



People Power

The Advocacy Project strengthens community-based advocacy



From Matthew Becker (pictured above), after serving with the Subornogram, Foundation in Bangladesh: *"[T]he past three months comprised one of the most rewarding and interesting experiences of my life. I experienced the ins and outs of a new country, culture and people. I met so many people, all of them warm and welcoming. I made friends, had the opportunity to take many photographs of a beautiful country full of beautiful people, and did what I could to lay the framework for a longer partnership between The Advocacy Project and the Subornogram Foundation. I'd definitely like to do more work in human rights advocacy and photojournalism in the future."* (Photo – Matthew Becker)

THE ADVOCACY PROJECT 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

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People Power – 2012

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1. Mission and Vision

The Advocacy Project (AP), a 501c3 organization with headquarters in Washington DC, was registered in the District of Columbia in July 2001. AP's mission is to help marginalized communities around the world take action against the cause of their disempowerment, in a way that benefits society as a whole and produces social change.

We do not initiate partnerships, but try to respond to requests – particularly when they come from small groups that lack allies and urgently need to raise their profile. We believe strongly that those who are directly affected by social injustice are best equipped to take action. Information is their first and maybe their greatest need.

The Advocacy Project works abroad through graduate students and young professionals who volunteer as Peace Fellows and give generously of their time and talent. We view them as a valuable resource and are committed to encouraging international service on behalf of human rights.

Snapshots of 2012

- AP worked with 22 marginalized communities
- AP supported 21 community-based advocacy groups
- Telling the story: AP produced 10 news bulletins, 197 blogs, 44 videos, 58 profiles and 3,399 photos for use by partners
- AP and partners produced 9 new quilts
- AP Fellows trained 18 “accidental techies” at partner organizations
- 138,783 visitors logged onto the AP website. By the end of 2012, AP videos on You Tube had been viewed 343,558 times
- Over 80,000 visitors saw the exhibition of advocacy quilts at the UN in March/April
- AP generated \$144,802 for partners
- AP supported campaigns in DRC (sexual violence), Uganda (accessible toilets) Bosnia (Srebrenica) and Nepal (uterine prolapse)
- AP recruited 19 Fellows from 16 universities to serve in 15 countries
- Staff and volunteers: 59 individuals worked for AP in 2012. Three drew a salary.

2. Letter from the Executive Director

2012 was our third year at the Church of the Pilgrims in Washington DC, and another year of consolidation on a zero-growth budget. Five achievements stood out:

Network of partners: AP took on 4 new partners in Morocco, Bangladesh, Lithuania, and Rwanda. This brought the number of current partners to 22. Almost all of these organizations emerged directly from a marginalized community.

Building long-term programs: AP continued to focus on developing long-term programs that aim to produce social change. These are initiated by the partner and a Peace Fellow, and managed by the partner with support from AP. Most effort went into the program on sexual violence in the DRC, which seeks to reduce the exposure of women to armed sexual violence. We also visited Nepal and spent several weeks working on child labor with the Backward Society Education (BASE).

Quilts: AP's program of advocacy quilting again moved forward in 2012. On March 8, 2012 we co-sponsored an exhibition of 12 advocacy quilts at the UN headquarters that attracted 80,000 visitors. Partners made another ten quilts during the summer, and by the end of the year we were holding over 30 quilts on behalf of partners. These are currently on exhibit at Kean University in New Jersey.

Peace Fellows: Our fellowship program entered its tenth year and again reminded us that graduate students have much to offer to community advocates. The value of the program to Fellows becomes clear from the testimonials in Chapter 11.

Administration and money: AP continues to punch above its weight. We raised more for partners - \$145,000 – than for our own core budget. We also benefitted from the generosity of employees at the World Bank and US Government who donated to AP through the Bank's Community Connections campaign, and the US Government's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).

AP's value-added: We were again reminded of why AP is needed. One new group that found us in 2012, the river gypsies of Bangladesh, lives less than 50 miles from Dhaka, the capital. But they almost never see foreigners and had certainly never met anyone like Mathew Becker, our Peace Fellow. This is precisely the sort of group we want to represent. Second, we can help partners to think outside the box. It was Ned Meerdink, a 22 year old Peace Fellow, who studied war rape in South Kivu and realized that women are attacked when they venture out alone to collect water and fuel. By helping our Congolese partner to install a well, we reduced the need to travel and helped make women more secure. We have high hopes that most of the initiatives listed in Chapter 10 will also produce a similar change.



Iain Guest
Executive Director

3. The Challenge of Marginalization

Marginalized communities have been disempowered by conflict, poverty, discrimination and racism. Most of all they lack a voice. AP seeks to provide them with one.

AP worked for 22 communities in 2012

- **Africa (6):** a) Survivors of sexual violence in East Kivu, DRC; b) People with disabilities, northern Uganda; c) Children at risk from sacrifice, Uganda; d) Women recyclers in Uganda; e) Genocide survivors in Rwanda; f) Weavers from the Atlas Mountains in Morocco.
- **Asia (8):** a) Women with uterine prolapse in Nepal; b) Vietnamese landmine survivors; c) Freed child laborers in Nepal; d) Dalit in Nepal; e) River gypsies in Bangladesh; f) Blind in Bangladesh; g) Wastepickers in Delhi, India; h) Tribal women in Gujarat, India.
- **Europe (3):** a) Survivors of the Srebrenica massacre, Bosnia; b) Roma women in Lithuania; c) Travellers in the UK.
- **Latin America (2):** Mayan Indians in Belize; relatives of the disappeared in Peru.
- **Middle East (2):** a) The Israeli Peace Movement; b) Palestinian trade unions.
- **North America (1):** Azerbaijani Political Prisoners in Iran (from Canada).

