



Wherever men and women are condemned to live in extreme poverty, human rights are violated.

To come together to ensure that these rights be respected is our solemn duty.

October 17, 1987, Joseph Wresinski (1917-1988), Founder, International Movement ATD Fourth World

Fourth World Movement/USA * 7600 Willow Hill Drive * Landover, MD 20785-4658 * 301-336-9489 * Vol.38 No.5 * June 2007

Opening Letter

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this special edition of the Fourth World Journal. We have chosen its format to give an account of our highlights and finances from spring 2005–07. It has been a time of transition—for our country and for us as a movement. We have struggled, but *together*, and together we have built, rebuilt, and achieved.

First, in all our locations, we have supported our children, and other people's, in Street Libraries, Tapani activities, and after school groups. In New Orleans, we have made it back to a hurricane-ravaged city and kept links with those not yet returned, by sending our volunteers out on the road. They have reached out to others to learn from them, strengthen our efforts, and work toward a national partnership against poverty. In Appalachia, we have built, from the ground up, a gathering space to celebrate the free exchange of knowledge and culture. In New York, with members from other countries, we took our voices to the United Nations to dialogue with then Secretary General Kofi Annan. Speaking out, sharing our knowledge—they're part of our history and aspirations, just like what we designed and painted on the "Dignity Mural" to complete the Fourth World House. In Washington, DC, through newsletters, an improving website, and local networking, we have communicated our message of partnership and participation and attracted new young people to commit their time and talents to our cause. Finally, we took up the *Call to Action: "Ending Extreme Poverty, A Road to Peace"* to promote encounters and dialogue, and to reaffirm that standing united with those who struggle in poverty is in everyone's interest.

We are a movement of people, so we won't stand still. These pages provide snapshots of where we've been and what we've done over the past two years. Let's move forward together.

—Jill Cunningham, Director

Special Edition: 2005-07 Report



Eradicating poverty is not just a question of distributing money, or of planning programs from offices. Eradicating poverty requires an encounter with men and women living in poverty, seeking them out wherever they are, not in order to teach them, but to learn from them who they are and what they expect from us.

Joseph Wresinski, Founder,
International Movement ATD Fourth World

Fourth World Movement is a network of people in poverty and those from other backgrounds who work in partnership towards overcoming the exclusion and injustice of persistent poverty. Our projects focus on the sharing of knowledge among people of different backgrounds in an atmosphere of mutual respect and dignity. We then seek out and create forums where the voice and experience of those in poverty can influence public opinion and policy. A corps of full-time, long-term volunteers spearheads this work, but relies on members from all walks of life. A national branch of the International Movement ATD Fourth World, we have teams in New York, Washington, DC, southwestern Virginia, and New Orleans. (www.4thworldmovement.org)

Programs in the United States

Street Library

Street Library developed from the principle of reaching towards a community's aspirations. The format is simple: a communal time of reading and stories followed by a knowledge-sharing activity that promotes discovery, highlights children's skills, and encourages creative expression. Volunteers make special efforts to include those with the most difficulties. Volunteers solicit and rely on the support and participation of parents and the community at large. Relationships formed through the consistent, long-term presence of the Street Library give rise to wider community and family development actions.



Tapori Children's Network

Too often children from secure, well-off families don't learn about poverty, while children from families in poverty have only their immediate, often undervalued, environment to learn from. Yet children have an innate sense of empathy and justice. Tapori's motto is "We want all children to have the same chances." A bi-monthly newsletter, interactive website, proposed activities, and international campaigns allow children to share questions and insights about poverty and express to world their hopes and actions for a world of friendship and fairness. (www.tapori.org).



Fourth World Gatherings and Workshops

Fourth World Movement gatherings and workshops are forums for adults of different backgrounds to share their knowledge and skills in a joint commitment towards overcoming poverty. In an atmosphere of mutual respect and dignity, people share their struggles and successful efforts in areas of education, housing, family cohesion, employment, and other issues. These gatherings and workshops recognize everyone's expertise, regardless of background. They increase public awareness and dialogue, and they provide forums for people in poverty to speak out and gain confidence in working with others to affect positive change.

Accompaniment and Support in Accessing Basic Rights

People in poverty face obstacles and injustices when trying to access their basic rights to housing, education, family unity, health, and other areas. Fourth World Movement members offer one another support such as accompaniment to administrative meetings, advocacy at court hearings, and links to other organizations and resources. Facing obstacles and struggles together provides the knowledge and strength to formulate a message and plan of action at an organizational level, geared to change public attitudes and policy.

