant fulfills both of Interprogram's objectives and the objectives of at least one other program area.

In 2003, Interprogram participated in sixty-six programmatic grants and thirteen affinity grants. Of the sixty-six programmatic grants, five were made by Interprogram and all four program areas; forty-five grants were made by Interprogram and one other program area; twelve were made by Interprogram and two program areas; and four grants involved Interprogram and three other program areas. The thirteen membership organizations that NCF affiliated with through Interprogram were: **Association of Black Foundation Executives, Council on Foundations, Foundation Center, Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues, Inc., Independent Sector, Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility, Neighborhood Funders Group, New York Regional Association of Grantmakers, Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York, Inc., Rockefeller Family Fund, Inc., Third Sector New England, Tides Center/Social Venture Network,** and **Women & Philanthropy.**

GOAL

To support social and economic justice, in order to encourage equitable and sustainable development that promotes democracy; as well as community, cultural, social, spiritual and individual wellbeing. Interprogram will advance this goal by supporting the exploration, development, and implementation of public policy, private efforts, and activities for institutional and systemic changes.

OBJECTIVE I:

To establish the accountability of economic, social or governmental institutions, especially corporations, for the consequences and effects of their activities on the environment, and on people, their health, wellbeing, cultures, and communities.

OBJECTIVE II:

To address these social, political, economic, environmental, cultural or health issues in an integrated way by:

- *bringing together groups—often separated by narrow issue interests and by race, religion, gender, class, ethnicity, and national origin—into crosscutting constituencies based on common economic, social, and ethical concerns; and*
- *creating both the possibilities and the demand for development of more systematic solutions to these issues, as well as the social basis needed for their implementation.*

Interprogram, Arts & Culture, Environment, Health and Jewish Life

Interprogram was designed to allow Foundation program areas to break out of their programmatic silos to address issues in a more comprehensive, coordinated, strategic and effective way. For five grants, Interprogram was able to bring together all four program areas. In February 2003, Interprogram, Arts & Culture, Environment, Health and Jewish Life participated in a Presidential Authority Grant made to **The Focus Project, Inc.** The project addressed the adverse impacts of the scheduled phased repeal of the estate tax. Repeal of the tax would eliminate strong incentives for charitable giving, remove constraints to the buildup of concentrated wealth and its resulting disproportionate political influence, as well as reduce revenue for government efforts that impact all Foundation program areas. The project sought to inform the public policy debate about adverse effects of repeal and advocate alternative reform approaches.

In approaching governmental and corporate accountability more directly, Interprogram, Arts & Culture, Environment, Health and Jewish Life & Values renewed support for the **WGBH Educational Fund** to research, develop and produce several investigative documentaries that address their goals and objectives. Interprogram, Arts & Culture, Environment, Health and Jewish Life renewed a grant to the **Independent Media Institute (IMI)**. This grant supported training in media strategy and communication. IMI worked with NCF grantees from all program areas to increase their effectiveness and multiply the impact of their work through better use of the media. Health, Arts & Culture, Environment, Interprogram and Jewish Life made an exit grant to the **Independent Press Association** to support independent publications about social change and practice that impact all of our program areas.

Beginning in 2002 the *Rockridge Institute*, a project of the **Tides Center**, worked with a number of NCF grantees to help them frame effective messages that demand governmental and corporate accountability. This partnership's past success prompted Environment, Arts & Culture, Health, Jewish Life, and Interprogram to renew support for the Institute. Our grants supported them as they developed organizational capacity and continued to help NCF grantees increase the impact of their work by creating effective, unified messages and approaches.

Interprogram and Arts & Culture

Interprogram supported Arts & Culture's efforts to address the effect of concentrated corporate ownership of the media and its adverse effects, to preserve artists' rights to protect their work, and to utilize artistic talent in support of social justice. **Public Knowledge**, supported by Arts and Interprogram, continued the work it began with a 2002 NCF grant. Research funded by the previous year's grant revealed that the effect of copyright laws on artists is not uniform across artistic disciplines. In 2003, Public Knowledge identified discipline specific issues, prepared artists to defend their rights against the legal challenges that are raised by copyright and technology policy, and forged alliances among organizations representing creators.

