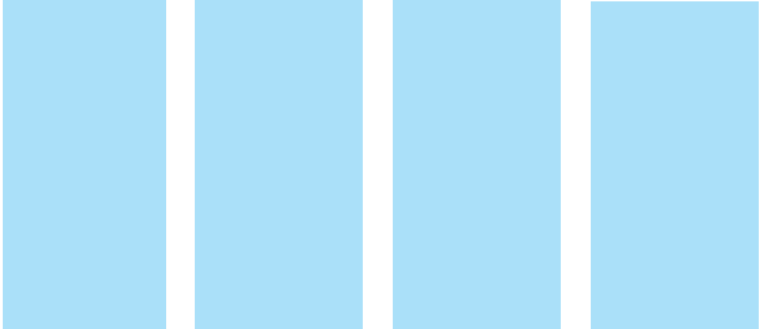
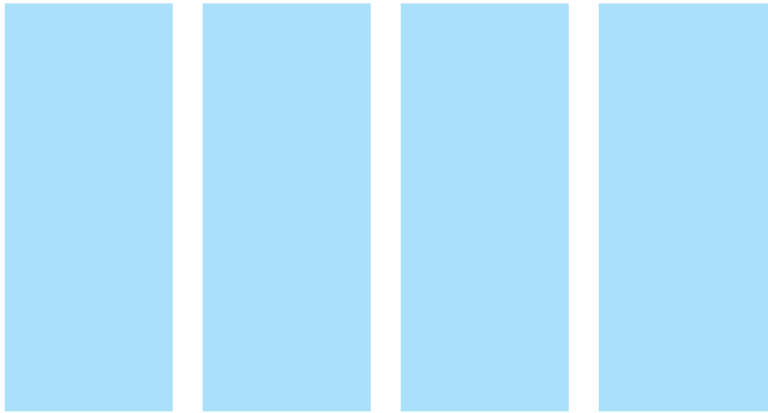


Fourth World Movement/USA



Annual Report April 2004 - March 2005

Letter from the President

Dear Members and Friends,

I am writing this introductory message to the Annual Report shortly after returning from a visit to the Fourth World Movement team in New Orleans. During four packed days, I attended a successful fundraiser, met many supporters and friends of the Movement, talked with other activists with whom we cooperate, and read *I Spy* with six-year-old Jim in a Street Library. Dinner on the last evening was with the team and a few long-time supporters. As Bob and Dierdre Mauss drove me back to my room, Dierdre said, “*I think that this next year is going to be a very good one for the Fourth World Movement.*” I tend to agree. And if we are right, it will be the second year in a row. For as you will see when you read this report, 2004-05 has been an exceptionally good year for the Movement in the United States.

“Unleashing Hidden Potential,” our most public education project, continues to gain momentum. Several years of hard work were rewarded in January with the inauguration of the renovated and expanded Fourth World House in New York City. The two-year-long General Assembly Process produced a powerful declaration in November which is already being used to carry the message of the Movement to new people, in new places, all over the world. The details are inside. And as you read, I would urge you to pay special attention to the quotations from the people directly involved in these actions.

This year the general public has heard about overcoming poverty through the media attention given to economist Jeffrey Sachs and the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations. You might wonder whether and how the Fourth World Movement is related to this ambitious effort to cut extreme poverty in half by 2015 and eliminate it completely by 2025. I am pleased to report that we are involved through our consultative status as an NGO at the United Nations. Sachs and his staff will hear from us in writing and in person. Our message, of course, will be that overcoming poverty is not something to be done to or for those living it, but something to be done in full partnership with them. That message will be credible because it is based on almost half a century of life with and commitment to the poorest.

You have in your hands a report from one country about one of those years. I hope that it will inspire you to stay with us in solidarity and hope.

Sincerely,



Charles Courtney
President

The National Center

The National Center of Fourth World Movement/USA is based in and around the Washington, D.C. area. Fourth World Movement Volunteers there provide support and perspective for the teams in New Orleans, New York and Appalachia, while maintaining ongoing communication with Fourth World Movement members around the country and the International Movement ATD Fourth World. Publications such as the Fourth World Journal, the Tapori newsletter, informational leaflets and books are worked on there, as are administration, fundraising and archiving.



Members of the Fourth World Movement enjoy the plenary session of the Annual Meeting, 2004.

What the Fourth World Movement means to a local supporter:

"[It is] a call to work for a world where everybody is included. This means reacting to the news, especially at a local level with an inclusive eye that tries to consider the happiness of every person, and not only of some of them...having true relationships with others is the way for me to be part of the Movement."

-Anne Lecuit, Washington, D.C.



The Fourth World Movement at the national "No Room for Poverty" rally in Washington, D.C.

A Place to Gather

The National Center serves as place to welcome Fourth World Movement members for meetings and evaluations, poverty-related events at the nation's capital, and people interested in learning more about the Fourth World Movement. The Center also supports the teams across the country in their projects and actions.

The National Center hosted several meetings, including the Annual Meeting, where members from all walks of life worked on the question, 'What is the Fourth World Movement in the United States, today?' and team meetings, where Fourth World Movement Volunteers in the United States discussed their actions and strategies.

Speaking to the Country

This year, Fanchette Clement-Fanelli, one of the founding members of the Fourth World Movement in the United States, completed her book on Joseph Wresinski and his role in developing the work here. When the book is published, it will join scores of other resources the Fourth World Movement has published and makes available to the public on poverty and the lives of people living in poverty, both in the United States and around the world. Many of these texts are used by university professors to teach courses that range from philosophy to social work.

The Fourth World Journal, which shares the knowledge and experiences of the members of the Fourth World Movement, has a readership of more than 11,000 people from different walks of life and parts of the country. This year, the journal covered topics such as the study *How Poverty Separates Parents and Children*, the difficult housing situations of families living in poverty and the experiences of an American Fourth World Movement Volunteer.

Through its Greeting Card Campaign, the Fourth World Movement shares art work created by people who struggle with poverty in their lives and those who work alongside them. In addition, the campaign helps to fund Fourth World Movement projects and actions, and achieved \$3600 worth of sales this year.