New 2012 communities: Four new communities found AP in 2012: weavers in the Morocco town of Ain Leuh, who produce woven products in the traditional Berber style; survivors of genocide in Rwanda, particularly women and children; river gypsies in Bangladesh, who face discrimination and poverty because of their religion and caste; and Roma women in Vilnius, Lithuania, who seek to express themselves through art and weaving. The addition of these four brought to 104 the number of marginalized communities that have connected with AP since 1998.

Conflict: Four of the 22 communities were deeply affected by war or its aftermath. In the Eastern Congo, AP's partner, SOSFED, took in 168 victims of armed rape at two centers (Mboko and Fizi Town) - an increase over 2011. On July 11 2012, the women of BOSFAM, who lost relatives in the 1995 Srebrenica massacre, reburied Alem Paric, the nephew of Beba Hadzic and one of the youngest massacre victims. In Vietnam, villagers in the province of Quang Binh continue to lose limbs from unexploded ordnance and suffer from Agent Orange, dropped during the Vietnam War. In Peru, relatives of those who disappeared in the Dirty War (1980-2000) were struggling to claim justice in the face of indifference and hostility from other Peruvians.

Caste and discrimination: Most of the 22 communities suffer from persistent discrimination. One of the most extreme examples was found in southeast England, where the Travellers of Dale Farm have lived on the roadside without sewage, water or electricity since their homes were bull-dozed in 2011. Another casualty of extreme prejudice can be found in the Congolese town of Goma, where albinos, pygmies and people of transgender face intolerance and violence. Some LTI members told Peace Fellow Mallory Minter that they had received regular death threats.

Focus on women: In 2012, AP worked with women's associations in Bosnia, Belize, Lithuania, India, Nepal, Uganda, and Morocco. Some were doubly disadvantaged because of their gender and because they

were also members of a minority, like tribal women in India, indigenous women in Belize, or women with prolapse in Nepal.

Children: In 2012, AP worked with advocates for child rights in Nepal (child labor), Bangladesh (illiteracy), and Uganda (child sacrifice).

Environmental protection: 2012 saw an increased focus by AP on protecting the environment, and on environmental justice. In Belize, AP helped Mayan women to use advocacy quilting to expose the threat to the Sarstoon Temash national park. AP's partner in Kampala, Uganda, campaigned against pollution from plastic bags.

Disability: AP worked for three disabled communities in 2012 – blind people in Bangladesh; war-disabled in northern Uganda; and landmine survivors in Vietnam.

4. Community-based Partners

AP helps marginalized communities by forming partnerships with their advocates, most of whom emerged from the community. Dilli Chaudhary, the President and founder of BASE, in Nepal, is the son of two former bonded laborers. Marceline Kongolo, the founder of SOSFED in the Congo, lost a father and brother to the war. This deep connection to the issues gives these advocates credibility and motivation. There were exceptions. For example, Elvis Mbembe Binda, the founder of IPHR in Rwanda, and Shahed Kayes, in Bangladesh, are young professionals who have found their calling in human rights. Shahed has used family money to set up schools for river gypsies.

In 2012 AP worked with 21 advocacy organizations:

- **Africa (6):** *SOS Femmes en Danger* in DRC; b) Gideon Foundation in Uganda; c) Gulu Disabled Persons Union (GDPU) in Uganda; d) Kinawataka Women's Initiative in Uganda; e) Ain Leuh Weaving cooperative (Morocco); f) Initiatives for Peace and Human Rights (Rwanda).
- **Asia (8):** Blind Education and Rehabilitation Development Organization (BERDO) in Bangladesh; b) Subornogram Foundation (Bangladesh); c) Backward Society Education (BASE) in Nepal. d) Women's Reproductive Rights Program (WRRP) in Nepal; e) Jagaran Media Center in Nepal; e) Vikalp/Parma in India; f) Home for Human Rights Sri Lanka; g) The Association for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (AEPD) in Vietnam.
- **Europe (2):** (a) The Bosnian Family (Bosfam) in Bosnia; b) Roma Community Center in Vilnius, Lithuania.
- **Latin America (2):** The Sarstoon-Temash Institute for Indigenous Management (SATIIM) in Belize; the Peruvian Forensic Anthropology team (EPAF) in Peru.
- **Middle East (2):** a) The Alternative Information Center (AIC) in Israel; b) The Democracy and Workers Rights Center in Palestine.
- **North America (1):** The Association for the Defense of the Azerbaijani Political Prisoner in Iran (ADAPP), based in Canada.

Priority partners and their campaigns: AP helps a small number of partners to develop long-term campaigns. For AP to be useful, these campaigns must have clear goals and produce a clear benefit for the marginalized community. During 2012, AP focused on two issues: war rape in the eastern Congo, and child labor with BASE in Nepal.

5. Telling the Story

AP helps partners to produce information about their work, for use in raising funds and launching campaigns. Most of the content is produced by Peace Fellows and takes the form of blogs, videos, photo, and tweets. AP also profiles the work of partners through AP's website and YouTube pages.

Breaking News

The work of AP's partners is often dramatic and also newsworthy, and AP captures this through news bulletins, which are sent out to 6,300 subscribers and shared with the mainstream media. In 2012, we produced 10 bulletins:

