

# POVERTY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

## Leadership School

Participating Organizations • August 2009 • Camp Virgil Tate • West Virginia

## **Poverty Scholars Program**

The Poverty Scholars Program (PSP)—is a leadership development and training program and network for a core of grassroots low-income, religious, and community leaders from poor communities nationwide. The program seeks to lift up the often-hidden genius of leaders most affected by poverty, while offering the opportunity for further developing their voice, organizing skills and capacity for intellectual engagement. Our program engages organizers with proven local level successes on issues of unemployment, community revitalization, housing and homelessness, immigration, water privatization, ecological devastation, eviction and foreclosure, health care, hunger, low-wage workers rights, organizing poor youth, public education reform, grassroots media production, and living wages. The Poverty Scholars Program seeks to make an impact at three levels: 1) to provide leadership development and skills training for each individual leader or “Poverty Scholar”; 2) to inform and sharpen existing and future local campaigns conducted by each partner organization; and 3) to nurture a national network that unites across lines of race, religion, geography and issue-focused organizing into a human rights based movement to end poverty.

The Poverty Scholars Program is the cornerstone of the Poverty Initiative whose mission is to raise up generations of religious and community leaders dedicated to building a social movement to end poverty led by the poor. In 2009-10, the Poverty Initiative is focused on re-igniting the Poor People’s Campaign launched in December 1967 by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by strengthening a national network of low-income, community and religious leaders with training, leadership development, networking and joint action. Therefore the overall theme of the Poverty Scholars Program is “Reigniting the Poor People’s Campaign: Finishing the Unfinished Business of Martin Luther King Jr.”

Willie Baptist, Poverty Initiative Scholar in Residence, is the Coordinator of the Poverty Scholars Program. A formerly homeless father of three, Willie brings more than 40 years experience organizing and educating in poor communities across the US.

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**Thank you to the Direct Action Welfare Group (DAWG),  
host of the August 2009 Leadership School**

## Goals

Following are the Goals for the Leadership School as agreed upon at the March 2009 Poverty Scholars Program Strategic Dialogue Gathering:

To work together in **Reigniting The Poor People's Campaign: Finishing the Unfinished Business of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** – in building a broad social movement to end poverty led by the poor – united across racial, geographic, religious and other divisions in order to win our human rights to housing, healthcare, education, living wage jobs, an adequate standard of living for all, and other economic rights – and in developing a communication and media infrastructure needed in reigniting this campaign. To do this in the following ways through the Leadership School:

- Through our preparation for and our week of study together, to further define the scholarship needed to become a Poverty Scholar. To support the continuing development of the Poverty Scholars Program as part of the Poverty Initiative.
- During this week-long Train-the-Trainers experience, to engage in study, action, and dialogue that will deepen and expand the core of community and religious leaders who have taken part in the 2008-2009 Strategic Dialogue gatherings and that will support their organizations to further develop in their local work plans for ongoing study as an essential part of leadership development and organizational sustainability.
- To define and engage in study of the following themes: economics, politics, art and culture/media, religion/theology, and the educational process (including topics such as the difference between charity and justice, concrete organizing skills and lessons, the current economic crisis, global solidarity and lessons from movements of the poor across the world). To develop curriculum and methods of development/distribution of educational materials around these themes. To organize the school in a way that embodies the values of the world we want to live in.

To learn from the experience in Appalachia as we study the importance of history, strategy, place, context, and relationships to movement building. To deepen, renew, and begin relationships with groups and individuals organizing in Appalachia that will strengthen their work and the work that we all do after returning to our respective communities.

## **Organizations Participating in the August 2009 Leadership School**

### **Abahlali baseMjondolo (Shack Dwellers) Movement, South Africa**

The Abahlali baseMjondolo (Shack Dwellers) Movement began in Durban, South Africa, in early 2005. The movement is, in terms of the numbers of people mobilized, the largest organization of the militant poor in post-apartheid South Africa. The movement's key demand is for 'Land & Housing in the City' but it has also successfully politicized and fought for an end to forced removals and for access to education and the provision of water, electricity, sanitation, health care and refuse removal as well as bottom up popular democracy.

[www.abahlali.org](http://www.abahlali.org)

### **Artists for A Better America, Brooklyn, NY**

Artists for a Better America is an organization that speaks to the role of art in the process of developing consciousness and empowerment.

