

From: Firelight Newsletter <newsletter@firelightfoundation.org>
Subject: Firelight Newsflash! 6 April 2009 - Trng for Transformation and Awards & Funding Opportunities
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To: newsletter@firelightfoundation.org

Dear grantee-partners,

Many of you may already be familiar with "Training for Transformation" as a methodology for community development that was developed in sub-Saharan Africa in the 1970s and 80s. Based on the theoretical work of Paulo Freire, the 3-part book presents a training method that is very practical. Although it is now out of print, it remains a very important and relevant resource for organizations working at the community level to eradicate poverty and oppression.

Over the next few weeks, we will be sharing portions of this book to inspire us and to help us all reflect about how we can raise awareness that mobilizes local initiatives and human and material resources to meet the needs of vulnerable children and families. Enjoy and feel free to share your feedback!

Our best,
The Firelight Team

Training for Transformation: A Handbook for Community Workers, Book 1
By Anne Hope & Salley Timmel, Mambo Press

"Reflection without action is mere verbalism.
Action without reflection is pure activism."

Chapter 1: Roots of this Method

A. The purpose of this book

All of us who are involved in community, are immediately confronted with the real life problems of people--people who are caught in a never ending struggle for survival;
with unsafe water,
too little food,
little education,
and no voice or power in decision-making.

Development and education are first of all about liberating people from all that holds them back from a full human life. Ultimately development and education are about transforming society,.

Development, liberation, and transformation are all aspects of the same process. It is not a marginal activity. It is at the core of all creative human living.

Because the bonds of poverty and oppression make the lives of vast numbers of people increasingly inhuman, it is amongst the poor and oppressed that development programs and adult education must start.

Any human view must focus on those whose well-being is denied by others. Progress cannot be measured only by the increase in the total production of a country, because often a privileged minority take for themselves the fruits of the labour of a hard working majority. Millions of people are the victims of a vicious system of exploitation managed by a small powerful group which controls the economic and political life, not only of their own country, but of other countries too.

This system sets up a process which leads inevitably to the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer.

It creates poverty and underdevelopment, establishes classes without conflicting interests, and destroys human dignity in the process.

All people of faith need to focus their attention first on the liberation of the victims of an unjust society, a total liberation which is personal and social, economic and political. At the same time, they need to be building a new society.

Skills needed for a new society

In the building of a new society, we need
to improve our communication,
to learn to listen and
to express our insights,
to diagnose together our needs,
analyse the causes of our problems,
plan and act together in teams, organizations and movements.

As community workers we need to learn to create a friendly affirming "climate" in the community so that even the shyest person will gain sufficient self-confidence to contribute his/her experience and insight to the common search for solutions to the enormous problems we face.

The exercises in these three books are only a means to help us express our love and concern for people more effectively. Skills and techniques alone can never solve problems or build real community, but they can help people and groups of goodwill to know what is needed to act effectively in the spirit of self-reliance.

Importance of Team Work

Throughout the books we constantly stress the importance of teamwork. The follow-up after training programs is always far greater if participants are trained together in a team, which will be able to work together when they return home.

These programs are never concerned with doing things for people, but always at enabling and motivating them to see that "the way things are now" is not the only way they could be. And to take responsibility for shaping

their lives
their community,
and their environment

so that the world provides a happier home for everyone.

If we truly believe in the value of each person, the important of community, socialism, democracy - this will profoundly affect how we organise meetings, programs, decision-making procedures, etc. Throughout this book, we aim at as much coherence as possible between the type of society we hope for, and the way we work towards that future.

We believe that we need to be involved in strategies for transformation which start from the bottom up, growing out of the expressed needs of the people. Those with education and skills have a role to play in enabling the poor to participate actively in identifying and analysing critically the causes of their problems, and uniting with them in finding solutions.

In this way, structures may not be changed as quickly as they might be simply by decree coming down from above. But in the process, the people themselves will be transformed, grow more confident, more creative, more critical as they participate in transforming those structures.

**No matter how long the night,
the day is sure to come.**
~Congo Proverb

Awards & Funding Opportunities

1) Tides Foundation's Indigenous People's Fund Invites Grant Applications from Organizations Benefiting Women and Girls

Deadline: 8 April 2009

Tides Foundation is seeking general operating proposals from indigenous organizations with a focus on preserving and enhancing the rights, health, safety and education of women and girls in native communities. Grant awards will range from \$15,000 - \$40,000.

For more information, see: <http://www.tidesfoundation.org/grants-impact/open-rfps/ipf/index.html>

2) John Humphrey Freedom Award 2009

Nomination Deadline: 20 April 2009

Rights & Democracy (International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development) presents the John Humphrey Award each year to an organization or individual from any region of the world for outstanding achievement in the promotion of human rights and democratic development. The Award consists of a grant of \$30,000, and a speaking tour of Canadian cities to help increase awareness of the recipient's human rights work.

For more information, see: http://www.dd-rd.ca/site/humphrey_award/index.php?lang=en(English)

http://www.dd-rd.ca/site/humphrey_award/index.php?lang=fr(French)

3) International Fund for Agricultural Development Announces Call for Proposals

Deadline: 29 May 2009

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a specialized agency of the UN, announces a new call for proposals: Promoting Innovative Remittance Systems and Investment Channels for Migrants. This grants facility will increase economic opportunities for the rural poor through the support and development of international and domestic remittance services that are innovative, cost-effective and easily accessible. The objectives of the call for proposals 2009 are to improve remittance transmission and access to remittance services in rural areas; link remittances to financial services and products in rural areas; and develop innovative and productive rural investment channels and opportunities for migrants and community-based organizations.

For more information, see: <http://www.ifad.org/remittances>

4) Champions of Quality Education in Africa Competition

Deadlines for entries: 3 June 2009 (To encourage early entries, the best entry submitted by 6:00 p.m. EST, April 13, 2009, will win a camcorder and digital camera, an equal value of USD \$1,000).

If you are working to ensure that pupils in Africa are learning the reading, writing, math and critical thinking skills that they need to succeed, then you are a Champion of Quality Education!

Ashoka's Changemakers, in partnership with the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, are launching a search to find the most innovative educators and educational organizations in Africa. They are building a network of innovative education entrepreneurs who are focused on improving the learning of African students.

If you are a successful and innovative teacher, administrator, or education organization, you are invited to apply. Share your ideas and you could win \$5000 toward your initiative!

For more information on nominations and entries, see: <http://www.changemakers.net/educationafrica>

5) Southern Africa Drivers of Change Award

Nomination Deadline: 10 July 2009

The 2009 Drivers of Change Award nominations are now open. The prestigious non-monetary awards recognise outstanding new ways of working to overcome poverty in southern Africa. The Award, supported by the Southern African Trust, has four categories of civil society, business, government and individuals. The judges will among other things look for outstanding examples of different sectors working together, particularly government, business, and civil society. This year's winners will be honoured along with the Mail & Guardian Investing in the Future Awards on 29 October 2008 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

For more information and to download nomination forms and guidelines, see:

http://www.southernafricatrust.org/drivers_of_change/index.html

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