Recruitment

One of the National Center's focuses is recruiting new Volunteers. A three-month internship is offered three times a year and gives a concrete introduction to the Fourth World Movement's philosophy and work. Through university programs, guide books, websites and career fairs, the National Center reaches out to prospective interns to give them a better understanding of the Fourth World Movement and its approach. The program welcomed two interns this past year, one of whom, Anna Fagergren, started work this year as a full-time Volunteer. Jamie McDaniel, Ben Fehsenfeld, and Michelle Williams, who completed internships in years past, also joined the Fourth World Movement Volunteer Corps over the past twelve months.

Fundraising Campaigns

The National Center, working closely with the New York team as well as with other teams in the United States, completed its Capital Campaign to fund the renovation and expansion of the Fourth World House in New York. The Campaign brought in \$1.2 million and the project came in under budget. Great efforts were made by members far and wide, including a direct mail campaign and contributions by the Board of Directors, the Advisory Committee, members and friends in the United States and abroad, and the Fourth World Movement Volunteer Corps.

Throughout, supporters of the Fourth World Movement engaged in great fundraising efforts. Members in Westchester County, NY organized a dinner and concert before the campaign was formally launched, and Evelyne Louveaux organized a Manhattan event featuring concert pianist Miguel Angel Estrella. Kayoko Kohyama and Marie-Claire Foss organized a wine, cheese and sushi event, while Emily Cavanagh, a young supporter in New York, organized a Tartan Day party and silent auction.

Together with the National Center, Robin Mohr, a former Fourth World Movement Volunteer now living in San Francisco, worked to form a Fourth World Movement Alumni Association with the aim of both supporting the Capital Campaign and bringing together former Volunteers and interns nationwide. Gail Holmes, Joel Naftali and Dan Hall, all former Volunteers, helped to write letters and make phone calls, and succeeded in raising more than \$30,000 for the campaign. In addition, more than 100 alumni began receiving the association's newsletter, to which fifteen have already contributed news and their memories of the Fourth World Movement.

All those who contributed to these great efforts deserve hearty congratulations. The hope is that their success inspires others in the year to come.



Lenore Cola speaks at the Annual Meeting, 2004.

"I believe that the renovation and expansion of the Fourth World House in New York City will help it to become more visible, to be more effective in bringing support to the disadvantaged here and, because of its location, in enhancing links with members of the Movement elsewhere in the world...serving as an embassy for the disadvantaged."

-Ambassador of France to the United States, Jean-David Levitte.



Emily Cavanagh receives thanks from Stephen Munro at the Tartan Day party.

New Orleans

The Fourth World Movement has been present in New Orleans since 1990, and in Louisiana since 1979. The team focuses on education-related initiatives, including ongoing Street Libraries, attending conferences and seminars, and expanding a network of partnerships with activists and organizations in the area.

Support for Learning



Anne, Ashley, Maria and Ms. Lewis sharing stories at Street Library.

“Education is first because if you can’t read and write, you don’t have any opportunities.... Ask teachers to do their jobs. And you can’t always tell on the parents. Education starts right here, at home.”

-Pauline Payne shares what she would like to say to the Governor, for the Louisiana Poverty Summit.



“They’re like in my dreams,” said Briana, of the aquarium jellyfish.

This year, the team of Fourth World Movement Volunteers in New Orleans has increased its presence in public school classrooms thanks to the arrival of new Volunteers. One morning per week, in four different elementary school classrooms, Fourth World Movement Volunteers spend time supporting teachers and students and learning more about what they face day to day. In addition, the team has had the opportunity to attend several meetings of a local community group which has a focus on education, as well as a public school board meeting.

Over the course of the year, the New Orleans team has come to better understand the enormous pressure that teachers are put under, as well as why even some of their best efforts fail. Increasingly, the Volunteers are seeing how constant changes in a school’s administration, staff, tutoring programs and curriculum can make it very hard for students to learn—especially those who are experiencing extreme poverty in their lives. For these children, not only is it often very difficult to come to class fully prepared, but frequent changes within the academic structure can be destabilizing and make it difficult to learn.

In the coming year, Fourth World Movement Volunteers in New Orleans look forward to dialoguing with others about education-related issues, sharing their unique perspectives on the New Orleans public school system. In particular, they will emphasize fostering better communication and understanding between families living in extreme poverty and professionals within the school system.

A time to relax and discover new places

During breaks from school, many people in New Orleans were able to experience science hands-on, with help from Fourth World Movement Volunteers and from the Louisiana Children’s Museum and the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas. On these trips, children, teenagers and adults had the opportunity to enjoy stimulating experiences together. For many, shrugs of *“Nah, this won’t be fun,”* quickly became, *“Ahh, that’s cool!”* upon entering the rooms and exhibits. And many teenagers who experience stresses in their daily lives that affect their behavior were able to take advantage of the atmosphere of mutual support fostered during these outings to show curiosity about science that they could then share with friends and younger siblings.

In Street Libraries

It can be hard for children whose lives are hectic to do well in school. Street Libraries, where children and adults share joy with books, allow children to develop a positive relationship with literature and learning. They also allow children to experience people from different places and cultures.

This year, children in New Orleans Street Libraries received postcards from the Street Library in Brooklyn, NY which inspired them to create a book about themselves and their favorite books. Not only did this project help connect children from different places who have difficult lives, but it provided an opportunity for children to feel good about reading and writing. One nine year-old boy who is usually very insecure about writing was so excited by this project that he was able to write his favorite book, "Monster Truck," out onto paper. *"I wrote it all by myself,"* he proudly stated, adding, *"will the people in New York read this?"*

Of course, taunts that plague children who struggle could also be heard in Street Libraries in New Orleans this year, but the positive atmosphere worked to overcome them. One Street Library Volunteer describes how a teenager who has been participating in Street Libraries since she was small had the confidence to resist peer pressure to leave Street Library on several occasions, remaining instead with her book.