<http://artistsforabetteramericayahoo.com.blogspot.com/2007/07/blog-post.html>

### **Cabrini College, Radnor, PA**

The College's mission is to provide an "education of the heart," integrating intellectual competency with moral and social responsibility. Cabrini College was founded in 1957 by the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (MSC). [www.cabrini.edu](http://www.cabrini.edu)

### **Classlines, Washington DC**

Classlines is a multimedia performance project exploring issues of class through the lens of personal storytelling. The goal is to use the artistic process and performance as a way of provoking discussion about how wealth and poverty affect our lives, perspectives and sense of ourselves.

### **Community Asset Development Re-Defining Education (CADRE), Los Angeles, CA**

CADRE is a community-based, membership parent organization in South Los Angeles founded in 2001 and led by African American and Latino parents and caregivers whose children attend local schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). CADRE works for systemic change by supporting grassroots South LA parents as the leaders in stopping the pushout crisis in schools serving low-income neighborhoods of color. Through parent capacity building, political education, advocacy, and organizing, CADRE challenges schools' beliefs and practices that criminalize children and parents and violate their human rights to a quality education, dignity, and participation in our current public education system. [www.cadre-la.org](http://www.cadre-la.org)

### **The Chadwicks (Chadwix), Des Moines, IA and Erie, PA**

The Chadwicks (Chadwix) is a small family group who have an intense interest in, and have devoted their lives to, the overall mission to end poverty. Their passion for this movement comes from their religious beliefs that Jesus' life and teachings were directed to the elevation of the poor above all other people. The Chadwix are honored to be a part of the Poverty Initiative and humbled at being a part of the movement to end poverty.

### **Church of Scotland: Priority Areas Project, Glasgow, Scotland**

The Church of Scotland: Priority Areas Project seeks to raise awareness of the obscurity of poverty in a nation of plenty. The Priority Areas Committee is one of four main areas of the Ministries Council. It is responsible for the support, development and coordination of the Church's work within its poorest 58 communities in Scotland. The Priority Areas Project is committed to building new relationships based on friendship and justice which are capable of changing individuals, communities and nations. The goal is to engage the wider church and society, to develop new models of church life and to support new models of community life which includes: Wider Church & Society - raising awareness of poverty across the country, New Models of Church - supporting fresh models of church life in Scotland's poorest neighborhoods, and New Models of Community - helping people of faith to address the causes and symptoms of poverty. [www.churchofscotland.org.uk/councils/ministries/minpriority.htm](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/councils/ministries/minpriority.htm)

### **CiViSOL, International**

In a world with growing inequity, CiViSOL builds thought and acts to promote civic and solidarity power to strengthen democracy and boost inclusive development. We funnel our thought into concrete initiatives, aiming to make systemic

change from the inside out and the bottom up. Because we believe that justice and progress require more than good people doing good things, CiViSOL advances systemic change by arguing for change in the realm of law and innovating to persuade opinion in the realm of culture. [www.civisol.org](http://www.civisol.org)

#### **Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), Immokalee, FL**

The CIW is a community-based organization of mainly Latino, Mayan Indian and Haitian immigrants working in low-wage jobs throughout the state of Florida. The CIW strives to build our strength as a community on a basis of reflection and analysis, constant attention to coalition-building across ethnic divisions, and an ongoing investment in leadership development to help our members continually develop their skills in community education and organization. From this basis we fight for a fair wage for the work we do, more respect on the part of our bosses and the industries where we work, better and cheaper housing, stronger laws and stronger enforcement against those who would violate workers' rights, the right to organize on our jobs without fear of retaliation, and an end to indentured servitude in the fields. [www.ciw-online.org](http://www.ciw-online.org)

#### **CUNY Grad Center, New York, NY**

Founded in 1961, the Graduate Center's fundamental mission is to provide a broad range of excellent doctoral programs to prepare students to become scholars and leaders in academe and in the private, nonprofit, and government sectors. We strive also to enhance access to doctoral education for traditionally underrepresented groups. More generally, the Graduate Center serves as an educational, economic, and cultural resource for the complex urban community it serves. [www.gc.cuny.edu](http://www.gc.cuny.edu)

#### **Columbia University School of Social Work, New York, NY**

Columbia University School of Social Work derives its mission from the University's goal to advance knowledge and learning at the highest level and to use that knowledge for human betterment and societal advancement. The School's educational and research programs draw on the profession's body of knowledge, values and skills in seeking to: strengthen practices, programs, and policies that support and enhance the opportunities, resources, and capacities of people to achieve their full potential; prevent and alleviate personal, interpersonal and societal problems; redress conditions that limit human development and quality of life; and, promote human rights, social justice and respect for human diversity. [www.columbia.edu/cu/ssw/index.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/ssw/index.html)