- [War Rape in the Congo - Why the Human Security Report is Wrong](#) (November 26, 2012) reprinted an article by Iain Guest from the London Guardian.
- [\\$45 Million Pledged to Fight Against "Life Threatening" Child Marriage](#) (October 16, 2012) publicized the launch by UNFPA partner.
- [Health Expert Calls for Expansion of Fistula Treatment, to Include Prolapse \(October 2, 2012\)](#) reported on a UNFPA-sponsored meeting at the Wilson Center in Washington. Expert Lauri Romanzi made an impassioned plea for the integrated treatment of all pelvic floor disorders.
- [Speaking Out On Behalf of Children, Detainees, and Minorities](#) (September 6, 2012) summarized blogs from Peace Fellows.
- [From Rickshaws to Runways: 2012 Peace Fellows in Motion](#) (July 27, 2012) summarize blogs from Peace Fellows.
- [Grief Unites Srebrenica Massacre Survivors Across Two Continents](#) (July 13, 2012) reported from Srebrenica in Bosnia and from St Louis in the US on the plight of survivors, 17 years after the massacre.
- [Kids, Courts, and Cooperatives](#) (June 28, 2012) summarize blogs from Peace Fellows.
- [Peace Fellows to Sow the Seeds of Change in 14 Countries](#) (June 14, 2012) reported on the launch of the 2012 fellowship program.
- [Advocacy Quilts Take Center Stage at the UN on International Women's Day](#) (March 21, 2012) reported on the March 8 2012 exhibition of AP quilts at the UN.
- [Advocacy Quilt Helps Roma Families to Find a Secure Home in France](#), (January 4, 2012) reported on AP's work with Roma quilters in Strasbourg, France.

Blogs

Peace Fellows describe the work of their hosts through blogs. In 2012, nineteen Fellows produced 197 blogs. Mallory Minter, from Tufts University, served with the IPHR in Rwanda and was the most prolific blogger. Mallory produced 24 blogs, and covered an impressive range of issues, from a traditional wedding to the *gacaca* community courts. Each blog typically attracted around 10 comments. Mallory ended her fellowship with a visit to the Congolese town of Goma where she wrote about the courageous work of LICoProMa in defending the rights of LGBTI and albinos.

An analysis of the 2012 blogs shows the many different ways that blogs help to promote the work of AP partners:

Publicize hidden threats and identify future campaigns: Mathew Becker in Bangladesh exposed illegal sand-dredging in the Mayadip River, which is causing erosion and threatening the livelihood of the river gypsies. Elise Filo, in Lithuania, wrote about the impact of the Holocaust on Europe's Roma.

Provide a new angle on familiar issues: Nur Arafah blogged about labor rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Nur profiled Palestinian kindergarten workers, who are not paid in the summer, and postal workers who are unable to form their own independent union. Nur also described the distorted way that the Palestinian issue is treated in Israeli history books.

Using blogs to vent: Blogs provide Fellows with a chance to express their feelings and simply vent. Rachel Palmer worked on child labor in the Midwest of Nepal. In one powerful blog she described meeting a tiny girl beggar and her drunken father: *“The little girl looked at me, with large, sad brown eyes. She looked like she hadn't had a decent meal in days. I wanted to cry. The drunken man must have read my thoughts, for he exploded into a tirade and screamed at me with words I can only imagine constituted something along the lines of cursing, for my neighbor girls winced and covered their ears, shock written on their faces. The café was dead silent. This was by far one of the worst moments of my life. Tears stung my eyes as I picked up my things and moved inside the café to rejoin my neighbors. I can't forget the look on that little girl's face that night. Child labor needs to end NOW.”*

Reaching a network: Blogs allow Fellows to connect with their community and family. The parents of Laura Burns, who served with Mayan Indians in Belize, clearly took great pleasure in Laura's blogs. Her father commented: *“Laura, What you lack in craft skills you more than compensate for with your writing genius! Your enthusiasm for people and making a difference comes in handy, too. Keep up the great work! Love, Dad.”* Laura's mother commented: *“As your mother I can attest to your lack of crafting talent, but I know that what you lack in creativity you make up for in organization and enthusiasm! You are lucky to have talented people to turn your “kits” into art!”*

Provide a platform for partners: Occasionally, Fellows will hand their blog platform over to a host. Ojok Patrick from the GDPU used the blogs of Fellow Dane Macri to provide a heart-felt account of what it means to have a disability in Uganda: *“I became disabled when I was a kid. The cause of my disability was the administration of an injection on my nerves by medical personnel when I got malaria when I was 2 years old. I am married man and now have two children; I also support two other children who are orphans. They are children of our close relative and have no place to stay so we agreed to take care of them. To be honest there is nothing impossible in this world, no matter what physical challenge you may have. If you are confident and believe in yourself you can also achieve like others have achieved. Apwoyo matek. (Thank you).”*

Comments are one measure of effective blogs, and the 2012 blogs attracted 1040 comments. Adam Kruse attracted 16 comments with one blog which described a horrific beating of a woman on board a boat. Several host organizations also took the opportunity to comment on the blogs of their Fellows. After Mallory Minter asked in a blog why IPHR was providing legal aid for children who had participated in the Rwandan genocide, her supervisor Elvis Mbemba commented: *“Why defend a rapist? Simply because at IPHR we believe that every human being has a right to a fair trial. This is called justice!”*

2012 was also unusual for the number of Fellows who commented on each other's blogs. This was usually done out of a sense of solidarity, but Fellows Thayer Hastings in Jerusalem, and Nur Arafah in Ramallah also used blogs to exchange information about the controversy over Israeli textbooks.

The 2012 blogs also showed that influential outsiders were following the work of Fellows closely. Nina Sharp, an official at the US embassy in Vilnius, commented on her visit to the Vilnius weavers. Stephanie, a Canadian woman with disability, entered a moving comment about Irene, a woman with disability in Uganda, after Irene was profiled by Peace Fellow Dane Macri: "*Dane, give Irene a big hug for me. When I first lost the ability to walk, I faced everything on my own. My spouse ignored what had happened and me. I am proud of Irene and what she has done with herself and her life. She is truly an inspiration to me.*"

Comments are also a testament to strong writing. One reader, from the [Single Mothers Funding Charity](#), replied to Rachel Palmer's powerful blog about a child beggar in Nepal: "*Normally I do not read post on blogs, but I would like to say that this write-up very forced me to check out and do so! Your writing taste has surprised me. Thank you, very great article.*" Another reader, Skye, wrote about the same blog: "*Hello, thank you for an incredibly insightful weblog, I would not routinely submit comments but valued your post therefore thought I would say thanks.*"

Visual

AP relies heavily on video and photos in telling the story of partners and their campaigns, and provided a day of training for Fellows in May 2012.