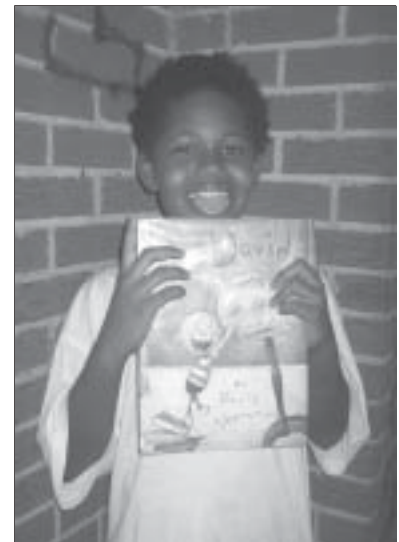
Poverty Policy Needs Enrichment

In December, Governor of Louisiana, Kathleen Babineaux-Blanco called for the first Poverty Summit in Louisiana, where an alarming 20.3% of the population live below the poverty line. In preparation for this historic and hopeful annual event, Fourth World Movement Volunteers participated in locally-organized 'Community Conversations' on Poverty, which brought together 2500 voices throughout the state. Participants in the conversations talked about issues that included: the low level of adult literacy in both rural and urban areas; the lack of parental involvement in children's education; and the lack of resources for local community programs and services.

What the New Orleans team did not find to be addressed as much as they would have liked during the summit and conversations was the need to work to understand—and include—the voices of those who are experiencing deep poverty. Through interviews with family members who lead the most difficult lives, the team gained important perspectives on the issues at hand and the way the families view their own hardships. *"The government does not give you enough money to live. With the money you get from the government you don't have enough to pay the bills, buy the food."* The New Orleans team looks forward to making space for such voices at summits in the future.

"The main thing is to be next to the children. Then they will respect you: as a teacher or a parent. I have noticed that sitting on the ground with them during the Street Library lets them enjoy themselves. Having a big fancy building will not teach them."

-Audrey Shields, New Orleans, LA



Pherious showing his favorite book, "No, David!"

"Poverty is everyone's problem. It cuts across any line you can name: age, race, social, geographic or religious. Whether you are black or white, rich, middle-class or poor, we are ALL touched by poverty."

-Louisiana Governor Kathleen Babineaux-Blanco.

New York

Fourth World Movement Volunteers have been present in New York City since 1964 when they were invited to participate in the War on Poverty through the Mobilization for Youth program on the Lower East Side. Currently, much of the team's focus is on reaching out to children, families and other organizations through activities in Brooklyn and maintaining a network of members throughout the city.

Relying on Partnership



Tee-Tee, Jammie and Jill conduct an interview for the vegetable-growing project.

"It keeps the children's minds alive to good things. They don't think about the bad things that go on in the city. We act different, react and respond different. We go away with different people and talk about our lives...It is freedom!"

-Ms. Bridges, about the family vacations in rural New Jersey.



The Lindsey family fishing with friends as part of a summer of fun and discovery.

The Street Library program, a main focus of the New York team, aims to build partnership around children in order to showcase their creativity, intelligence, and dreams. In its third year in the Bushwick and Ocean Hill neighborhoods of central Brooklyn, the program continued to receive logistical and programmatic support from the Biko Family Life Center and the Ocean Hill Community Center and Tenants Association. In addition, support from parents and other residents reached an all-time high, facilitating highlights that included photography and video workshops, building a new book box, and this community's first "Street Library Family Trip" to the Brooklyn Children's Museum to mark Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

The year's longest-running, most impressive project was the planting, harvesting, and eating of vegetables grown using special "Earth Boxes" (see page 15). Ms. Marquez opened her doors so dozens of children could help water the plants. Other parents shared experiences of gardening through interviews with the children. At harvest time, Mr. Benny and Mr. Nate welcomed the children into the Granite Street Garden so they could add community-grown collards to their own, and Ms. Thompson cooked everything up for a fun outdoor feast. Indeed, the entire community looked after the plants throughout the process, so that at the end, the children could triumphantly exclaim, "*Nobody messed with them!*"

In an even wider community partnership, local organizations, churches, merchants, and residents came together for the Third Annual East Bushwick Parks Festival. The Fourth World Movement worked to help facilitate this partnership that led to a festive day with sports tournaments, games and art activities, information tables, a mobile museum, programs from the New York police and fire departments, and a grand-finale talent show.

Freedom to Discover

Over three weekends in the summer, some sixty people took quality time with their family and others, thanks to an ongoing partnership with Kateri Environmental Camp in New Jersey. In addition to providing new, enriching experiences, these trips allowed individuals distance from the daily grind of the city, to restore much-needed energy and strength.

Links with Academia

The Fourth World Movement's link with Columbia University's School of Social Work was mutually beneficial for a third year. Graduate student Leilei Duan received valuable training while greatly supporting our work at the United Nations and lending a hand with several grassroots activities. Connections with the university have also led to the use of Tapori materials in a diverse, experimental elementary school run by Columbia faculty, and to a dialogue with faculty members about the study *How Poverty Separates Parents and Children*, published jointly by the the International Movement ATD Fourth World and the United Nations.



Tapori children sing, "Every Child Should Have a Chance" at the Fourth World House Inauguration.

The Fourth World House Renovated



2015, after two years of construction and many more years of raising and hard work, more than 100 people packed into a large room in the Fourth World House in Manhattan to celebrate the reopening.

People from different backgrounds, from different parts of the world and different points in the Movement's history came to celebrate the occasion. "It was so happy to see that there are many more friends, now" said Vincent Fanchette, a long-time supporter who had been engaged in planning and had traveled from London for the event. Like many others, he was struck by the diversity of the people present for the event, united by the shared hope that filled the room.

One of the most important aspects of the House's re-opening was the opportunity it provided for people to express how the Fourth World Movement has impacted their lives. Kristial Franklin, a young person who began participating in activities when she was six, remembered, "When I first came to the house, I was shy. But the Fourth World Movement opened a lot of kids to new things: to read and write, to use the computer, and we grew plants." For Zena Grimes, who has been a member of the Fourth World Movement for fifteen years, the event provided a moment to reflect on successes in her life. "The first time I met the Fourth World Movement was at a shelter. In this house, I got a chance to meet new people and share ideas and thoughts."