Collaboration with Other Anti-Poverty Organizations and Efforts

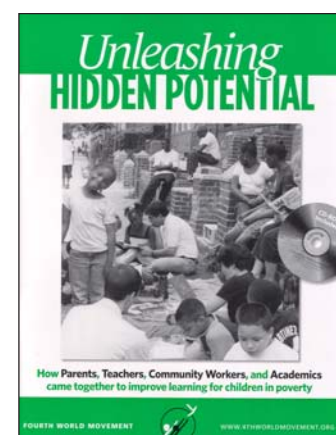
No single organization can end poverty and social isolation. Through volunteer service, training placements, and collaboration on publications and projects, the Fourth World Movement partners with community-based organizations, faith-based programs, policy-centered agencies, and public institutions. This helps build and strengthen commitment and actions against poverty in this country.

Research and Publications

A basic principle of the Fourth World Movement is to learn from those who experience persistent poverty, then express that understanding. We undertake qualitative research with families in poverty themselves, based on the long-term relationships formed among members. We share insights and knowledge through newsletters, books, academic and policy studies, training tools, and our website, aiming to sensitize, challenge, and mobilize academics, policy makers, and the general public.

Public Presentations and Events

Often discussions on issues relating to people in poverty, especially regarding policy, do not fully include people in poverty themselves. Public presentations and events are part of our efforts to provide a platform for the voices and experiences of people in poverty to influence public opinion and policy. Through formal events, panel discussions, conferences, seminars, and rallies, the Fourth World Movement works to widen the national discussion on poverty to include the vital perspective of those who live it.



The National Center

The Fourth World Movement National Center supports and unifies the actions of teams and members throughout the country. Work from the Washington, DC office centers on publications and communication, the Tapori Children's network, volunteer corps recruitment and training, fundraising, and administration. The office is a base from which we can readily connect with local grassroots- and policy-oriented organizations and coordinate national campaigns. Our center in Landover, MD, provides a secure, centralized place for our resource material and archives. It serves as a multi-purpose gathering place where members come for training sessions, national events, or times to step back from daily actions.



Tapori: Publication of the *Tapori Resource Guide* about Poverty, Human Rights, and Social Inclusion, with DVD included

- Sept. 05 newsletter (circulation 1700 nationally and 200 worldwide) prompted post-Katrina response from children, including an Appalachian "paper patchwork" of encouraging messages for displaced New Orleans children.
- Launch of international Tapori Silhouette Campaign. Life-sized silhouettes and colorful hearts reveal who children are and their ideas for a world without poverty. Displays from local community centers, to prominent museums, to the United Nations, with children speaking out for themselves and others. Some 80 silhouettes nationwide completed. See them at www.tapori.org.

Publications/Resources: Long-time Fourth World Volunteer Fanchette Clément-Fanelli speaks with members (below right) about her work, *Taking a Country at its Word: Joseph Wresinski Confronts the Reality and Ideals of the United States*.

- **Unleashing Hidden Potential:** How parents, teachers, community workers, and academics came together to improve learning for children in poverty, booklet and accompanying CD-Rom
- Website (www.4thworldmovement.org) redevelopment with pro-bono services of skilled local professionals
- Establishment of an online Joseph Wresinski Forum for reflections and exchanges about the writings and work of our founder.



Local Networking: Zena Grimes speaks (photo above left) at a reception for over 100 anti-poverty organizations and friends at the residence of the French Ambassador, His Excellency Jean-David Levitte. (October '05)

- Open office events, monthly information meetings for new supporters, and "Fourth World Fourth Fridays": monthly roundtable lunch discussions on poverty-related issues and campaigns (photo above right)
- Presentation on Fourth World Movement/Madagascar, at Sangha, a fair trade store in local Takoma Park, MD (March 07)

New Orleans

The Fourth World Movement has been in New Orleans since 1990. Projects include Street Libraries and Tapori for children, discussion forums among adults of different backgrounds, and creative workshops and cultural outings for everyone. Collaboration with other organizations and a network of allies help families in poverty access basic rights in housing, juvenile justice, education, and health care. New Orleans members have also created special forums for reflection on, and promotion of founder Joseph Wresinski's work.

The devastation of Hurricane Katrina in August, 2005, displaced our members to nine different states. To reconnect with members, especially families in poverty, we instituted the *Connected and Visible Travel Project*. This entailed visits to families and new encounters with individuals and organizations working against poverty in the South.