Videos: 2012 Fellows produced 44 videos. Heather Webb (7 videos) and Laura McAdams (6 videos) were the most prolific. The most popular video from 2012 was "*Freed from the Burden of Uterine Prolapse: Ratna Khadika Post-Surgery*" by Heather Webb, with 1,922 views. Several Fellows also produced a 'Day in the Life' video: Adam Kruse; Heather Webb; Oluwatooni Akanni; Laura McAdams; Alicia Evangelides; Mathew Becker; and Jesse Cottrell.

Profiles: Fellows produced 58 illustrated profiles in 2012. Oluwatooni Akanni, in Uganda, produced almost 20 profiles of families that had suffered from child sacrifice.

Photos: Fellows took 3,399 photos in 2012. Matthew Becker's photos of the river gypsies in Bangladesh received the most views (1035). Susan Craig-Greene produced striking photos of the Travellers at Dale Farm, before, during and after their eviction. Elise Filo's photos of the Lithuanian weavers were almost glamorous and stood in contrast to the dour and depressed images associated with Roma.

Social media: All Fellows posted to their own Facebook pages. Several Fellows, including Laura MacAdams in Morocco, set up a Facebook page for their hosts and contacted their network to "like" the page.

6. Disseminating Information

AP helps partners to develop online tools. AP also publishes their content on the AP website and online platforms (Flickr, YouTube etc).

IT training: AP Fellows provided shoulder to shoulder training for 18 officials from 10 partner organizations: Khadija Ouchkak (Ain Leuh); Naima Mamer (Ain Leuh); Rachida Ghanim (Ain Leuh); Jamila and Khadija Rachidi (Ain Leuh); Sabin Baributsa (IPHR, Rwanda); Maya Sharma (Vikalp); Phionah (KIWOI, Uganda); Stephen Ole Mejer and Rosaline Ntaiya (KCE, Kenya); Tran Thi Xuam Dung, Nguyen Thi Thuy Nga, Ngyuen Thanh Hong, and Ngyuen Thuy Dung (AEPD, Vietnam); Shahed Kayes (Subornogram, Bangladesh); Rahul Frsica (BERDO, Bangladesh); Patricia Owir (GDPU Uganda); and Sunita Maharjan (WRRP, Nepal).

AP online: According to Google Analytics 138,783 visitors visited the AP website in 2012. By the end of the year, AP's Flickr pages had attracted just over 900,000 views. 343,558 visitors had visited AP's YouTube pages. AP had produced 1,943 tweets and attracted 669 followers by the end of 2012.

Dissemination to the local media: Several Fellows placed articles in the local press. Mathew Becker, in Bangladesh, placed an article about his host, Subornogram, in the Chinese agency Xinhua. Heather Webb, in Nepal, placed an opinion piece in [Kantipur online](#). Hastings Thayer produced several articles for the Alternative Information Center's online news service:

“Palestinian facilities battling gender violence face similar challenges across divide” (8 August 2012)

[“Palestinians endure checkpoints to enter Jerusalem during Ramadan”](#) (13 August 2012)

[“Palestine’s big sister South Africa: precedents and pitfalls”](#) (23 August 2012)

[“Rachel Corrie lawsuit: an example of international solidarity,”](#) (27 August 2012)

[“INTERVIEW: Family of hunger-striking Samer Issawi”](#) (13 October 2012)

[“Lacking legitimacy, West Bank elections proceed”](#) (21 October 2012)

[“Olives and the cost of Israel’s occupation”](#) (23 October 2012)

7. Advocacy Quilting

During 2012, AP stepped up efforts to use advocacy quilts to tell the story of partners. This culminated in a major exhibition at the United Nations on March 8. The year ended with advocacy quilting firmly integrated into AP's toolkit of services.

Expanding the model: The idea for advocacy quilting was inspired by AP's work with the BOSFAM weavers in Bosnia, who used carpets to commemorate relatives lost in the 1995 Srebrenica massacre. In 2008, the Bosnian example was followed by the Guatemalan community of Rio Negro, which also suffered from massacres in 1982. Two years later, in 2010, Peace fellows Ned Meerdink and Sylvie Bisangwa (herself a refugee from the Rwandan genocide) took the model to the DRC Congo, and returned with 120 embroidered tiles (squares) made by survivors of war rape. These were assembled into six quilts by expert weavers in Michigan and Maryland. By the end of 2011, AP was holding 14 advocacy quilts for partners.

During 2012 eight AP partner organizations produced tiles for nine quilts. They were: Roma weavers in Vilnius, Lithuania; wastepickers in Delhi; Mayan Indians in Belize; members of a microcredit group in Bangladesh that included blind; weavers from Ain Leuh in Morocco; freed child workers in Nepal; families who lost children to sacrifice in Uganda; women who suffered disability in Vietnam.

Means of expression: The message carried by advocacy quilts can be personal or political. Several of the tiles from Vietnam made the case for anticipating the impact of climate change on people with disability. One deeply poignant tile from Nepal showed a girl at work and carried the words: *“I have to always cook and they will scolding me. I cannot study nicely. Oh God, help me.”* No quilt carried a grimmer message than the Child Protection Quilt from Uganda. The tiles were made by families that had lost children to sacrifice. One tile was painted by Vikki Labeja, whose brother Gideon was kidnapped and murdered by a witch doctor. On a much lighter note, the Roma artists from Vilnius produced several charming embroidered tiles to illustrate a love story.