#### **Direct Action Welfare Group (DAWG), Charleston, WV**

Direct Action Welfare Group (DAWG) is a statewide grassroots organization comprised of current and former public assistance recipients, low wage workers, people living in poverty, and concerned individuals who come together to share information and ideas and to advocate for each other, their neighbors, and themselves. Our purpose is to promote social justice and to empower people living in poverty by providing them with the knowledge and the tools to change their lives and their communities. Direct Action Welfare Group's vision is the end of poverty in West Virginia. [www.wvdawg.org](http://www.wvdawg.org)

#### **Domestic Workers United (DWU), New York, NY**

Founded in 2000, Domestic Workers United [DWU] is an organization of Caribbean, Latina and African nannies, housekeepers, and elderly caregivers in New York, organizing for power, respect, fair labor standards and to help build a movement to end exploitation and oppression for all. [www.domesticworkersunited.org/](http://www.domesticworkersunited.org/)

#### **Fair Housing Contact Service, Akron, OH**

Fair Housing Contact Service, founded in 1965 in Akron, OH, is a non-profit housing advocacy organization that strives to prevent and eliminate housing discrimination and to promote equal housing opportunities. Fair Housing Contact Service believes that everyone deserves to live in safe, affordable housing of their choice. [www.fairhousingakron.org](http://www.fairhousingakron.org)

#### **Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children (FFLIC), New Orleans, LA**

Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children (FFLIC) is a statewide membership-based organization that fights for a better life for all of Louisiana's youth, especially those involved in or targeted by the juvenile justice system. We believe in and implement a model of organizing that is people and community centered, and is explicitly anti-racist. We engage in education, community building, and leadership development advocacy through strategically chosen goals in order to empower individuals, families and communities to transform currently oppressive systems and institutions into ones that uphold justice for our families. [www.ffmpeg.org](http://www.ffmpeg.org)

### **First Baptist Church of Greater Des Moines, Des Moines, IA**

First Baptist Church of Greater Des Moines is an American Baptist congregation known for its vibrant worship, theological openness and diversity, and service to our community. Its congregation has been serving the Greater Des Moines community for nearly 160 years. <http://www.fbcjohnston.org>

### **Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY**

The mission of Ithaca College is to provide a foundation for a lifetime of learning. Ithaca College is dedicated to fostering intellectual growth, aesthetic appreciation, and character development in our students. The Ithaca College community thrives on the principles that knowledge is acquired through discipline, competence is established when knowledge is tempered by experience, and character is developed when competence is exercised for the benefit of others. A comprehensive college that since its founding has recognized the value of combining theory and performance, Ithaca provides a rigorous education blending liberal arts and professional programs of study. [www.ithaca.edu](http://www.ithaca.edu)

### **Jesus People Against Pollution (JPAP), Columbia, MS**

Jesus People Against Pollution (JPAP) is a grassroots environmental justice organization located in Columbia, Mississippi. The organization was created in response to an explosion at a local chemical plant that resulted in severe exposure of the community to toxic substances. JPAP has set out to educate and inform the impacted communities about the availability of toxicology and environmental health information so that the community can better understand the relationship between environmental exposure and disease. [www.jpap.org](http://www.jpap.org)

### **Justicia Global, Dominican Republic**

Justicia Global is an international socio-political organization founded and based primarily in the Dominican Republic. Justicia Global works to organize and mobilize people with the objective of building a society characterized by solidarity, equality, justice and love. Justicia Global is a self-funded organization sustained by the contributions of its members and collaborators. [www.justiciaglobal.info](http://www.justiciaglobal.info)

### **Latino CIVIC Association (LCATC), Ithaca NY**

The mission of The Latino CIVIC Association (LCATC) is to provide a vehicle for the social, cultural, educational and civic expression of the Latino community in Tompkins County. The Association will empower Latino residents and the larger community to become self-reliant, and facilitate access to local institutional resources. [www.latinocivicassociationtc.org/](http://www.latinocivicassociationtc.org/)

### **May Day New Orleans, LA**

May Day New Orleans is a people-driven and -inspired social justice movement. We believe that active and direct participation from community members is essential to ensuring that basic needs, such as adequate housing, healthcare, education and safe streets, are met. We hold government, the private sector, and those who work on behalf of communities accountable to those who are directly impacted by their policies and practices. Through public education, training, community empowerment and activism, we hope to build stronger communities and a more just society. [www.maydayneworleans.org](http://www.maydayneworleans.org)