Since the inauguration, area members have quickly re-established the Fourth World House as a welcoming place to gather for discussions, creative workshops, and the exchange of ideas and projects to fight poverty. Most notable were the workshops held with a professional artist to design a mural for the walls of the back courtyard.

"For a few years the neighborhood was literally in flames, with fires springing up every day and night...Families came back to visit us at the drop-in center but we needed a bigger place where they could all meet together coming from different parts of the city. The house offered us all the aspects we needed to develop the Movement further."

-Fanchette Clement-Fanelli



Vincent and Fanchette Fanelli, two of the founding members of the Fourth World Movement in the United States, speak at the House inauguration in New York.

Appalachia

Since 1995, the Fourth World Movement has been present in Dickenson County, situated in the coalfields of the Appalachian mountains on the Virginia-Kentucky border. The team is composed of Vincent and Fanchette Fanelli, who have been working in the area for ten years, and Jason French and Chantal Levesque French, who joined them this year. The team's principal objectives are to work with and support community development efforts and to build partnerships with advocacy groups.

“One of the issues here in America now is that everybody has a computer....But a lot of the people here can't afford a computer and they've never been exposed to one, even in school...The Fourth World group here has started a class dealing with computers...So when they go apply for a job, if one of the questions is - can you operate a computer- they can answer yes, they know how to operate a computer.”

-Barney Reilly, Dickenson County, VA



The Trammel Community Center.

Supporting Community Efforts

Due to successive boom and bust cycles in the coal industry, but also due to physical isolation and poor infrastructure, Dickenson County suffers from a variety of poverty-related problems: chronic unemployment, poor health coverage, and a statistically low level of educational attainment, compared to Virginia averages. Just as notable, however, is the area's rich tradition of close human connections and pride in their traditions and music.

Before moving to what is considered to be the 'heart' of Appalachia, Fourth World Movement Volunteers had regular contacts with people in the area who were involved in community-based anti-poverty programs. It was these contacts that helped the team, once it had settled in the area, choose a project in the region.

In 1996, Vincent Fanelli, in partnership with the Binns-Counts Community Center, began a free computer training program for adults. To date, almost 500 adults have participated.

The classes have benefited the participants in a variety of ways—from getting a job directly, to learning a new skill and gaining confidence with computers. “This class is a blessing,” remarked one participant, a sentiment echoed by many others. Many participants returned for a second, and sometimes a third session, showing a real desire and new-born confidence to master this modern tool of technology.

Help with Houses

Fourth World Movement Volunteers have also participated in summer house-improvement projects coordinated by the Binns-Counts Community Center. On his arrival, Jason worked with several church mission groups who came from outside the region to do house renovations. In this way, he provided a needed service and, at the same time, discovered more of the community and its people.

The Movement's Presence Expands

When the Binns-Counts Community Center acquired the Trammel Community Center, located in one of the most economically depressed areas of the county, they found a need for a computer program similar to the one at Binns-Counts. In response, Fourth World Movement Volunteer Jason French began offering members of the Trammel community the opportunity to develop skills at emailing, word-processing, spread sheets, graphic programs, networking and the internet. Because both the Binns-Counts and Trammel computer programs rely on donated computers, they are always looking for ways to keep up with changing technology.

In addition to the computer courses, the Trammel Community Center hosts a local community group which formed in response to a growing drug problem in the area. In order to support their efforts, Jason has been participating in their meetings, where the group not only works to find ways to help people stop abusing drugs, but also to bring improvements to the community.

Visitors

A number of visitors have come for short periods of time to discover the area and the team, often providing a short-term service to the community. For example, visiting Fourth World Movement Volunteers have participated in the housing renovation program, which assists applicants who are physically or financially unable to renovate or repair their houses. Visitors also lent their efforts to health fairs facilitated by the St. Mary's Health Wagon, where they assisted nurses and medical students working to provide care for the under-insured.

A New Fourth World Center in Appalachia

In September 2003, the Fourth World Movement purchased a property in Dickenson County that had a small frame house, barn and two sheds on 18 acres of mostly woodland. The team has spent the past year developing the land to improve its value as a future ecological resource for the community.

The new center also hosted a regroupment of newer Volunteers based in the Fourth World Movement teams in North America. The setting allowed for peace and reflection, as well as discussions and evaluation.

"The roofing job was for a coal miner. He worked the mines for eighteen years but can't work now because the mining destroyed his back. He said that coal mining can wear out your body in twenty years and afterwards you can't get a job because you don't know how to do anything else and, in any case, there is little else to do in the area apart from mining-related jobs...There is no doubt that this is still coal country and it is in people's blood. It is in their lungs and in their skin, too."

-Jason French, Fourth World Movement Volunteer



The housing project crew with Jason French, seated front right.

"What truly unites us is the fact that we know that the struggle is the same for the poor everywhere in one way or another. We also know that what affects our brother in one place affects us as well one way or another...We are also united in hope and desire for a better day for our people and for our world."

-Becky Perrigan, Dickenson County, VA, on what unites the Fourth World Movement as a group.

The General Assembly Process

The Fourth World Movement embarked on an ambitious project this year called the General Assembly Process. The purpose of this project was to clarify what the Fourth World Movement means to its members—first in the United States, then around the world—and to express this vision in a one page statement.

Different Perspectives, one Movement



Delegates from the United States and Canada gathered for the regional meeting in Montreal.

“When I think of the General Assembly Process, I’m hard pressed to think of a better example of democracy.”

-Ben Fehsenfeld, Fourth World Movement Volunteer stationed in Geneva, Switzerland.

To begin the process, Fourth World Movement members from all over the country answered the following questions: *What does the Fourth World Movement mean to me? How do I describe the Fourth World Movement to others? What do I think unites us as a group?* Members were interviewed, took part in creative workshops and, in Appalachia, even created a CD-ROM to express their view of the Movement.