Interprogram has also worked with all program areas to address national perspectives on social and economic justice issues. Along with Arts & Culture, Interprogram made a grant to **Camera News** in support of their *Citizen King Documentary and Outreach Project*. This documentary focused on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as an activist for social and economic justice and not simply a civil rights activist. Arts & Culture and Interprogram also funded the **Media Education Foundation** (PAG) to host a conference that brought together policy makers, legislators, activists, environmentalists, labor, and community developers to address the marginalization of independent artists.

Together, Arts & Culture and Inteprogram presented several multi-program grants that focused on holding corporations accountable for the impact of their actions in order to facilitate a restructuring of corporate incentives that would encourage more positive outcomes and policies. The program areas made a grant to **Habitat Media, Inc.** for their documentary series *Controlling Interest* that examined the influence of corporate economic interest on the democratic process. The **Earth Island Institute, Inc.**'s *Sacred Land* project's funding was renewed by Arts & Culture and Interprogram. While 2002's project aimed at revealing corporate impact on sacred Native American land, 2003's project focused on rebuilding a relationship between Native Americans and corporations and developing new preservation programs for sacred sites. The Institute brings together corporate officials, public workers, environmentalists and Natives Americans.

Public policy affects the fabric of social and economic justice in American society. Interprogram seeks to coordinate NCF program efforts to engage these issues strategically. For example, the **Ella Baker Center for Human Rights in California's** (EBC) project *Youth Arts and Culture Program* was supported by Arts & Culture and Interprogram. The project brings together youth, education rights activists, and criminal justice reformists to create art that elevates the public discourse surrounding the fiscal trade-off between education and incarceration in California. In the future, EBC aims to reconfigure the debate with the presentation of alternative solutions.

With the rising costs of healthcare, artists, among others, find it increasingly difficult to afford coverage. Arts & Culture and Interprogram co-funded two grants that dealt with artists' access to healthcare. **Leveraging Investments in Creativity** (LINC) *National Artists' Insurance Initiative* is an outgrowth of research done by the Urban Institute. By bringing together artists, policy experts and small businesses, LINC works to increase artists' access to health, life, retirement and business insurance. **Working Today's** project, *Arts Outreach*, helps to provide independent artists with health insurance.

Interprogram, Arts & Culture and Health

Interprogram, Arts & Culture and Health supported a new grant to the **New York Foundation for the Arts**. The project, *True Lies*, examined the consolidation of ownership of the media by a few large corporations and its impact on the accountability of the media to the public interest, especially on issues of health and arts and culture.

Arts & Culture, Health and Interprogram explored how the arts can be used to raise health issues with a grant to **Talking Eyes Media, Inc.** The project, *Denied: The Crisis of America's Uninsured Exhibition*, grew out of the art exhibits and book that NCF supported in 2002. In 2003, the exhibit and accompanying education campaign focused on mobilizing citizens towards basic health rights.

Institute of Public Life was funded by for its work protecting the occupational safety and health of, and assuring social and economic justice for, immigrant workers in the meatpacking industry in Nebraska and Iowa. The Institute engages labor organizations, academics, small businesses and faith-based groups around the issues of income disparity, occupational safety and quality health care. Using art and performance, the Institute builds alliances between immigrant workers and other low to middle income residents of Nebraska and Iowa, and facilitates dialogue in these communities about the collective impact of these economic inequities on their experiences. The work done by the Institute will hopefully be a model to others for strategies to address conditions faced by low-wage workers in the meat and poultry industry in other locations.

Finally, a grant to the **William J. Brennan Jr. Center for Justice, Inc.** was renewed. Support from The Nathan Cummings Foundation allowed The Brennan Center to continue its work on *Dobbins v. Legal Services Corporation*. This case brings together a variety of constituencies to challenge 1996 federal funding restrictions that adversely impact arts institutions, museums, health and other organizations.