Connections on the Road: After Hurricane Katrina, Fourth World Volunteers helped at Red Cross shelters (photo far left) while trying to locate members who were displaced across the country. They visited families in six states (TX, AZ, AR, KY, LA, GA) with books, Tapori activities, news, photos. Messages from family, friends, and other members, such as the paper patchwork from Appalachian children (photo left), brought hope and encouragement.

- New encounters introduced us to 15 anti-poverty organizations and included dialogue with activists involved with the Lafayette Hurricane Survivors' Council, Desiard Street Shelter in Monroe, LA, and the 2007 United States Social Forum in Atlanta, GA



Back at Home: As members have returned they have supported one another in dealing with the trauma caused by Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. Gathering for picnics in Audubon Park (photo middle right), city cultural events, simple birthday celebrations (photo top right), and keeping involved in national Fourth World Movement events (photo near right) have been vital as people work to rebuild their lives.

- Supporters reestablished regular gatherings and represented Fourth World Movement at community rebuilding meetings such as the Neighborhoods Partnership Network. They organized the October 17 commemoration with members in poverty and other local organizations. They held a fundraiser social held by supporters raised over \$3,800.



"The Fourth World Movement has given me hope. I was so happy to see them when they came to Tucson. That's why I keep praying that the Fourth World Movement gets stronger." – Barbara Risen

October 17: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Since 1987, our members and others around the globe, have marked October 17 as a day of mobilization to publicly testify of daily struggle against the injustices of poverty and to reaffirm a commitment to work in partnership to ensure human rights and dignity for all. Recognized by the UN in 1992, commemorations worldwide include testimonies, children's presentations, inspirational songs, marches, communal meals, conferences, and other actions that bring people from different backgrounds together against poverty.



Exchange with Kofi Annan: On October 17, 2005, fourteen Fourth World delegates from 8 countries held an audience with then United Nations Secretary General. They encouraged him to recognize the expertise of, and consult with those who live in extreme poverty.

Seminar of Human Rights Defenders Reviews Impact: A diverse group of delegates representing impoverished communities, human rights organizations of all sizes, trade unions, and UN agencies met in May of 2006 in Montreal, Canada. Together we agreed on the Day's importance as a mobilizing force in the struggle to end poverty.

A Dialogue and Signature Campaign: To underline the Day's importance and reaffirm the need for all sectors of society to come together against poverty and exclusion, we launched, with our partners, the international *Call to Action*: "Ending Extreme Poverty: A Road to Peace." (www.oct17.org)

GCAP Targets Day for "Stand Up and Speak Out" Mobilization: Events organized by the Global Call to Action against Poverty counted a record-breaking 23 million people around the world in a common gesture of solidarity. In Times Square, Doña Lorena Tepeu from Guatemala (photo top left) proudly represented families in extreme poverty

Other Highlights: First-ever commemorations took place at St. Mary's Center in Oakland, CA and at Desiard Street Shelter in Monroe, LA. Also in Louisiana, Governor Kathleen Blanco proclaimed October 17, 2006, "Day for the Eradication of Poverty and the Homecoming of Families."



United in song in New Orleans (above) and elsewhere around the country on October 17.



Fourth World delegates met with the UN Secretary General in 2005: "Make us your partners as you move forward the agenda on security, development, and human rights. Let's pool our knowledge together: yours and ours."

Appalachia

Local community workers in Dickenson County, VA, an isolated, under-resourced coal mining area, invited our Volunteer Corps members in 1995. Since then, they have worked to learn from, support, and promote existing community development efforts. This partnership has led to times of service, training, and exchange for several Fourth World Volunteers from different countries. It has also spurred the development of computer classes, children's after school activities, and the new Appalachian Learning Cooperative.



"Before, I couldn't find the notes and didn't know how to play in different keys. I have learned a lot. I really appreciate it!"

- Teddy Owens

New After-School Groups: Local residents support Fourth World Volunteers in running children's activities in Trammel Community Center and Centennial Heights housing development. The initiatives in Trammel have led to the building of a playground with the energy of a local Boy Scouts troop and the area 4-H Club. Members now write a weekly article about community issues and development for the local paper, *The Dickenson Star*.

Centennial Heights children poured their energies into the Taporí Silhouette Campaign to decorate the walls of the new Learning Co-op with color, energy, and hopes for friendship and a world free from pollution, war, and poverty.



Appalachian Learning Cooperative: A Grand Opening on August 26, 2006, marked the completion of two years of work from members, neighbors, and friends. Students from seven college groups also volunteered. A place for the "free exchange of knowledge, skills, and culture," current activities include computer classes, language learning, music workshops, and stress relief exercises.

