

Firelight Newsflash! 27 July 2009 – Awards, Funding Opportunities & Fellowships

Vote for Firelight Grantee-Partners in the World's Children Prize:

The world's largest educational and empowerment process for children's rights and democracy

Voting Ends: 25 October

Since the year 2000, the World's Children's Prize (WCPRC) has awarded children's prestigious prizes for outstanding efforts for the rights of the child. The prize money has contributed to giving tens of thousands of the world's most vulnerable children a better life. So far, 27 prize laureates have received prizes and have become role models for children all over the world.

The WCPRC is the world's largest educational programme for young people on the rights of the child, democracy, the environment and global friendship. It is carried out in cooperation with more than 500 local NGOs, 50,000 teachers, as well as departments of education and youth media projects.

The next global vote will determine the Decade Child Rights Hero and two of the thirteen candidates in the next global vote are Firelight grantee-partners. (See their profiles below.)

Why is AOCM a nominee?

Association des Orphelins Chefs de Ménages (AOCM) has been nominated as WCPRC Decade Child Rights Hero 2009 because the organisation fights for the children and young people whose parents were killed in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. AOCM consists of young people who lost their parents in the genocide, and together they now try to help each other create a better life. They are like a family, where people care about one another. Although most people in AOCM live in extreme poverty, they help each other with food, clothes, roofs over their heads, new families, and access to healthcare and education. And most important of all: they give each other friendship and love. Over 6,000 orphaned children and young people have the chance of a better life through AOCM. Young people who might otherwise end up living on the street with drugs, violence, criminality and prostitution. AOCM speaks on the orphans' behalf in Rwanda, by constantly reminding the government and organisations that the orphans exist.

Why is Betty a nominee?

Betty Makoni has been nominated as WCPRC Decade Child Rights Hero 2009 for her long struggle for girls in Zimbabwe to be freed from abuse and to have the same opportunities in life as boys. Through the Girl Child

Network (GCN) Betty has built three safe villages for particularly vulnerable girls and started 500 girls' clubs with 30,000 members, mostly in rural areas and in poor townships. Betty saves girls from child labour, forced marriage, abuse, trafficking and assault. She gives the girls food, clothes, medical care, a home, the chance to go to school, and safety. Above all, she gives the girls courage to demand respect for their rights. Tens of thousands of girls have found a better life because of Betty's work. She and GCN speak out on behalf of girls in Zimbabwe by constantly encouraging the government to take care of the country's girls. But not everyone approves of Betty's struggle. She lives dangerously and is constantly being threatened for her work.

For more information about how you can participate and include children you serve in the voting process, see: <http://www.childrensworld.org/page.html>

Awards for Promotion of Education for Better Livelihoods from CCLP Worldwide

Deadline: 31 July 2009

NGOs, individuals and other institutions can apply for the awards for their contribution in education provided to the needy for their livelihood development.

For more information about this opportunity and others, see the FundsforNGOs.org website:

<http://www.fundsforngos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/awards-for-promotion-of-education-for-better-livelihoods/>

2009 Most Innovative Development Program (MIDP) Competition

Deadline: 24 August 2009

Submissions are welcome for the Global Development Network's annual competition for the Most Innovative Development Program, which carries prizes in cash and travel of over US \$50,000. The finalists will present their proposals at GDN's Annual Global Development Conference in Prague, Czech Republic in January 2010.

Submissions are accepted for an ongoing development program implemented in a developing or transition country. Applicants are requested to use the application template available on the GDN website.

For more information on the competition and criteria, visit:

<http://www.gdnet.org/cms.php?id=2009awards>

Emerging Leaders International Fellows Program

Application Deadline: 3 September 2009

The Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society is pleased to announce a unique fellowship opportunity: the spring 2010 Emerging Leaders International Fellows Program. *The program provides nonprofit sector leadership training through seminars, applied research and mentorships. The program is open to young scholars and practitioners from outside the United States who are interested in building Third-Sector capacity in their home countries or regions.