Interprogram and Health

Interprogram and Health's work continues to hold governments, corporations and other institutions accountable for providing services, establishing healthy work environments and providing health care benefits.

Interprogram and Health renewed a number of grants made in 2002 to improve access to health care and to prescription drugs. Grantees who use litigation to hold the federal and state governments responsible for providing access to health care and prescription drugs included **The Maine Citizen Leadership Fund (MCLF)** and the **National Health Law Program, Inc. (NHeLP)**. NHeLP works to establish addressing rights of Medicaid patients. NHeLP continues to establish the accountability of governments for implementing health programs for low-income individuals and families. Their work counterbalances the increasing tendency of states to eliminate health programs and services guaranteed by federal law as a result of state budget deficits. The MCLF project, "Maine Rx," aims to increase access to health care, specifically affordable prescription drugs. MCLF continued to build a grassroots base as a means of achieving corporate accountability. In an exciting victory in April 2003, the Supreme Court lifted an injunction preventing the implementation of Maine's innovative prescription drug program. While the legal battle will continue, this victory provides a springboard for MCLF to launch this prescription drug program as a model for reform in 29 other states, at the same time continuing to demand that the prescription industry be held accountable for providing accessible drugs to the uninsured.

Hospital mergers are affecting women's access to certain medical procedures when receiving treatment in religiously affiliated hospitals. **National Women's Law Center** and MergerWatch are working together to build an alliance that will hold these hospitals accountable for fair and comprehensive access to treatment. Health and Interprogram made a renewal grant to **Community Catalyst, Inc.** for the *Prescription Access Litigation Project (PAL)*. PAL's ongoing litigation challenges pharmaceutical companies' ability to artificially inflate prescription drug prices, and based upon NCF's recommendation they are expanding the scope of their work to begin building alliances with members of the business community.

Interprogram-Health made a grant to the **USAction Education Fund**. USAction works in conjunction with Community Catalyst/PAL, another NCF grantee that has successfully used litigation to establish the accountability of the prescription drug industry. USAction's work supports 20 state-based organizations in promoting the need for affordable prescription drugs. They train activists with the skills to educate the public about the need for greater accountability in the pharmaceutical industry. Their activities have already influenced state governments to explore policy options that eliminate barriers to affordable drugs. Worker justice, health and wages are synergistic issues that, when connected, increase the support for needed changes that will better accomplish our health objectives.

Several of Interprogram and Health's co-funded grants focus on strategic regions within the country as they develop alliances and design alternative policies. Health and Interprogram renewed support for the **Interfaith Education Fund, Inc.'s (IEF) Arizona Project**. IEF has been working in Arizona to help develop and train Interfaith, anti-poverty and labor leaders to focus and expand the public discourse demanding health care and a better quality of life for low-wage workers. Health and Interprogram continued working to expand healthcare coverage by developing coalitions between labor, faith-based groups, and community organizations to mobilize citizens in efforts to hold government accountable for healthcare coverage. **American Institute for Social Justice, Inc.'s Florida Community Labor Organizing Project** develops coalitions between constituency groups with complimentary health-related concerns. Health and Interprogram jointly renewed support of two organizations that campaign for workers' access to health care and to address adverse environmental impact within California by building statewide social alliances with broader social agendas. **Working Partnerships USA** continues its work to improve access to health care and healthy environment in Santa Clara County through research and public education. The second, Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education, can be found under Health, Environment and Interprogram's header.

Results of the 2003 tax debate affected the individual's ability to financially equip themselves with basic human needs. Emerging proposals may have increasingly negative affects on the equitable nature of our society by increasing the tax burden on individuals in the lower income brackets, and simultaneously reducing the federal funding available for social service programs. Interprogram and Health renewed a grant for the **National Women's Law Center (NWLC)** to facilitate an informed public discussion on the role of taxes needed revenues to support public programs such as those concerned with health issues. A grant to the **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities** supported their evaluation of the impact of health tax credits and state tax policies on states' ability to provide health insurance to low-income residents. **Center on Policy Initiatives' Living Wages and Health Benefits for San Diego (PAG)** project was renewed for their research on living wage and access to healthcare as well as their support of the Living Wage Coalition to include health benefits. A more regional approach was taken with a grant to **Arise Citizens' Policy Project**

(PAG). This statewide coalition informed the tax reform debate raising key issues such as access and quality of health care in Alabama.