### **Media College, New York, NY**

If Thom Paine were organizing today he would be using video, web pages, and digital cameras, and all the new electronic media to get his messages across. This new media simultaneously engages both seeing and hearing, combining all manner of text, pictures, spoken word, sound and music. It has acquired a power once the exclusive domain of the written word. The ability to understand and communicate with electronic audio/visual material is no less than the ability to read and write in the pre-electronic world. To educate and organize people around ideas and information in the present period it is essential to have a working knowledge of these new forms of communication. Through the Media College groups:

- Learn how to use media in organizing!
- Learn how other groups have used media to further their goals!
- Develop and make your own media!

### **Media Mobilizing Project (MMP), Philadelphia, PA**

The Media Mobilizing Project (MMP) exists to unleash the powerful combination of communications, media making and organizing. We are organizers who engage in collaborative media making with organizations and individuals whose issues and experiences are purposely submerged from view. The media that we produce is designed to clarify the issues at stake, document lived human realities, and act as a tool to inspire and unite those who have a vested interest in change. [www.mediamobilizing.org](http://www.mediamobilizing.org)

**Northeastern Pennsylvania Organizing Center (NEPA-OC), Wilkes Barre, PA**

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Organizing Center (NEPA-OC) promotes civic engagement through service and volunteerism in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Region. NEPA-OC uses the production of media (video, web, etc.) to build a community/non-profit media infrastructure that connects our movement and allows for the distribution of documentaries, news reports, organizational updates, and other materials.

**Michigan Welfare Rights Organization (MWRO), Detroit, MI**

The Michigan Welfare Rights Organization is the union of public assistance recipients and low-income workers in the state of Michigan. MWRO has chapters across the state and is one of the founding members of the National Welfare Rights Union. The goal of the MWRO is to organize recipients and low-income workers to fight for our rights, to eliminate poverty in this country and to build an army prepared to battle for the economic and human rights of millions of disenfranchised Americans. The focus of MWRO is to intervene and advocate on behalf of the victims of poverty when disputes surface between this population and service delivery agencies. MWRO sponsors training sessions for the victims of poverty that cover eligibility for Food Stamps, Medicaid, cash assistance, disputes with landlords, utility companies and how to file a hearing when these rights are being violated.

[www.mwro.org](http://www.mwro.org)

**National Economic and Social Rights Initiative (NESRI), New York, NY**

The National Economic and Social Rights Initiative (NESRI) promotes a human rights vision for the United States that ensures dignity and access to the basic resources needed for human development and civic participation. Towards this end, NESRI works with organizers, policy advocates and legal organizations to incorporate a human rights perspective into their work and build human rights advocacy models tailored for the United States. NESRI takes a partnership approach to building a human rights culture in the United States, and prioritizes partnerships at the community level. [www.nesri.org](http://www.nesri.org)

**National Employment Law Project (NELP), National**

For nearly 40 years, the National Employment Law Project (NELP) has worked to restore the promise of economic opportunity for working families across America. In partnership with national, state and local allies—grassroots and national organizations, worker centers and unions, policy makers and think tanks— NELP promotes policies and programs that create good jobs, strengthen upward mobility, enforce hard-won worker rights, and help unemployed workers regain their economic footing through improved benefits and services. Together with allies, NELP works to build a framework that guarantees decent work for all those at work in America.

**National Union of The Homeless (NUH), San Diego, CA**

Outraged at the conditions in the shelter system, a group of homeless people and other activists established the Committee for Dignity and Fairness for the Homeless in 1983. Gaining speed, they opened the Dignity Shelter in Philadelphia in 1984. The first ever in the United States founded and run by homeless people, the shelter offered training and education as well as a place to stay. In 1989 homeless people, former homeless people, and advocates for people in poverty gathered in Philadelphia for what was known as the “Survival Summit.” At this meeting homeless men and women began to organize themselves, strategizing about ways to escape poverty. The next year the unions began to organize a one-day nationwide “Takeover” of empty federal housing, demanding permanent housing for people on the streets.