Preserving culture: Quilting preserves cultural traditions that may be under threat. This was certainly the case with the Moroccan Amazigh Quilt, made by the Ain Leuh cooperative. This quilt drew on Berber designs that predated the arrival of Arabic in Morocco. Peace Fellow Laura McAdams noted this link between weaving and the preservation of Berber culture in her blogs: *“The cooperative is perhaps the only place I’ve heard the women speaking in Tamazight. Jamila, one of the younger members of the cooperative, showed me how dried pomegranate rinds are crushed into a powder to be used later as a yellow wool dye. She made sure I knew that this was a technique invented by rural women generations ago. To me, it seems like the one place where the women can express pride in their Amazigh heritage is at the loom.”*

Peace Fellows and Quilts: Peace Fellows have been a catalyst for advocacy quilts ever since Yvette Barnes, a student at the Georgetown School of Business, helped the weavers from Bosfam in Bosnia to produce their first memorial quilt in 2006. Nine fellows worked on advocacy quilts in 2012: Rachel McAdams (Ain Leuh, Morocco); Alicia Evangelides (Vikalp, India); Elise Filo (Lithuania); Rachel Palmer and Alex Kelly (BASE, Nepal); Tooni Akanni (Gideo, Uganda); Adam Kruse (BERDO, Bangladesh; Jesse Cottrell (AEPD, Vietnam); Laura Burns (SATIIM, Belize).

Laura Burns was one of several Fellows who reported on the process: *“Last Friday came with the good news that Paulina and her group were excited to join the project. Ever since, I’ve been purchasing the various materials needed to ensure these women can produce something spectacular, including tailor’s chalk, fabric, frames, needles, and beautiful threads. My coworkers have been a mix of supportive and amused, stopping by every few minutes to see how I am getting on. Even the geckos in the office have been laughing at me as I struggle to measure, cut, and draw. At one point this week, as I held up yet another poorly drawn orchid, fellow intern Mari just laughed, and then took the project into her own hands. I will forever be grateful for her quilting expertise!”*

Laura’s blog shows how Fellows can create demand for quilting by their sheer enthusiasm, and also provide the logistical support that will steer the project through to success. This experience has turned many Fellows from quilt skeptics to enthusiasts.

Building a Constituency: Quilting brings women together, across cultures and continents. All of the tiles produced in 2012 were assembled into quilts in the US, and many of the US quilters learned a lot from

being exposed to these very serious issues. These craftswomen are profiled on the AP website and we are deeply grateful to them all.

Alison Wilbur assembled the Delhi Wastepicker quilt at home in Rhode Island, and also put the finishing touches to the Romano Trajo quilt from Lithuania. Barbara Barber, also from Rhode Island, assembled the Belize Orchid quilt. Onalie Gagliano, who assembled one of the two Maasai quilts in 2011, again helped out in 2012 by assembling one of the two child labor quilts from Nepal. Susan Louis in New York assembled the second Nepal Love Blanket.

Bobbi Fitsimmons and Sharon Sisson, from the Swan Lake Quilt Guild in Sumter North Carolina, re-assembled the Gracania quilt when it showed signs of wear and tear. Kathy Springer, in Indianapolis, another long-time AP friend, assembled the Amazigh quilt from Morocco, while Carol Grimstad, also from Indianapolis completed the Bangladesh microcredit quilt. The Vietnam Disability Quilt was assembled by AP's own Karin Orr, with her aunt Teresa Orr and Nancy Evans from Columbia. Most of these skilled craftswomen have now finished more than one AP quilt, and we look forward to a long and fruitful partnership.

Exhibitions: Quilts offer AP a way to promote the work of the partner organizations that made them. In 2012, two of the Nepal quilts were shipped to Norway, to feature in a long-running exhibition at Stavanger University. Two of the Congolese Ahadi quilts were exhibited at Wisconsin University.

Eleven quilts were shown at the UN on March 8 – International Women's Day – in the largest showing of advocacy quilts to date. The event was sponsored jointly by AP, the UN Population Fund and the Quilt Challenge, headed by Alison Wilbur. The exhibition was set up in the entrance to the UN headquarters and opened by four distinguished speakers: [Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin](#), Executive Director of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA); [Rosemary A. DiCarlo](#), Deputy US Ambassador to the UN; [Margot Wallstrom](#), the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict; and [Marceline Kongolo](#), 24, the founder of AP's Congolese partner, SOS Femmes en Danger (SOSFED). Two of the quilts on display were embroidered in the Congo by survivors of sexual violence at an SOSFED center. Marceline paid them tribute in her speech: "*I work with extraordinary women,*" she said. "*They have been subjected to sexual attacks that are cruel and serious. But they have had the courage to testify to their pain by designing the shocking images that you see before you tonight.*"

AP posted photos from the event on Flickr, and also produced greeting cards which sold at the UN gift shop. Over 150 visitors attended the reception and by the time the exhibition closed in April it had been seen by 80,000 visitors. They included the curator of the human rights gallery at Kean University, who issued an invitation to hold the exhibition at the university in 2013. Many visitors left simple but moving comments in the visitor's book. "*Your quilts are amazing. Women really are the fabric,*" wrote Brooke. Another visitor commented: "*Your strength and message touched my soul.*"

Looking Ahead: By the end of 2012 it was clear that advocacy quilting has enormous appeal for women who face discrimination – and that formal training is not needed to produce fine works of art. The range of styles in 2012 was breathtaking – from masterful embroidery in Belize to crude jottings in Nepal. In the hands of experts from the north, all came to life in a wondrous manner. During 2012, however, we

experienced a first failure in western India, where tribal women were unable to produce a quilt featuring Pithora art.

The big question left by 2012 was – what next? Produce more quilts? Hold more exhibitions? Raise funds for the quilters? Two partners argued for income generation and produced samples. The Lithuanian artists produced several small woven panels and SOSFED produced several sample bags carrying embroidery. AP took the bags to Diane Von Furstenberg, who showed them to her designer. His reaction was enthusiastic.