Interprogram and Environment

Interprogram's work with the Environment Program centers around issues of climate change, environmental health and justice, and corporate accountability. The grantees sought to build strategic alliances between environmental, labor, agriculture, health and other organizations and groups to address environmental degradation, sustainable economic development and the health of this country's inhabitants. The Interprogram-Environment grants emphasized corporate internalization of the costs and risks of their activities, corporate accountability for the environmental harm that is caused, and the implementation of new strategies to ally groups that have historically had conflicts with each other to address these issues.

Several of the Interprogram-Environment grants focused on offering economically viable, job producing, environmentally sound alternative approaches to current economic development approaches. The **Common Assets Defense Fund (CADF)**, a joint Interprogram and Environment grant, was part of a cluster of grants that made up the "Apollo Project." Along with the **Institute for America's Future, Inc.** and the **Public Health Institute**, CADF cultivated an alliance between environmentalists and labor organizations by promoting economically viable clean energy that will substantially increase employment, improve the environment and address national security concerns. CADF and the Institute for America's Future led the public education activities and The Public Health Institute worked with the United Steelworkers District 11 to introduce environmental issues into the broader union jobs and economic development agenda.

Interprogram and Environment's grant to **The Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies (CEERT)** seeks to build an alliance between environmentalists, health, and public interest groups to force the oil industry to internalize the cost of petroleum pollution while addressing California's large state budget deficit. Their proposals redirect revenues to transit programs that benefit workers and poor communities while addressing the adverse effects of pollution.

Interprogram and Environment worked with two organizations to defend the rights of private landowners including farmers and ranchers, in order to protect the environment from certain types of corporate, environmental degradation. In renewing 2002's grant to the **Farmers Legal Action Group, Inc. (FLAG)**, Interprogram and Environment continued to support individual family farmers, ranchers and small businesses in their efforts to use litigation to resist unconstitutional fees and other actions that allow certain agricultural corporations to be largely environmentally unaccountable. The **Land Stewardship Project**, another renewal brought together family farm organizations in their efforts to establish direct accountability of major agribusiness corporations for the environmental, economic, and social harm their policies and practices may cause.

Interprogram and Environment made a grant to The California Partnership for Working Families, a project led by the **Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy**. This project works to build a strong alliance of community-based coalitions. These coalitions – made up of labor, community groups, and environmentalists – act throughout California to address the adverse environmental impacts of development projects by demanding that in exchange for receiving public subsidies, developers be held accountable for the social, economic and environmental effects of their activities.

Interprogram and Environment also made a grant to **Redefining Progress** (RP) for their research and policy analysis in support of environmental justice and community-based groups. These groups seek to establish corporate and governmental responsibility to protect “common assets,” such as the environment.

The **Center for a New American Dreams’ Lighthouse Project** received a grant from Environment and Interprogram to expand their national advocacy concerning overconsumption. *Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC)*, a project of **Syracuse University**, received a Presidential Authority Grant to collect and allow public access to information about how the nation’s environmental laws are enforced in order to create a higher standard of government transparency and accountability.

Environment and Interprogram jointly supported the **Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law Environmental Justice Project**. This grant builds alliances across traditional class and racial barriers to challenge environmental hazard burdens placed on poor and minority communities in Gainesville, Georgia, and it aims to hold public institutions accountable for discriminatory land-use policies and environmental degradation. A successful ruling on this case will provide an important precedent for poorer communities subjected to environmental hazards throughout the country.