**Pennsylvania Head Start Association (PHSA), PA**

The Pennsylvania Head Start Association is a non-profit organization actively involved in improving the lives of families and children, particularly those with low-income. PHSA functions as an advocacy organization for Head Start programs, families, staff and administrators in Pennsylvania. The purpose is to maximize the cumulative talents of parents, staff, administrators, and friends to collectively improve the future for children and families by providing quality leadership, training, information, and advocacy at the local, state, regional, and national levels.

[www.paheadstart.org](http://www.paheadstart.org)

**Pennsylvania Council of Churches, PA**

The Pennsylvania Council of Churches comprises 43 church bodies and agencies representing 20 Anabaptist, Anglican, Orthodox, Pentecostal, and Protestant communions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania working together for Christian unity for the sake of the world. The Council's Public Advocacy Ministry works on behalf of the Council's member bodies to (1) empower people of faith, through education and skill-building, to make a difference for the common good in the public square, and (2) advocate on behalf of the Council's member bodies before the state and federal legislative and administrative branches of government. [www.pachurches.org](http://www.pachurches.org)

**Philadelphia Child Care Collective, Philadelphia, PA**

The Philadelphia Child Care Collective is dedicated to providing quality childcare for the movement to end poverty. The Collective volunteers at events, conferences, schools, trainings and other gatherings of grassroots anti-poverty and social justice groups to provide educational and recreational activities for the young people.

**Philadelphia Student Union, Philadelphia, PA**

The Philadelphia Student Union exists to build the power of young people to demand a high quality education in the Philadelphia public school system. We are a youth led organization and we make positive changes in the short term by learning how to organize to build power. We also work toward becoming life-long learners and leaders who can bring diverse groups of people together to address the problems that our communities face. <http://home.phillystudentunion.org>

**Picture the Homeless, New York, NY**

Picture the Homeless was founded on the principle that homeless people have civil and human rights regardless of our race, creed, color or economic status. Picture the Homeless was founded and is led by homeless people. We refuse to accept being neglected and we demand that our voices and experience are heard at all levels of decision-making that impact us. We oppose the quality of life laws that criminalize homeless people in any form by the city, state and national governments. [www.picturethehomeless.org](http://www.picturethehomeless.org)

**Poor Magazine, San Francisco, CA**

POOR Magazine is an indigenous people led/poor people led, grassroots, non-profit, arts organization dedicated to providing revolutionary media access, media justice, education, art and advocacy to youth, adults and elders struggling with poverty, racism, disability, incarceration, immigration/migration, criminalization and oppression locally and globally. [www.poormagazine.org](http://www.poormagazine.org)

**Poor Voices United, Atlantic City, NJ**

Poor Voices United is working to end poverty by uniting poor people through stories, service, advocacy and action throughout Southern New Jersey. We help fight for the human rights to housing, health care, a living wage, education, and food. [www.poorvoicesunited.org](http://www.poorvoicesunited.org)

**Poughkeepsie Farm Project, Poughkeepsie, NY**

The Poughkeepsie Farm Project is a non-profit organization that works toward a just and sustainable food system in the Mid-Hudson Valley by operating a member-supported farm, providing education about food and farming, and improving access to healthy locally-grown food. [www.farmproject.org](http://www.farmproject.org)

**Poverty Initiative, National**

The Poverty Initiative's mission is to raise up generations of religious and community leaders committed to building a movement to end poverty, led by the poor. The Poverty Initiative brings with it both an organizing and an educational mandate. The Poverty Initiative has worked to network religious and academic institutions with a growing movement of the poor. We focus our efforts on the human rights training and leadership development of low-income leaders and their organizations in New York City and around the country through our Poverty Scholars Program, National Poverty Truth Commissions, Immersion Courses and development of our Resource Center. [www.povertyinitiative.org](http://www.povertyinitiative.org)

**Puente Arizona, Maricopa County, AZ**

Nuestro Puente/Bridge is a human rights movement that works to resurrect our humanity by teaching and learning to

eradicate intolerance when it presents itself at individual, economic, political, social and religious settings affecting our daily existence. Puente Arizona, is spearheading a broad coalition of activists trying to stop Sheriff Joe Arpaio's human rights abuses in Maricopa County, Arizona, and calling upon Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to rescind the agreement that allows him to enforce immigration laws. [www.puenteaz.org](http://www.puenteaz.org)

#### **Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York (ROC-NY), New York, NY**

The Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York (ROC-NY) is dedicated to winning improved conditions for restaurant workers and raising public recognition of restaurant workers' contributions to the city. Our members include nearly 2500 restaurant workers and their families from all parts of the world and from all different sectors of this nation's fastest growing industry. [www.rocnyc.org](http://www.rocnyc.org)