8. Building an International Constituency

Much of AP's outreach work for partners in 2012 focused on publicizing the partnership with SOSFED in the Congo, and promoting the fellowship program at universities.

University outreach: AP's Executive Director made presentations at the following universities: SIPA/Columbia University; the Fletcher School at Tufts University; the University of Maryland; Georgetown University; New York University.

Congo networking: AP organized a 3-week visit to the US by Marceline Kongolo, the head of SOSFED, and introduced her to a wide range of diplomatic and other contacts. This outreach produced two grants for SOSFED, worth \$34,500.

- American University (March 5)
- Diane Von Furstenberg (March 8)
- UNFPA officials, including Dr Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director, (March 8)
- UN Women (March 9)
- UN DPKO (March 9)
- UN Special Representative on Armed Sexual Violence (March 9)
- Open society (March 9)
- Staff of Senator Barbara Boxer (March 10)
- US State Department (March 15)
- UNFPA Washington office - meeting of experts (March 15) The CSIS African program; State Department; International Rescue Committee; Summit Foundation; UN Foundation; Wallace Foundation; Fund for Human Rights; International Women's Health Coalition; Women Thrive Worldwide; Feminist Majority Foundation; Family Violence Prevention Fund.
- AP Board members (March 15)
- Staff of Ambassador Melanne Verveer (March 16)
- Vital Voices, where Ms Kongolo was measured for her photo (March 16)
- National Endowment for Democracy (March 17)
- World Bank Human Rights Fund (March 17)
- Diplomatic meetings with the German mission to the UN; the German embassy (Washington); the Dutch embassy (Washington); The Friedrich Ebert Foundation (Washington).

Providing integrated treatment for fistula and uterine prolapse: On September 27, UNFPA organized a well-attended meeting at the Wilson Center in Washington. One of the panelists, Dr Lauri Romanzi, argued that uterine prolapse posed a major threat to women and urged agencies to invest in a solution. AP produced a press release on the meeting, and also exhibited two Nepal quilts.

Outreach on armed sexual violence and through the mainstream media: AP's Iain Guest attended two discussions on war rape at the World Bank, and followed up by publishing an opinion piece in the London Guardian on November 21, arguing that armed rape remains a major threat to women in the Congo.

9. Fundraising

AP raised **\$183,665** for partner organizations in 2012, directly (through grants) and indirectly (through Peace Fellows, who are funded by AP and the Fellows themselves).

Direct fundraising - \$126,665

Afghan Women's Network (Afghanistan) - \$24, SOS Femmes en Danger (Democratic Republic of the Congo) - \$112,670; Oruj Learning Center (Afghanistan) - \$3,530; SATIIM (Belize) - \$582; BOSFAM (Bosnia) - \$388; Backward Society Education (Nepal) - \$700; Home for Human Rights (Sri Lanka) - \$8771

Indirect - \$57,000

Belize - \$3000; Rwanda - \$3000; Lithuania - \$3000; Israel/Palestine - \$6000; Bangladesh - \$6000; India - \$3000; Kenya - \$3,000; Uganda - \$9,000; Nepal - \$9,000; Vietnam - \$3,000; Bosnia - \$3,000; Canada - \$3,000; Morocco- \$3000.

As in previous years, the Jennifer Jessica Cohen foundation gave generously to AP Fellows, providing a total of 5 grants. America's Unofficial Ambassadors also provided grants to Laura McAdams in Morocco and Adam Kruse in Bangladesh. Our thanks to AP Board members Scott Allen and Bayo Oyewole, who provided room and board to visiting Fellows for the annual AP training.

10. Taking Action for Social Justice

AP helps partners to take action against the causes of their disempowerment. This begins with telling the story, and eventually develops into a full campaign. After two to three years, this campaign should start to produce a larger impact on society, by changing laws and influencing policy. With limited resources, AP is only able to support a limited number of campaigns at any one time. Still, all Fellows should in principle work on a long-term program. AP will then work with the organization to seek funding and implement the program.

10.1 Reducing Exposure to Sexual Violence in DRC

The goal of this campaign, launched in 2010, is to protect women in South Kivu from war rape. It is managed jointly by AP's partner, SOS Femmes en Danger, in the DRC and by AP in Washington. SOSFED runs two centers in DRC where survivors can recover and return home. AP raises funds for the program and promotes SOSFED internationally. AP has recruited four Peace Fellows to work at SOSFED since 2010 and made three evaluation trips to DRC in 2012. The program has 5 major goals:

Recovery: SOSFED offers survivors the chance to recover in the company of other women at two centers in Mboko village and Fizi Town. SOSFED took in 74 women to the Mboko center in 2012, and 94 at the Fizi Center. Over three months, these beneficiaries received food, lodging, psychosocial support, and skills-

training (sewing and agriculture). Those with special needs (psychosocial or medical) received special support or were referred to a local hospital.

Return and Reintegration: Many of the women who sought refuge at the SOSFED centers were abandoned by their husbands, adding to their trauma. SOSFED addresses this by accompanying the women home and helping them to reunite with their families. By the end of 2012, all but two of the 148 women were reunited with their husbands. In addition, each returnee receives \$20. A monitoring mission by AP in August found that many had used the money to invest for the future, by renting land or buying produce for resale.

Risk reduction: Most of the survivors were attacked when they travelled long distances in search of cooking fuel, water, or cultivation. As a result, the project has invested in services which reduce the pressure on women to travel, and thus reduced their exposure to war rape. By 2012, SOSFED had installed a manioc mill and water well near the Mboko center that were used by hundreds of families. Similar plans were afoot for the second center, in Fizi Town. It is still too soon to say whether these measures have reduced the overall level of sexual violence, but the rate of attacks appears to be falling around Mboko, and village chiefs have told SOSFED that they see respect growing for women's rights in their villages. Only one of the 598 beneficiaries since 2010 has suffered a repeat attack after returning home.