Quilt of Our Lives: An autumn '05 exhibit of the international "Patchwork of Our Lives" at the Wise Library Gallery inspired residents to make a local "Quilt of Our Lives." (photo below) In contributing, people told stories of why the pieces of cloth were significant to them.



"My daughter really enjoys the arts and crafts and can't wait for it to be Wednesday."

- Sandra

10 Years of Computer Classes: In November, 2006, the community celebrated the 10th anniversary of local computer training classes (photo left) with a reunion and potluck dinner held at the Binns-Counts Community Center.



Community Partners: Fourth World Volunteers and interns lend service to area organizations, including: The Appalachian Women's Alliance, Binns-Counts Community Center, Clinchco Senior Citizens' Center, Community Residents Against Drug Dealers, Head Start (local teacher aide and regional Policy Council), Kids Central Inc., St. Joseph Housing, and the St. Mary's Health Wagon.

New York City

The Fourth World Movement was invited to New York City's Lower East Side in 1964 as part of the US's War on Poverty. Today, through the Street Library program, we are developing community partnerships in a central Brooklyn neighborhood, while members in other parts of the city remain involved through cultural outings, family vacations, and public events. The Fourth World House in Manhattan remains a central place for gatherings and discussion forums among members from different backgrounds from throughout the city. New York members continue to take a special role in reinforcing our international dialogue with the United Nations.

Projects at the Fourth World House

- **The Dignity Mural:** members collaborated with Groundswell Community Mural Project in a six-month process to conceive, design, and paint the panels of the back courtyard of the house.
- Gatherings to discuss local issues or organizational campaigns, to plan and mark public events such as October 17, and to celebrate holidays or member milestones.
- Teen workshops around self-expression through multimedia and internet technology



The East Bushwick Parks festival brings together people from around the neighborhood to highlight children's talents and enjoy games, music, food, and fun.



The Dignity Mural, completed in June 2005. See more pictures and get the story of collaboration at www.groundswellmural.org.



Teens created collections of poetry, photos, and art aimed to, "help you try to understand how we see things and what we want to see changed," that they presented at the October 17 celebrations.

Street Library: Weekly time around books and stories, followed by creative activities. Week-long Street Library festivals in summer feature painting, music, computer activities, dancing, and poetry.

- Our continuing partnership with Biko Transformation Center, along with 20 other neighborhood organizations and 22 sponsors for the Annual East Bushwick Parks Festival.
- Parents involved in Street Library have taken a greater role in wider community events and general Fourth World Movement actions



"I remember making the instruments at the Street Library Festival it was me, parents, kids, and volunteers all working together. The partnership is all working together. The solidarity feels like family."

- Clareatha



Cultural Family Outings included ice skating; roller skating; family vacation weekend at Kateri camp in New Jersey, and trips to the Natural History Museum, Brooklyn Children's Museum, and the New York Aquarium.

The International Movement's Activities in the US

The International Movement ATD Fourth World has consultative status at the United Nations. A Fourth World Volunteer in New York assures consistent representation of the International Movement at the UN, continuing our mission to advocate full participation of people in poverty in the decisions that affect their lives. New Yorkers support that representation by welcoming delegates and following relevant UN committees.



Street Library as Example of Partnership: At a side event during the UN Commission on the Status of Women in Spring of 2005, Asia Snow, who supports her children in the Street Library, spoke of the positive effects of partnership on families and the community.

Promoting the Expertise of People in Poverty: Members from Madagascar, Peru, Haiti, Spain, and France came to New York to speak at different UN special events on the themes of participation and combining the knowledge of those in poverty with that of other experts.

"Decent Work and Full Employment for All" was the theme of the 2007 UN Commission for Social Development. Members WC Phillips and Jason French from Appalachia (photo below right, with NYC team member Anna Fagergren) contributed to a series of regional and thematic workshops that brought together NGOs, government representatives, and UN secretariat staff.

Engaging the World Bank: In October 2005, in a jointly-organized seminar entitled, "Attacking Extreme Poverty," (photo above left) we used family histories and project descriptions from Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Peru, and the US to help civil servants better understand the lives of people in extreme poverty and how to include them in development projects.