#### **Skylight Pictures, New York, NY**

For 25 years Skylight Pictures has been committed to producing artistic, challenging and socially relevant independent films on issues of human rights and the quest for justice. Through the use of film and digital technologies, we seek to engage, educate and increase understanding of human rights amongst the public at large and policy makers, contributing to informed decisions on issues of social change and the public good. [www.skylightpictures.com](http://www.skylightpictures.com)

#### **Southern Coalfields Parish United Methodist Church, McDowell County, WV**

The Southern Coalfields Parish of The United Methodist Church is a cooperative parish of 17 churches located in McDowell County, WV. We are dedicated to working together in order to strengthen and grow our churches.

#### **Teen-DAWG, Charleston, WV**

Teen DAWG is a program of Direct Action Welfare Group. It is a program by teens from low-income families for teens from low-income families to develop leadership skills and to create positive change in the communities they live in. [www.wvdawg.org/categoryblog/68-what-is-teen-dawg](http://www.wvdawg.org/categoryblog/68-what-is-teen-dawg)

#### **The Tompkins County Workers' Center, Ithaca, NY**

The mission of the Tompkins County Workers' Center is to stand up with all people treated unfairly at work or faced with critical poverty, racial, housing, health care or other social and economic issues. We will support, advocate for, and seek to empower each other to create a more just community and world. [www.tclivingwage.org](http://www.tclivingwage.org)

#### **Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY**

The mission of Union Theological Seminary, an independent, multi-denominational seminary in the City of New York, derives from a Christian heritage that is at once progressive and evangelistic: to educate leaders for ministry in churches and related organizations, to extend the work of social justice and to enrich the academy through teaching and research.

#### **Unified Taxi Workers Alliance-- Pennsylvania (UTWA-PA)**

Founded in 2005 by taxi drivers, the Unified Taxi Workers Alliance of PA is the largest taxi driver advocacy group in the city of Philadelphia. UTWA-PA is a multi-ethnic membership based organization and its mission is to transform the taxi industry, and improve working conditions through organizing, political and media advocacy, litigation, direct legal services and access to health care. UTWA-PA programs and activities respond to the direct needs of more than 1,200 driver members along with all taxi workers, providing them with a means to advocate and organize for their rights and achieve basic workers protection and benefits. The primary focuses of our work are: economic justice, work place civil and privacy rights, safety, healthy conditions and access to healthcare and the institutionalization of a democratic mass-based organization. [www.mediamobilizing.org/category/tags/united-taxi-workers-alliance](http://www.mediamobilizing.org/category/tags/united-taxi-workers-alliance)

#### **United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania**

The mission of the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania is to improve people's lives by mobilizing the caring power of donors, volunteers and communities. It was created to eliminate overlapping charities, so money could be raised and distributed more efficiently. From its inception until today, United Way remains one of the most outstanding ways for individuals and corporations to make an impact on local health, education, and social service needs. As originally conceived, United Way still ensures that those most in need are getting the best help they can. We are committed to treating entire communities, providing the tools, services, and expertise that can enable those communities to become stronger and more

independent. [www.uwsepa.org](http://www.uwsepa.org)

**United Workers, Baltimore, MD**

The United Workers is a human rights organization led by low-wage workers and focused on leadership development through education, reflection and action. We were founded by homeless day laborers in an abandoned firehouse-turned-shelter and have grown to a multi-racial and bilingual membership base of over 1,000 low-wage workers. [www.unitedworkers.org](http://www.unitedworkers.org)

**Voluta Interpreters Collective, Philadelphia, PA**

The Voluta Interpreters Collective is committed to multi-lingual capacity building for social justice. Voluta offers interpretation at events, gatherings, protests, trainings in order to make all sessions accessible in Spanish and English for all participants.

**WRFG Atlanta, Atlanta, GA**

WRFG 89.3 Broadcasts 24 Hours a day at 100,000 Watts. WRFG provides a voice for those who have been traditionally denied access to the broadcast media and the involvement of a broad base of community elements to guarantee that access. In the utilization of the Foundation's facilities and in its programs the following communities will receive first priority: 1. Those who continue to be denied free and open access to the broadcast media, and 2. Those who suffer oppression or exploitation based upon class, race, sex, age, creed or sexual orientation.  
[www.wrfg.org](http://www.wrfg.org)

**[www.povertyinitiative.org](http://www.povertyinitiative.org)**