Fellows are based at The Graduate Center of The City University of New York, where they design and pursue an individualized research project and participate in a seminar with Third-Sector leaders. Fellows will participate in a 3-month seminar (Monday March 1 to Friday May 28, 2010) on the U.S. and international voluntary sectors. They will learn about the work of key agencies and meet with foundation leaders and other nonprofit representatives. They will also attend selected workshops or conferences.

Fellows are expected to produce a 25-page research paper on their findings, which will be presented in the seminar. The research topic for applicants to the 2010 Emerging Leaders Program is community foundations. A limited number of fellowships for research on diaspora or corporate philanthropy may also be available.

Each fellowship award covers the cost of tuition. As part of the award, the Center will also provide single-room dormitory accommodations with shared facilities at International House (adjacent to Columbia University), economy round-trip air travel to and from New York City and a generous stipend (taxable) to help cover research-related and additional living expenses.

There is an online application procedure. For more information, see the following website: http://philanthropy.org/programs/intnl_fellows_program.html or email: cpcs@gc.cuny.edu

Microfinance Photography Contest: Win Photography Equipment or International Scholarship

Deadline: 14 September 2009

The 2009 Annual Microfinance Photography Contest is now open for entries. Over the past three years, the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP) has received thousands of entries from photographers of all levels and from every region of the world. As a result, stunning images of microfinance

have been shared and exhibited in different venues around the world. Winning photos from last year's contest are currently on display at Citigroup Centre in London.

Twenty to 24 finalists will be selected for the 2009 CGAP Microfinance Photography Contest. The winning images are published by CGAP and displayed online at www.cgap.org and may be printed for exhibition in partnership with the World Bank <<http://www.worldbank.org/>> and Citi. In addition to the opportunity to put their photos before the eyes of the world, winning photographers may receive the prizes listed below:

One Grand Prize winning package

- Microfinance Training Scholarship to the Boulder Program in Turin, Italy, (including economy airfare) or another development training opportunity agreed with CGAP up to a maximum value of \$5000

--OR--

- A \$2000 gift certificate for photography equipment and accessories

*Runner-up winners to receive gift certificates for photography equipment and accessories.

Each photo submission (electronic or by post, up to 20 per person) must be accompanied by a brief description of the photo, including the place and country where the photo was taken, and how it tells the story of microfinance and reflects advances in access to finance. Entries will be judged on originality, technical excellence, composition, overall impact, and artistic merit. The story behind the photo, submitted as a paragraph or brief essay, may influence the judges' decisions. Legal conditions apply.

For more information and/or to submit your entry, see: <http://www.cgap.org/p/site/c/template.rc/1.26.10901/>

Inquiries and entries can also be sent by e-mail to Jeanette Thomas, CGAP Communications Director (jthomas1@worldbank.org).

Open Society Fellowships

Next deadline: 15 September 2009

The Open Society Fellowship supports individuals seeking innovative and unconventional approaches to fundamental open society challenges. The fellowship funds work that will enrich public understanding of those challenges and stimulate far-reaching and probing conversations within the Open Society Institute and in the world.

A fellowship project might identify a problem that has not previously been recognized, develop new policy ideas to address familiar problems, or offer a new advocacy strategy. Fellows should take advantage of the considerable intellectual and logistical resources of the Open Society Institute and expect to contribute meaningfully to OSI's thinking in return. In evaluating each proposal, the selection committee weighs three factors: the applicant, the topic of the project, and the work product.

Proposals are accepted year round, but those received by September 15, 2009 will be evaluated by November 30, 2009.

For guidelines and application procedures, see:
http://www.soros.org/initiatives/fellowship/focus_areas

Donor Agency Database Online

ProPoor is an internet portal that provides information, resources and news about development work in South Asia. ProPoor is not a funding organization. As we create a platform to match resources with needs, we hope rekindle the spirit of service in individual hearts around the globe.