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as of March 31, 2007**

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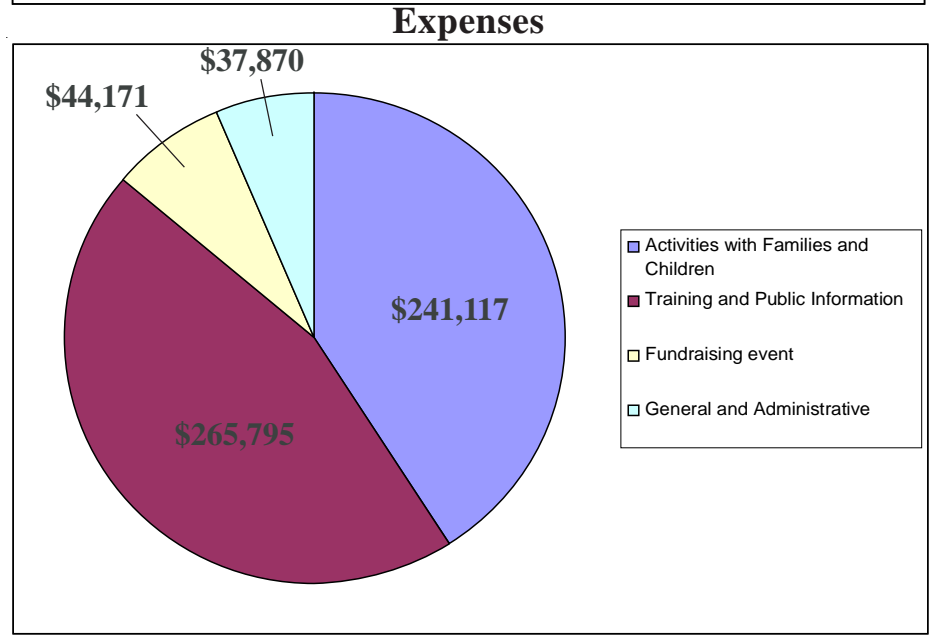
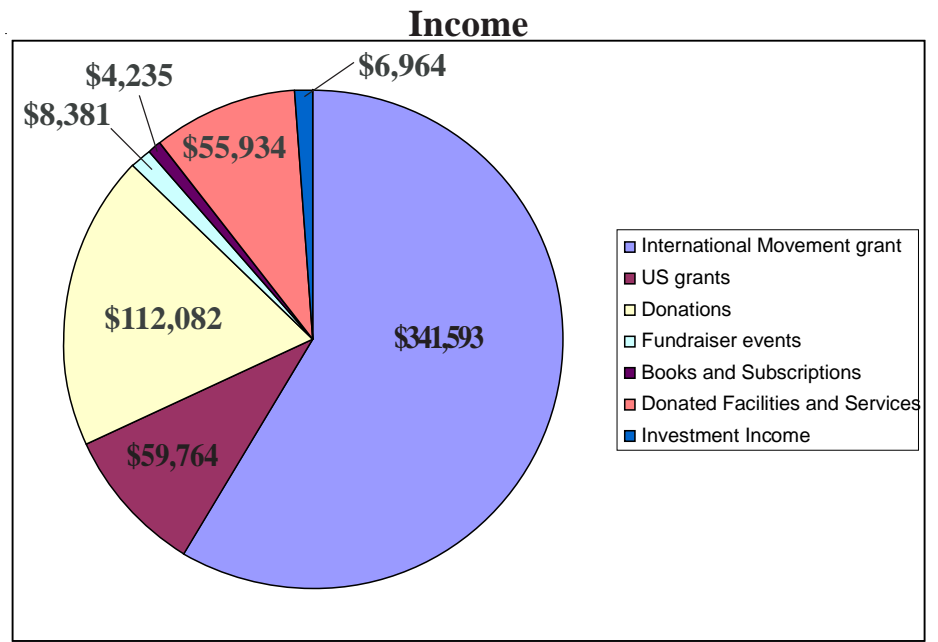
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2006-07 Finances
(Based on non-allocated figures from audit)



2005-06 Finances: Expenses: \$561,332; Income: \$505,323

A copy of our '05-'06 audit report may be obtained, upon request, from us or from the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271

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Special Edition:
The 2005-07 Report

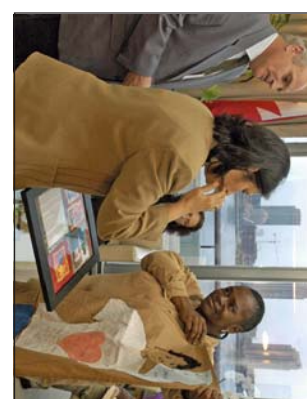
FOURTH WORLD MOVEMENT
Partnership Against Poverty
Activities with Families and Children
Public Information and Training



Street Library



Tapori Children's Network



Representing our
Hopes and Aspirations



Gatherings and Workshops