Strengthen SOSFED: Between 2010 and 2012, SOSFED's budget grew from less than \$10,000 to over \$150,000. The organization's own capacity also expanded. First, the acquisition of a car facilitated the transport of material and people to and from the centers. Second, the SOSFED field team gained in skills and experience. Third, SOSFED hired an accountant. Fourth, Marceline Kongolo, the founder and leader of SOSFED, acquired an international profile when she opened the March 8 exhibition of advocacy quilts at the UN. Finally, SOSFED is lucky in its Board of Directors, who provide strong governance and fill gaps in the budget. Many improvements need to be made if SOSFED is to take over management of the project by end-2013. But 2012 was a strong year.

Defining the model: AP produced a 30-page report, web pages, news bulletins, and opinion pieces, which helped to promote the SOSFED program. Between 2010 and 2012, AP also produced 12 videos that attracted over 10,000 views in 2012. AP organized 18 meetings for Ms Kongolo in the US during her visit in March, and exhibited the Ahadi quilts on several occasions in the US.

Fundraising: AP's outreach produced \$36,000 of new funding for SOSFED, including \$21,000 from the Government of Liechtenstein and \$15,000 from Diane Von Furstenberg. This will build a sustainable donor base for the future.

These were important achievements, given that South Kivu is one of the most insecure regions of the eastern DRC. Indeed, it is to be hoped that the model developed by SOSFED, the Congolese partner, could hold out hope for women in all war zones.

10.2 Supporting Roma Quilting in Lithuania

During 2012, AP initiated a new quilting project with Roma women in Lithuania, using 6,000 Euros from a 2011 quilting project with the Council of Europe. Ana Rozanova, a Roma from Lithuania who was on leave from the Council, managed the program from Vilnius. Ana and AP raised another \$10,000 for the project

from the Open Society Foundation in Hungary, and AP recruited a Peace Fellow, Elise Filo, to work in Lithuania. Elise had worked with the European Roma Rights Center.

The project's goal was to help women from the Roma Cultural Center in Vilnius to produce an advocacy quilt. The hope was that the quilt would be shown at cultural events in Lithuania and help the artists integrate into the city's cultural life. Ana and Elise found seven willing volunteers. Working from downtown Vilnius, with help from a local artist, they produced a series of delightful tiles that told a love story. They also produced a number of small wall hangings for sale in the US. Several visitors from the US embassy and the government came by to watch the sessions.

During her fellowship, Elise also persuaded the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania to recognize the International Roma Holocaust Remembrance Day. Elise produced profiles and photos on the Lithuanian artists, and brought their tiles back to the US for assembly by quilters. The quilt then passed to Alison Wilbur, in Rhode Island to be finished. It was ready to be entered in the Kean exhibition in December 2012.

10.3 Combating Child Labor in Nepal

During 2012, AP made a major investment in helping a Nepali partner, Backward Society Education, to develop a program on child labor. BASE is a large organization and implements over 15 projects, with support from donors. BASE has also introduced the model of child friendly villages to Nepal. In spite of this, no donor funds BASE to work on child labor.

AP has partnered with BASE since 2008. Kan Yan, the first Fellow to work at BASE produced a documentary which still attracts views and funds. The two 2010 Fellows produced the first of several Love Blankets, made by children. Chantal and Maelanny, who followed in 2011, produced another two Blankets. Rachel Palmer and Alex Kelly, the 2012 Peace Fellows, also worked with free domestic workers to produce tiles for another two Blankets. These were assembled in the US.

Dilli Chaudhury, the founder of BASE, visited Washington at the end of 2011 to explore a long-term program on child labor. AP developed a concept paper which was well received by donors. Based on this, AP's Director Iain Guest and Board member Scott Allen visited Nepal in the spring of 2012 and spent three weeks developing a program with BASE. This set five main program goals, culminating in the creation of a National Commission on Child Labor. Peace Fellows Rachel Palmer and Alex Kelly began to develop the first component, a database of working children and employers, in the summer of 2012. Building on their work, AP then revised the proposal and submitted it to the US Department of Labor in early 2013.

10.4 Protecting the Environment from Plastic in Uganda

AP began working with the Kinawataka Women Initiatives (KIWOI) in the summer of 2011. Peace Fellow Scarlett Chidgey helped KIWOI to weave a quilt out of recycled straws, which has been widely exhibited in the US. In 2012, KIWOI asked AP to take this a step further and develop a pilot project to recycle plastic in the Kinawataka slum.

Peace Fellow Katie Hoffman and KIWOI selected two local supermarkets, and asked them to stop giving out plastic bags. In return, KIWOI offered the stores 100 straw bags, made by KIWOI. The shops distributed the bags to customers who shopped regularly and in bulk. They also kept a record of customers who received a bag. By the time Katie left Uganda, the shops had given out 60 bags. Katie also conducted a survey of customers, and identify other stores in the neighborhood that might be willing to participate.

10.5 Ending Child Sacrifice in Uganda

The Gideon Foundation was launched by Santos Labeja in memory of his son, Gideon, who was murdered by a witch doctor. His body was then sold to a developer, to be buried in the foundations of a building. AP began working with Gideon in 2011, when AP sent a Peace Fellow and visited Gideon. The decision was taken to play down the sensational nature of the crime, and focus instead on helping the Foundation to build a stronger organization, less dependent on Santos.

In 2012, AP offered the model of advocacy quilting to the Foundation. Peace Fellow Tooni Akanni from Nigeria, worked with several families who had lost children to produce tiles and profile the artists. This created some severe logistical problems because the families were dispersed over a large area and also reticent about engaging in public activities. But Santos set the tone by producing a haunting image in the memory of his own son. Given the extreme sensitivity of this issue, the power of the witch doctors, and the need for AP not to be seen imposing from the outside, AP's input was limited to helping Gideon think through a long-term strategy. For a start, the law needed to be strengthened. Gideon had established good relations with parliamentarians and the police chief. Parliament then drew up a draft law in 2012. But the campaign faced an uphill battle. Many witch doctors were powerful and close to the local police.