People from different backgrounds and from all walks of life participated in the process, resulting in approximately sixty responses and more than one hundred pages of text. Contributions came from far and wide—from California, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, southwestern Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C.

Once gathered, individuals and small groups worked with these statements to draw out key phrases and themes and to synthesize them into one page of text. The National Center took a leading role in this process here in the United States, while at the regional level, this happened in Montreal. There, delegates from New York, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, and Louisiana shared their experiences, actions and ways of expressing the Fourth World Movement with members from Canada.

At the International Center

In November, some seventy delegates from twenty-four countries, different walks of life, and speaking fourteen different languages traveled to the General Assembly at the Fourth World Movement’s International Center in Mery-sur-Oise, France. The task: to forge their national texts into one international statement. Representing the United States were Tina Lindsey, a member of the Fourth World Movement; Colette Jay, a former Fourth World Movement Volunteer; and Charles Courtney, President of Fourth World Movement/USA.



Colette Jay, Tina Lindsey and Charles Courtney at the General Assembly in France.

Through meetings, workshops and discussions, the delegates at this General Assembly found new ways to think about what the Movement means to them and how to express this. They created a common international statement to take back to their own communities and countries. Versions of the statement exist in English, French and Spanish, as well as more than a dozen other languages.



This statement is the result of a process of input from, and consultation among, thousands of members of the Fourth World Movement from around the world and of different social, cultural and economic backgrounds. It is an expression of what the Movement means to them personally, the words they use to talk about its values and what unites members in the struggle against poverty and exclusion. At the General Assembly in November 2004, delegates from around the world created the following statement.

How some members of the Fourth World Movement describe the General Assembly Process:

All human beings, regardless of their place in society, are equal in dignity, which must be respected, not violated by anyone for any reason. Equal dignity is the basis for fundamental rights especially the right to freedom of expression, to live as a family, to housing, to health care and to work. Those who live in extreme poverty are the first victims of the violation of human rights.

“The statement makes me feel good about the Fourth World Movement. It can make me feel proud to be part of it.”

Keenly aware of the world’s long history of human suffering and hope, Father Joseph Wresinski, born in extreme poverty himself, founded the International Movement ATD Fourth World in 1957 with families from the homeless camp of Noisy-le-Grand (France) and others who joined them. His belief that “Every person is a chance for humanity” is a source of inspiration for many people all over the world.

-Doris Newsome

Injustice, powerlessness, shame, humiliation, and exclusion as experienced by those living in extreme poverty must not be tolerated. Our priority is to reach out to the poorest and most ignored people, be alongside them, and create links with them and between them. Ensuring that those with the hardest life are at the heart of all projects and listening to the dreams and aspirations they have for themselves and their children, we can reach a mutual understanding. When the most excluded people can contribute their knowledge and experience to society as equals, extreme poverty will be overcome.



The Fourth World Movement develops partnerships at all levels of society and in all parts of the world. It unites people whatever their origin, social status, culture or beliefs to fight against poverty. In building trust, solidarity, and friendship, all have a place to realize their full and best potential. Working together and learning from each other, everyone is free to express themselves without being judged.

Ms. Newsome, seated, presents aspects of what the Fourth World Movement means to New York members.

The Fourth World Movement was founded with the conviction that since people have created the conditions for extreme poverty and social exclusion, people can and should make a serious and long-term commitment to eliminating these conditions. Our work must be constantly re-evaluated to ensure that the poorest do not get left behind those who are moving forward.

As long as the power of money is the primary value, the world will be menaced by poverty and violence. If humanity is our primary value, the world will be transformed and we can all enjoy peace. October 17, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, inaugurated by ATD Fourth World in 1987 and recognized by the United Nations since 1992, annually presents this on-going challenge:

“I really see this statement as being used to show how possible it is for all people to work together and invite others to join us in tolerating extreme poverty no more.”

*“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.”*

-Rebecca Meszaros

-Father Joseph Wresinski

October 17

On October 17, 1987, Joseph Wresinski, founder of the International Movement ATD Fourth World, dedicated a commemorative stone in honor of the victims of hunger, ignorance, and violence at the Plaza of Human Rights in Paris, France. In 1992, the United Nations officially recognized October 17 as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Each year, the Fourth World Movement works to ensure that the voices of the poorest remain at the heart of this day.



Ray Mullins speaks at the October 17 commemoration in Dickenson County, VA.

A Day to Celebrate and Converse

In Dickenson County, in the **Appalachian** region, the theme for the October 17 event was ‘The Family,’ in honor of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family. Approximately seventy-five people from all over the area attended, thanks in part to effective radio and newspaper campaigns. Participants responded to the study *How Poverty Separates Parents and Children* and shared similar situations in the area. Finally, a pot-luck dinner was shared by all, reuniting many who had not seen each other for a long time.



James Doptimore, Barbara Risin and Albert Randal hold an October 17 testimony in New Orleans.

In **New Orleans**, the October 17 commemoration centered around the theme of ‘Community.’ Adults participated in workshops about endeavors to build communities, while children participated in artistic workshops about how people help one another and enjoy one another’s company. Fourth World Movement supporters Bob Mauss and Leon Rudloff brought together eighty people to listen to testimonies about the struggles and triumphs of people who live in poverty, and to participate in a candlelit vigil. During the vigil, Dierdre Mauss led the group in singing, “*I’ve Got Peace Like a River*,” accompanied by instruments.

In **New York**, October 17 was commemorated in the United Nations garden, where people shared testimonies of those fighting extreme poverty, sang songs of struggle and hope, and listened to children share their dreams for themselves and others, prompted by storyteller Tammy Hall’s rendering of *Coyote, the Dream Stealer*.



Zena Grimes and Helen Bragg at the United Nations in New York.