Finally, when The Nathan Cummings Foundation began its work in the area of proxy voting and shareholder activism, NCF efforts fell under the overall social and economic justice mission of the Foundation. As work in this area developed, synergistic potential of investment and programmatic activities became apparent. Two grants were made to support organizations that bring groups together to promote shareholder activism. Environment and Interprogram renewed support for **Ceres Inc.’s Sustainable Government Project**. Ceres encourages shareholders to demand transparency and promote practices that address global warming. **Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc.** received a Presidential Authority Grant from Interprogram and Environment for the “Carbon Disclosure Project” (CDP). CDP will conduct research and bring together investors representing trillions of dollars to use their proxy voting power to encourage corporate transparency. The dissemination of this work will establish the accountability of corporate actions for global climate change.

Interprogram, Environment and Health

Along with Environment and Health, Interprogram made a grant to **Western Organization of Resource Councils Education Project (WORC)**. WORC organizes farmers, ranchers, environmentalists and health care professionals in response to environmentally harmful mining of oil and other subsurface minerals in seven Western States. Using grassroots organizing and communication strategies, WORC establishes the accountability of developers for the environmental impact of their actions. A joint grant to the **Front Range Economic Strategy Center (FRESC)** brings together an alliance of labor, environment and faith-based organizations in order to encourage standards of environmental health and workers safety in Denver, Colorado. This alliance leveraged city investment in large urban redevelopment to establish a model of healthy environment, safe construction, and access to health care.

Interprogram, Environment and Health also made a grant to **Health Care Without Harm (HCWH)**. HCWH’s works to shift the burden of proof onto the health care industry by demanding that equipment and materials be evaluated for safety before they can be used by health

care professionals. They successfully bring together doctors, hospitals and health maintenance organizations in support of industry responsibility and the precautionary principle on issues such as PVC plastic and mercury.

The **Pesticide Action Network North American Regional Center** received a grant for its work towards applying the precautionary principle to the issue of pesticide use. By focusing on the negative health effects of pesticides, the Pesticide Action Network holds companies accountable for their environmental impact and shifted the burden of proof regarding health and environmental impacts away from the workers and on to companies who use pesticides to demonstrate their safety. Another organization that received a grant for their work on pesticide use is **La Union Del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)**. LUPE organizes community action committees across California to protect rural communities from pesticides and galvanized support for issues of health and safety of farm workers and community members. Interprogram support helped build a coalition that involves forty rural communities statewide, and enabled research that will develop a policy agenda involving sister organizations including the United Farm Workers of America and Radio Campesina. The Pesticide Action Network and LUPE were also put in touch to explore possible areas for collaboration.

Health, Environment and Interprogram made a grant **Consumers for Dental Choice (PAG)** (CDC). CDC worked to allow dentists the choice to use mercury or not. By creating broad-based coalitions within specific states and educating the public, CDC aims to counterbalance the prevailing impact of mercury use within dentistry that disproportionately impacts low-income citizens.

Health, Environment and Interprogram focused on workers' access to health care and addressing adverse environmental impact within California by building statewide social alliances with broader social agendas. **Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE)** received renewal funding to continue building alliances throughout California to develop a unified statewide approach that will address the lack of quality healthcare, healthy environments and jobs.

Interprogram and Jewish Life

Together, Interprogram and Jewish Life renewed support for the **Union of American Hebrew Congregations**. The Union's *Religious Action Center* provides educational and coalition-building activities that create a powerful voice demanding corporate and governmental accountability for social justice.

The Shefa Fund's TZEDEC convened members of Jewish institutions to educate them on how to use their investment assets more strategically to support their issues. We brought together Shefa and the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility, another NCF grantee presented, to coordinate efforts working within faith-based communities to hold corporations accountable for adverse governance practices and societal impacts.

