

1200 FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2008

Third Annual Reception Honors Grantees, Thanks Contributors

The 1200 Foundation held its annual reception in February to honor the non-profit organizations it had awarded grants to in 2007. The reception also gave donors to the 1200 Foundation an opportunity to hear about the grantees and meet their executive directors.

The grantee organizations included:

- The Bread Project
- Building Skills Partnership
- C.E.O. Women
- Opportunity Junction
- Sophia Project
- Saint Vincent's Day Home
- Street Tech
- Wardrobe for Opportunity

All of these non-profits meet the 1200 Foundation's mission statement of helping low-income individuals and families in Alameda and Contra Costa counties achieve economic self-sufficiency.



Rich Dama, volunteer for Wardrobe for Opportunity and graduate from Street Tech, discusses his involvement in these programs at the reception.



Doris Gallo (left), graduate of a Building Skills Partnership program, and Lily Divito (right), Executive Director of The Bread Project speak at the annual reception.

Three of the executive directors described the history and missions of their organizations and each introduced graduates of their programs.

- Dennis Taylor, a graduate of The Bread Project, is now in charge of the organization's program to bake 10,000 healthful muffins a month for the Berkeley and Oakland School Districts. He entered the program, he said, with no job skills or plans for future employment.
- Doris Gallo graduated from the Building Skills Partnership job skills program for janitorial employees at Novartis. With her improved English-language skills from the program, she moved into a more responsible position there.
- Rich Dama, a graduate of Street Tech computer training programs, also worked as a volunteer at Wardrobe for Opportunity. With the training, support, and assistance of these organizations, he said, he felt valued and motivated. He recently started a challenging new job.

This is the third year that the 1200 Foundation has held an annual reception to honor its grantees and thank its contributors.

StreetTech Executive Director Finds Rewarding Second Career

San Pablo-based StreetTech was founded in 1999 as a non-profit corporation offering low-cost computer training, technician certification and job-placement counseling for motivated adults from disadvantaged communities in the Bay Area.

Following a 20-plus year career in the computer industry, including stints with Bay Networks, Marconi Communications and Sun Microsystems, Barrie Hathaway took over as the Executive Director of StreetTech in 2004.

By his mid-40s, Barrie found that he was questioning the relevance of his corporate worth to society and began looking for something that would feel more socially meaningful.

At the same time, Paul Lamb, the founder of StreetTech, was looking for a replacement who would continue his program of growing the organization and expanding its reach.

Barrie had heard about StreetTech from a classmate at the University of San Francisco where he was working toward a master's degree in nonprofit administration. Once Barrie and Paul met, it was clear that Barrie was the right man to hand over the torch to, and he has been running with it ever since.



Barrie Hathaway has been at the helm of StreetTech for 4 years.

Of the organization, Barrie says, “We think of ourselves as having the heart of a non-profit and the brain of a business.” When one visits a class at StreetTech, one sees first-hand the commitment and enthusiasm of the students.

“We think of ourselves as having the heart of a nonprofit and the brain of a business.”

Barrie, now 50, seems to have found the perfect second career. By leveraging his many years of experience in the corporate world, he is able to bring a unique blend of technical and business skills to help others onto the path to personal and financial success. It's clear that he brings the brains and the heart to the organization that will insure its success for years to come.

1200 Foundation Renews Grants of \$5,000 Each to Two Non-Profits

In December, the 1200 Foundation renewed grants to two of its 2006 recipients. This is the second grant for each of the organizations.



Street Tech is a San Pablo-based non-profit organization offering low cost computer training, certification, and job placement for deserving adults from disadvantaged communities in the Bay Area. It provides a career development program that includes job skills training, credentials, career coaching, work experience and job placement assistance.



C.E.O. Women, based in Oakland, is a non-profit organization that is creating economic opportunities for low-income immigrant and refugee women. It empowers them by teaching entrepreneurship, communication skills and English as a second language so they can establish successful livelihoods and small businesses.

Contributors Have Different Reasons for Giving to 1200 Foundation

Each contributor to the 1200 Foundation has his or her own reason for selecting our non-profit organization as the beneficiary of a charitable donation. One of these contributors has agreed to share his reasons with us.

Father Basil De Pinto, priest at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Piedmont, is a new contributor in 2008. He heard about the 1200 Foundation from two of his parishioners.

“I like to donate locally since there is such great need and extreme poverty in our community.”

One of the reasons, he selected the 1200 Foundation, he said, was because “I really admire organizations that help people help themselves.” The 1200 Foundation’s mission is to help people become economically self-sufficient.

Another important reason he stated was because “I like to donate locally since there is such great need and extreme poverty in Oakland.”

Before donating, Father De Pinto met with 1200 Foundation founder, Lester Ellis, to learn more about the foundation and the organizations that the foundation funds. “The grantees,” Father De Pinto said, seem to be very worthwhile and are serving the socio-economic demographics of Oakland and the East Bay.”

In addition, Father De Pinto was impressed that the 1200 Foundation is run entirely by volunteers and that over 95% of all donations go directly to the grantee organizations.

Father De Pinto is just one of more than 100 supporters of the foundation. Since its inception in late 2004, the number of contributors to the foundation has grown from fewer than 30 in 2004-2005 to nearly 100 in 2007 and to over 100 now. Contributions have increased from a little over \$20,000 in 2004-2005 to over \$70,000 in 2007, with a large influx in the last quarter.

Just as contributions have increased, so have our grants. Two grants totaling \$10,000 were awarded in 2006 and eight grants totaling \$40,500 were handed out in 2007 with others soon to be announced in 2008.

Distance Between Poor and Others Greater Than It Was 40 Years Ago

A recent column* in The New York Times by Paul Krugman states that more children in America (17.4 percent) live below the poverty line today than in 1969 (14 percent). And this measure, he says, is probably understated since American incomes have risen in real terms while the official poverty line has not.

“Stories of people trapped by their parents’ poverty,” the article continues, “are all too common. According to one recent estimate, American children born to parents in the bottom fourth of the income distribution have almost a 50 percent chance of staying there – and almost a two-thirds chance of remaining stuck if they’re black.”

Research presented at a recent meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of

Science stated that many children growing up in very poor families experience unhealthy levels of stress hormones which can impair their neural development. This impairs their language development and memory and their ability to escape poverty for their rest of their lives.

These findings along with a study from the National Center for Education Statistics, says Krugman, found that in modern America, parental status trumps ability. “Students who

“Growing up in poverty puts you at a disadvantage at every step.”

did very well on a standardized test but came from low-status families were slightly less likely to get through college than students who test poorly but had well-off parents.”

**The New York Times, “Poverty Is Poison,” by op-ed columnist, Paul Krugman, February 18, 2008.*

The 1200 Foundation Thanks Our 2007 Contributors for Their Generosity

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** Based on annual pledge*

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