At a separate event, adults gathered at the nearby Family School for a panel discussion around the study *How Poverty Separates Parents and Children*. Two of the co-authors of the study, Fourth World Movement Volunteer Marilyn Gutierrez and New York social worker Ariane Eigler, spoke of the obstacles faced by parents living in extreme poverty. In addition, Elizabeth Gibbons, UNICEF’s Chief of Global Policy, spoke about situations she witnessed while working in Haiti and Guatemala, and expressed how valuable it was to hear about challenges faced by families in New York, where UNICEF has its headquarters. In less formal surroundings, Ocean Hill residents in Brooklyn welcomed others from around the city to share more storytelling and a potluck meal at the Biko Family Life Center.

The United Nations

The International Movement ATD Fourth World has general consultative status at the United Nations. Representation at the UN is an opportunity for members of the Movement to be in dialogue with the international community. This takes place through committees, written contributions, individual meetings and participation in UN events. As coordinator of the Permanent Forum on Extreme Poverty, a network of international organizations and individuals who work alongside people living in extreme poverty, the International Movement ATD Fourth World continues to find ways to dialogue with groups who address the needs of the poorest.

Making Links

During the Commission for Social Development, Gregoire Kantoucar, a Senegalese Fourth World Movement Volunteer, was invited by the U.N. as one of just two non-profit representatives at a high level roundtable discussion. Working alongside representatives of governments to address the issue of poverty eradication, Gregoire took the opportunity to share the words of Mr. André of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso. *“A poor person remains like a person who is taken by surprise when a war erupts...the poor person is always taken unawares. But all together, we don’t lack for ideas. Let’s continue to exchange ideas with those who believe in our strength. This is how we can free ourselves from being taken unawares.”*

Calling for Partnership

The Movement also had a constructive dialogue with the Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations. This grew out of the U.N.’s Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to which the Movement presented a paper during the High Level Segment. This paper expressed the desires of people living in poverty to be recognized and supported in their efforts to fight against extreme poverty. In the words of one Tanzanian who has experience with extreme poverty and who spoke in this paper, *“One can share ideas regardless of where one comes from.”* As a result of this speech, the Ambassador invited members of the Movement—including a Fourth World Movement Volunteer who had recently returned from working in Tanzania—to discuss extreme poverty in his country.

Getting Voices Heard

As a way of calling attention to the importance of partnership with the poorest in order to end extreme poverty, the Movement wrote an article which was published in the *UN Chronicle*. The article ended with a message from people living on the outskirts of Poznan, Poland. *“When you realize you are among many of us who are moving forward together, you keep courage in order to encourage others.”* The Movement will continue to bring such voices to the fore in international discussions about poverty in the coming year.



The panel discussion, “Participation Works: International Success in the Fight Against Poverty” at the U.N. Gregoire Kantoucar is seated far left.

“We young people must speak loud and clear. We must come together like a family to ensure the rights and responsibilities of each and everyone...Listening to and showing respect to those around us can lift people out of their isolation. In this way, the poor will not be ashamed of their situation but instead will feel supported and gain hope for the future.”

-Paul, a young man from Tanzania spoke through the Fourth World Movement’s contribution to ECOSOC at the U.N.

Tapori Children's Network

Through true stories, the Tapori newsletter and website help children from different backgrounds learn in an age-appropriate manner about the realities of living in persistent poverty. Activities help children to think about what they can do to overcome poverty and social exclusion. Tapori also organizes exhibits and participates in conferences on a regular basis to share the children's wisdom with a wider audience. Tapori is a worldwide network and Fourth World Movement/USA assures the correspondence and publications for English-speaking countries.

The illustration to the right depicts Reneisha as she helps younger children at a shelter with their homework. Reneisha is a fourteen-year-old who has been involved with Tapori since she was little, and who lives with her family in a shelter in New York City. *“Living in a shelter is especially difficult for children. You have a place to sleep but have nothing to call your own.”*



Tapori Tools

This year marked the 30th Anniversary of the Tapori newsletter in the United States. To celebrate this occasion, the first Tapori newsletter of the year revisited Tapori's roots in Noisy-le-Grand, the emergency housing camp outside of Paris where the Fourth World Movement began. Other issues shared stories from Haiti, the Netherlands, and New York.

One of the most popular Activity Pages this year invited children to make a “dove of peace,” sharing ways that they make peace in their communities. Children then sent these birds to the Tapori headquarters, from where the doves “flew” to different places where Tapori has teams.

In other exciting news, the Tapori program is proud to announce that *Every Child Should Have a Chance: A Tapori Resource Guide About Poverty, Human Rights and Social Inclusion* will be available in summer 2005. The tool was created by Fourth World Movement member Lois Franco, a New York City public school teacher who has used the Tapori newsletter to talk about poverty and friendship with her students for many years. Activities are tailored to many learning styles and address the themes: love, tolerance, respect, compassion, fairness, friendship, empathy, and creativity and appreciation of the role of the family.

Every Child Should Have a Chance

A Tapori Resource Guide
About Poverty, Human Rights,
and Social Inclusion



By
Lois Franco
Edited by Ben Finkelstein

The front cover of ‘*Every Child Should Have a Chance: A Tapori Resource Guide About Poverty, Human Rights and Social Inclusion.*’

Tapori Groups

Tapori was happy to welcome many new members this year. For example, at the Glasgow YWCA in Scotland, former Fourth World Movement Volunteer, Catherine Divers, introduced the program to children. In Poland, after participating in a Fourth World Movement seminar about building an inclusive Europe, two university students began sharing Tapori newsletters at a children's home, while in Johannesburg, South Africa, a man who learned about Tapori as a child in the Democratic Republic of Congo began Friends of Tapori for children.

Connections

In January, people who work with Tapori and are interested in developing Tapori projects had the opportunity to meet at a Tapori conference in Pierrelaye, France. Participants shared their diverse experiences using Tapori tools with children and practiced developing a story from its raw form into a newsletter. They also broke into working groups to develop ideas for ways to involve children in this year's International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Tapori at the United Nations

Tapori regularly participates in seminars, information fairs, and other public events in order to share the vision and wisdom of its members with a wider audience. In June 2004, Fourth World Movement Volunteers Anna Fagergren and Lisa Steinbrueck spoke on a panel at the United Nation's Youth Summit, offering teenagers and young people practical ways to act on their dreams for equality and social justice. In addition, Tapori representatives attended the annual conference of the Committee on Teaching About the United Nations, where they met teachers from the United States and abroad.