As the largest actors impacting society, corporations and government should be held accountable to those they affect. As life becomes increasingly complex, and "corporate culture" and "market values" infiltrate all segments of human interaction, NCF's Contemplative Practice Program and Interprogram seek to increase the visibility and to strengthen the infrastructure of alternative life approaches. As activists engage corporations and government through organizing, training, education and advocacy, NCF explored support that would sustain them in their activities through

training in spiritual practice that can supplement their efforts for social change as well as energize them in their endeavors. **Spirit in Action** trains activists from different spiritual, political and other traditions in a holistic manner that incorporates both spiritual practice and social action activism. **Stone Circles** began building a national network of spiritual practitioners who are committed to social change. *New York Jobs With Justice* (**Judson Memorial Church** - PAG) experiments with traditional office culture and personal transformation techniques within the context of an organization that works toward social and economic justice ends. And lastly, **The Spirituality Institute** creates a social action program that will be incorporated into its training of religious leaders, lay leaders and educators.

Jewish Life & Values and Interprogram made a number of grant recommendations that revolved around encouraging Jewish communities both independently and within the context of multi-faith communities in order to actively engage in social justice issues. Renewed support for the **Jewish Fund for Justice, Inc.** enabled the organization to work with synagogues and Jewish communities to increase their engagement in faith-based activism both as financial supporters and as actors. The **Jewish Organizing Initiative** (PAG) continues to integrate accountability and social and economic justice and Judaism as it trains organizers.

Jewish Life & Values and Interprogram also supported three grants that worked towards building bridges between communities that have been subject to internal strife partially due to governmental decisions. A grant to the **Jewish Council on Urban Affairs** (PAG) was made to support their building bridges between Muslims and Jews. The **PeaceWorks Network Foundation** (PAG) began coalescing the voices of individuals affected by the Israel-Palestine conflict to express opinions about the principles presently being discussed at the leadership level. Focusing on grassroots activism, PeaceWorks aims to hold the relevant governments accountable to the people their policies impact on peace. The **United Religions Initiative** (PAG) received a grant to support an interfaith walk on Washington to encourage support for pursuing Middle East peace in this country.

Interprogram, Health and Jewish Life

Communications Consortium Media Center received a grant to develop advanced communications strategies that promote a policy that guarantees health care to low-wage workers, and ensures worker safety and a livable wage. The Center brings together faith-based, labor and civil rights organizations to create a voice that informs the public and holds corporations accountable for the health and welfare of their employees.

Interprogram, Arts & Culture, Health and Jewish Life

Based on the success of the previous year's grant, Interprogram, Health, Arts & Culture and Jewish Life renewed funding for **Jobs with Justice Education Fund** (JwJEF). In 2002 JwJEF activities led to 1,000 Boston janitors receiving health insurance for the first time, and 7,000 hotel workers in Chicago receiving improved health care benefits. A renewal of this grant allowed JwJEF to continue working to improve access to employer-provided health insurance by providing training to local community, labor, student and faith-based coalitions that would enable them to effectively address these issues.

Interprogram, Health, Environment and Jewish Life

Health, Interprogram, Jewish Life and Environment made a grant to the **National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice** (PAG) in support of their *Laundry Workers' Justice Campaign*.

Under this grant, NICWJ worked with labor, religious communities and environmentalists to hold corporations accountable for the safety and health of laundry workers' conditions and for the impact of their chemical usage and disposal procedures on the environment.

Interprogram, Arts & Culture, Health and Environment

Interprogram, Arts & Culture, Health and Environment made a renewal grant to **Fordham University** for the *Institute for Innovation in Social Policy*. This project conducted a National Survey and published reports evaluating the quality of life in America today based on health, cultural and environmental factors.

Interprogram, Arts & Culture, Environment and Jewish Life

The **Orion Society's Artful Advocacy Conference** received a Presidential Authority Grant supported by Environment, Arts & Culture, Jewish Life and Interprogram. The conference brought together cultural, political and artistic leaders to discuss the role that America plays and its effects on environmental and social justice policies.

Interprogram, Environment and Jewish Life

The **Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston** was supported by Jewish Life & Values, Environment and Interprogram to mobilize Jewish communities to hold government accountable for social services and environmental protection during times of fiscal crisis.

NEXT STEPS

Interprogram will continue encouraging an integrated approach to social and economic justice to maximize foundation-wide programmatic impact. Internally, we will continue to mutually learn from each program area and incorporate new knowledge and methods through this multiprogram grantmaking.