<http://www.propoor.org/search.php?searchtype=donors>

THE AFRICAN GRANTMAKERS NETWORK IS LAUNCHED

Ghana, Accra-15 July 2009: "The African Grantmakers Network will change the face of global philanthropy. And it will happen right here in Africa", said Sarah Mukasa, Director of Programmes at the African Women's Development Fund, at a meeting organized to establish a network of African grantmakers.

After years of careful planning, preparations, consultations and meetings, the AGN was launched in Accra at a meeting convened by the African Women's Development Fund, TrustAfrica and the Kenya Community Development Foundation-and attended by key African grantmakers. "The establishment of an African Grantmakers Network is well overdue", was the opening line of a discussion document circulated at the meeting.

"This has been a long overdue dialogue that has now finally taken shape. I want to express my wish that this network will develop a strong, collective voice for Africa and her needs in terms of development-from Africa, for Africa", said Christine Delport, Chief Operating Officer at the Greater Rustenburg Community

Foundation.

And TrustAfrica's Executive Director, Akwasi Aidoo, emphasized that the AGN's main function will be to "change the narrative of Africa as helpless and hapless, tilt the balance of stories, and increase the visibility and knowledge of Africa". He went on to say, "this is a network with a solid net across our continent and lots of good work for its people".

The AGN will also:

- Serve as a platform for peer learning and good practice to enhance good standards and practices;
- Ensure an amplification of local voices in development discourse and African perspectives in global platforms;
- Reinforce the tradition of African philanthropy;
- Advocate for long-term and sustainable mechanisms and resources, including investments and endowments for philanthropic institutions in Africa;
- Serve as a reference point for Africans in the Diaspora and a point to affirm the identity of African philanthropic institutions;
- Cultivate good relations with other civil society formations in Africa and increase networking for effective advocacy around the aid agenda and the legal environment, including the tax regime; and
- Conduct pertinent research, capacity building and advocacy roles.

A Steering Committee was elected comprising;

- Bisi Adeleye FAYEMI: Chair (African Women's Development Fund, Ghana)
- Janet MAWIYOO: Co-Chair (Kenya Community Development Foundation, Kenya)
- Akwasi AIDOO: (TrustAfrica, Senegal)
- Christine DELPORT: (Greater Rustenburg Community Foundation, South Africa)
- Neville GABRIEL: (Southern Africa Trust, South Africa)
- Ezra MBOGORI: (Akiba Uhaki Foundation, East Africa)
- John ULANGA: (The Foundation for Civil Society, Tanzania)

After the launch, Neville Gabriel, Executive Director of Southern Africa Trust, stated:

"The creation of the African Grantmakers Network is a historic moment in the development of African institutions that truly belong to the continent. It's been created by grantmaking organizations that are rooted in Africa, out of their own felt need for such a network, and through their own commitment to create such a group. The network will therefore be a key platform to improve the way in which funding towards effective development results is channeled to African

organizations".

And Bisi Adeleye Fayemi, Executive Director of the African Women's Development Fund, summarized the launch as follows:

"The story of Africa's development has been told many times over with great reference to the disasters but little if any to the contributions of Africans who work to create change, to shape a new historical narrative of hope, dignity, peace and prosperity to all of the continent's citizens. The AGN is born of these efforts. It seeks to build on the rich tradition of philanthropic giving in Africa".

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As part of the Firelight Foundation's Monitoring, Evaluation and Technical Assistance (META) Program, Firelight provides "Newsflashes" to share relevant resources and information with our active grantee-partners via weekly emails and via post on a monthly basis. We hope that by facilitating access to information for grassroots, community-focused organizations, programming for children and families, as well as organizational development, is enhanced. Past editions of the Firelight Newsflash can be found on our website: <http://www.firelightfoundation.org/newsflash.htm>.

We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at newsletter@firelightfoundation.org.