Through an initiative called "The Growing Connection," both the Tapori and New York Street Library programs received specially designed planters called "Earth Boxes" from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. These boxes can grow plants under a variety of conditions. To mark World Food Day, young Tapori members Carissa Brown and Eon Hill were invited by the Food and Agriculture Organization to speak at the United Nations, where they spoke of their own experiences of growing fresh herbs and vegetables. Carissa and Eon also related interviews with people in their community about the connections and pride that can come from growing things, cooking, and eating as a family. They reminded attendees that families living in extreme poverty experience threats to food security more concretely than many others.



Children from all over the world decorated Tapori doves with messages of peace. All of these doves came together in Guatemala, where they were sent skyward attached to helium balloons.

"It feels really good to feel proud. We hope that [projects like this] will give a lot of people the chance to feel proud of something they did by themselves."

-Eon Hill, speaking of the "Earth Box" project on World Food Day at the United Nations.



Eon Hill, Carissa Brown (center) and Lisa Steinbrueck at the United Nations.

Unleashing More Hidden Potential

For many years, Fourth World Movement/USA has been engaged in a project designed to help families living in persistent poverty and others in society dialogue around issues of education. This process, called Unleashing Hidden Potential, reached a climactic point in 2000, when 50 people from all walks of life and with different perspectives on schools and education came together for a three-day seminar. The fruit of this seminar was a CD-ROM, which, since 2002, has been used to share this process with greater society.



Lenore Cola speaks to teachers at a training workshop in New Jersey.

“I think that teachers who work in disadvantaged schools where children come from poor backgrounds or live in homeless shelters or have ACS cases need to know that not everything you learn is in a book. You must know what it is you are dealing with so you can use your street sense to help open the doors for you. Look at the whole picture before talking about it. Do not pre-judge until you know what’s really going on. Communicate and respect.”

-Lenore Cola, parent-facilitator.



Recent Developments of the Unleashing Hidden Potential Project

The Fourth World Movement continued to find new ways to share the materials and knowledge gained from the Unleashing Hidden Potential project with new audiences. Important events include:

- A presentation of the CD-ROM at the Community Action Partnership’s Annual Convention for people working on education issues nationwide. (Washington, D.C.)
- Interviews with parents of school-aged children and teachers about school-to-home communication and homework, throughout New York City.
- A presentation at the New Jersey Statewide Charter School Conference. (New Brunswick, NJ)
- Two full-day training workshops, led by parents and Fourth World Volunteers, for those seeking teacher certification through the “Provisional Teacher Program.” (Newark, NJ)

A Contract for Better Communication

In partnership with the Discovery Charter School, the Fourth World Movement was contracted by the New Jersey Department of Education to hold three training days around the Unleashing Hidden Potential Project. The trainings, made possible through a “Dissemination Program Grant,” and aimed at sharing “best practices” in education with teachers-in-training, were led by parents and Fourth World Movement Volunteers.

At these training workshops, parents who have experienced poverty shared their knowledge about their communities and their children, using role-play and the material in the CD-ROM as a springboard for discussion. In this way, parents and teachers discovered and practiced together communication techniques that work. Following one day of workshops and discussion, one teacher-in-training expressed how he hopes to improve his interactions with parents from different backgrounds, pledging, *“I need to remember to leave my ego at the door when I meet with parents.”*

International Volunteer Corps

Fourth World Movement Volunteer Corps members have different nationalities, beliefs, ages, professions, and backgrounds. They may be single or in couples, with or without children. They make a long-term commitment to act in partnership with those in poverty. After their first year of service, full-time Volunteers agree to receive the same minimum living stipend, regardless of their training, type of responsibility, or length of service. Full-time Volunteers join extremely poor families in their efforts to overcome poverty. They also work to create space for these voices, so often missed, to be heard.

Diana Skelton-Faujour, originally from Washington, D.C., did her internship with the Fourth World Movement in 1985. Her most recent work in New York has been to represent the Fourth World Movement at the United Nations. “When I first came to New York in 1996, I was intimidated by the United Nations. But there are some amazing people working there from around the globe who care very deeply about ending injustice, and who are looking for a dialogue with people living in poverty. I am glad that, thanks to all of the participation and visits of members of the Fourth World Movement at the United Nations, this work is continuing. To me, that’s what the Fourth World Movement is about-making opportunities for each of us to look through someone else’s eyes, so that together we can innovate ways to put an end to injustice.”

Ben Fehsenfeld, from Michigan, joined the Volunteer Corps in 2004 having completed his internship in 2000. He is currently a member of the team working for the Tabori Children’s Network in Geneva, Switzerland. “In October, I participated in the new Volunteer training in France, with other new volunteers from eleven different countries, who spoke nine different native languages. While the question of languages was sometimes difficult to navigate, I was amazed by the fact that I could become friends with people from so many backgrounds. So far in my life as a volunteer, my energy to work against poverty has been nourished by my contact with so many different people.”

Nicole Kiefer is originally from Massachusetts and joined the Volunteer Corps in 1994. She wrote about her experiences with the Fourth World Movement Volunteer Corps for the *Fourth World Journal*. “Over the course of my time with the Fourth World Movement Volunteer Corps my responsibilities ranged from running Street Libraries in New York City to organizing respite stays and supporting families in England to coordinating, planning and evaluating projects in Bangkok... I met parents who fight every day to create a better future for their children, and they became part of my reason for wanting to stay. They opened their lives and shared so much with me. They are the people who gave me the courage to stay and who have taught me so much.”



Tapori teams from around the world gather for a meeting in France.

“In the Movement and in the Volunteer Corps, each one is welcomed as he or she is, and each one shares what he or she is with the others. What counts is the sincerity of the people.”

-Fr. Joseph Wresinski, founder of the International Movement ATD Fourth World.



A Volunteers’ meeting at the National Center.

Finances

Summary of Accounts

Income

Grants:	681,839
Donations:	147,538
Special Events:	3,569
Books and Subscriptions:	1,260
Donated Facilities and Services:	32,792
Investment Income:	2,598
Gain on Disposal of Fixed Assets:	218
Realized Gain/(Loss) on Investments:	(521)
	\$869,293

Expenses:

Activities with Families and Children:	179,962
Training and Public Information:	267,072
Fundraising:	17,472
General and Administrative:	86,890
	\$551,396

Grants were received from:

42nd Street Development Corporation
 Armelle's Language Studio
 Blossoms Montessori
 Caritas
 Casa Nueva Vida
 The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Inc.
 Catholic Daughters of the Americas
 Common Cents NY, Inc.
 Davidson Foundation for Music, Dance & Arts
 Eucharistic Missionaries of St. Dominic
 The J. E. Fehsenfeld Family Foundation
 Fondation ATD Quart Monde
 French Protestant Church
 International Monetary Fund*
 The George and Rita Jorgensen Charitable Trust
 The Kirincich Family Charitable Fund
 Microsoft Matching Gifts Program*
 Monroe Mendelsohn Research, Inc.
 Path To Peace Administration
 Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program*
 Redemptorists of Berkeley
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 Sisters of Immaculated Heart of Mary
 Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace
 St. Joseph Central Catholic Elementary School
 St. Joseph Church
 Superior Property Management
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A full auditor's report is available upon request.

* Matching Gift

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Co-Founder of the 10-Point Coalition, Boston, MA

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Temple Emanu-El, New York, NY

New York State Assemblyman

Associate Professor, Eliot-Pearson School of Child
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Malcom Wiener Professor of Political Science at the Kennedy
School of Government, Harvard University

Author and Nobel Peace Prize laureate

Professor of Sociology, Harvard University

Fourth World Publications

Sharing what we learn from those whose voice is heard the least

How Poverty Separates Parents and Children

Fourth World Publications - 2004 - 155 pages - \$5 for shipping and handling
A study documenting the heart-breaking choices faced by disadvantaged families in raising their children in poverty.

The Poor Are the Church

A Conversation with Fr. Joseph Wresinski, Founder of the Fourth World Movement

Gilles Anouil - Twenty-Third Publications - 2002 - 191 pages - \$16.95
Father Joseph Wresinski relates what he and the members of the Fourth World Movement have learned from the poor, as well as his hopes and fears for the poor and for the Church. He traces the development of the Fourth World Movement, and reflects on what it means to give priority to the poorest among us.

“[Wresinski] calls us to understand poverty in a profoundly different way, not just as destitution and oppression but as social isolation. This isolation is created by us all to the degree that we live apart from the poor and fail to understand that their fate is ours.”

Christopher Winship, Professor of Sociology, Harvard University

Germaine

Maryvonne Caillaux - Fourth World Publications - 2002 - \$5
A story of the friendship that grew between Maryvonne Caillaux, a Fourth World Volunteer, and Germaine Russell, a teenager in New Orleans who participated in the Street Library.

Best Practices in Poverty Eradication

NGO Subcommittee for the Eradication of Poverty - 2003 - 56 pages
Written for the United Nations, this document analyzes dozens of grassroots projects done around the world. One of the seven projects highlighted as “the best of the best” is the Courtyard of 100 Trades, run by the Fourth World Movement in Burkina Faso.

Fourth World Journal

Quarterly newsletter of the Fourth World Movement/USA. \$15 suggested annual subscription.

Tapori Publications

Every Child Should

Have a Chance: A

Tapori Resource Guide About Poverty, Human Rights and Social Inclusion

Fourth World Publications - 2005 - 232 pages - \$29/\$19 (printed/CD format)
A collection of lessons, texts and activities meant to create discussion with children about poverty and human rights. For use by teachers, social workers and anyone who cares about social justice.

My Heart Is In This Stone

Fourth World Publications - 1999 - 256 pages - \$14 - four languages
Seven stories inspired by the 5,000 little stones and messages sent by children from around the world during the Tapori Special Stones Campaign.

Tapori Mini-books

\$1 each or \$9 for 10: *Boureima, Celia, Deepika, Elifet, Jessica, Katia, Leah, Mamadou & John, Manuelito, Mario, Pablo, Raphael*
Illustrated true stories about children of courage from countries around the world.

Tapori Mini-books

Bi-monthly newsletter of the Tapori Children's Network.
\$10 suggested annual subscription.

Complete Publications List Available on Request.

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Fourth World Movement/USA is dedicated to fostering partnership with families in persistent poverty and other members of society in a way that recognizes each person's efforts and expertise in overcoming social exclusion due to extreme poverty. Presently, we are emphasizing four project areas:

-  Street Libraries, which take place on the sidewalk in under-privileged communities, engage children and their families in learning together through the use of books, art and computers.
-  The Tapori Children's Network helps children find ways to express and act on their sense of justice, friendship, and empathy.
-  Long-term poverty research and reflection groups foster a deeper understanding of the nature of poverty as well as the type of commitment and actions necessary to overcome it.
-  Recruitment and training of long-term, full-time members of the Fourth World Volunteer Corps ensure the sustainability and integrity of our projects.

A fifth area covers all of our projects and is an integral and highly unique aspect of the Fourth World Movement's work:

-  Long-term links with the most fragile families, often over several generations, enable us to learn their point of view on what is needed to help them have access to their rights and be able to assume their responsibilities.

Fourth World Movement/USA is in touch with more than 11,000 supporters and sympathizers throughout the country. It is the United States branch of the International Movement ATD Fourth World, which has teams in 27 countries and correspondents in 100, actively involving some 100,000 people worldwide. As a non-governmental organization, the International Movement has consultative status with the United Nations.

Fourth World Movement/USA is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt organization. Funding comes from individual donations, subscriptions and the sale of publications, as well as from grants and matching gifts.