10.6 Accessible Toilets in Uganda

During 2012, AP helped the GDPU in northern Uganda to launch a campaign for accessible toilets that can be used by persons with a disability. During her fellowship with the GDPU in 2011, Peace Fellow Rebecca Scherpelz had produced powerful blogs about the scandalous lack of these basic facilities. Dane Macri from Canada, who followed Rebecca as the GDPU Fellow in 2012, contacted Handicap International (HI), which has extensive experience in project work. HI put up \$1,700 and identified a local builder. The district government and GDPU decided to build the first toilet at the public bus park and work began in late August. Unfortunately, the construction took longer than expected and several parts were stolen. The toilet was still not in use by the end of 2013. But this project demonstrated AP's capacity to act as a catalyst and trigger policy change.

10.7 Supporting Survivors of the Srebrenica Massacre in Bosnia

AP's long-time Bosnian partner, BOSFAM, continued to advocate for justice and accountability for survivors of the Srebrenica massacre. Many BOSFAM members are still trying to account for their lost relatives, and on July 11, 2012 they buried the remains of Alem Paric, who was 17 when he swept up in the chaos at Srebrenica and killed. AP continued to support BOSFAM's broad agenda, which is to ensure that the Srebrenica massacre is never forgotten. AP continues to use the Srebrenica Memorial quilts at exhibitions in the US.

The main focus for BOSFAM and AP in 2012 swung back to helping the women of BOSFAM earn a living from their weaving. In Tuzla, BOSFAM organized a fashion show to draw attention to their designs and

Peace Fellow Claire Noone revamped the BOSFAM website and online shop. Parallel to this, BOSFAM continued to operate a center in Srebrenica where women could meet, socialize, and train each other in weaving. It was difficult to envisage an ambitious long-term agenda, because BOSFAM remained short of funds and dependent on the energy of Beba Hadzic. But the center continues to hold out the best hope of meeting AP's original design, for a place where Muslim and Serb women could meet.

10.8 Confronting Uterine Prolapse in Nepal

AP continued to support the efforts of the Women's Reproductive Rights Program (WRRP) to combat the scourge of uterine prolapse, which affects an estimated 600,000 women in Nepal. This campaign was launched in 2010 and was described in detail in the 20110 Annual Report. AP first publicized the threat from prolapse in 2008 and has remained committed to its eradication ever since. One direct outcome from this work was a loose earmark in the 2012 and 2013 US foreign aid budgets.

AP's work on prolapsed took two different forms in 2012. In Nepal, Peace Fellow Heather Webb focused on early marriage as a risk factor behind prolapse. Heather examined different aspects of early marriage in her blogs and wrote a strong editorial for the influential online paper, *Kantipuronline*. In Washington, AP also promoted the international campaign against early marriage with a new bulletin on October 11, 2012. This was part of a large lobbying effort that produced a commitment of \$20 million from the UNFPA.

Also in Washington, AP continued to explore the outlines of a new strategy to break down USAID's reluctance to work on prolapse. AP enlisted the help of Lauri Romanzi, a distinguished professor and gynecologist with wide experience of Africa and Asia. Based on her work in West Africa, Professor Romanzi was convinced that fistula was receiving favored treatment from aid agencies, and argued that all pelvic floor disorders – fistula, prolapse, incontinence – should benefit from integrated treatment. She made this case at an important panel discussion along these lines at the Wilson Center in Washington. One outcome from 2012 was a commitment from the Fistula Foundation to explore Professor Romanzi's ideas.

10.9 The Berber Weavers of Ain Leuh, Morocco

AP's partnership with the weaving cooperative at Ain Leuh began on a high note in 2012. Peace Fellow Laura McAdams helped the weavers to tell their story through her blogs, photos and several videos. She also helped their business, by updating the Ain Leuh website, and producing an online catalog. The cooperative secured their first-ever online sale before Laura left. Finally, Laura also helped the cooperative produce a series of elegant tiles for an advocacy quilt.

10.10 Helping Tribal Women in India

AP's partnership with the Vikalp women's group in Gujarat, India, focused mainly on Vikalp's efforts to provide legal recourse to tribal women in 2012. Two AP Fellows helped Vikalp with its LGBTI work in 2011, but both organizations decided that this needs to be handled with considerable discretion.

AP and Vikalp set three main goals for 2012: first, describe the nature of the legal challenge facing tribal women, and Vikalp's response; and second, to identify sources of funding. Peace Fellow Alicia Evangelides produced strong blogs that drove home the isolation of tribal women. Many tribal husbands gamble away the family mortgage (eg to land). Tribal women are also deprived on their inheritance. But it is hard for them to claim legal redress from a legal system that is conducted in Gujarati and operates far from the

villages. Faced by this, Vikalp has established a cooperative for tribal women, Sakhi Sanghathan, which undertakes agricultural projects and elects tribal women to serve on two law courts, the Nari Adalat and the Mahila Panch. These offer tribal families a way to resolve domestic disputes, and are so respected that men, too, take advantage of the service. Over 90% of the judgments are respected. Alicia's first goal was to explain this, for the Vikalp and AP websites. She also organized painting sessions, at which tribal women produced paintings for an advocacy quilt.

10.11 Survivors of War in Vietnam

2012 was the fifth year of AP's partnership with the Association for the Empowerment of People with Disabilities (AEPD) in Quang Binh province Vietnam. AEPD works with survivors of landmines and other remnants of the Vietnam War (UXOs, Agent Orange). In 2012, AP asked Peace Fellow Jesse Cottrell to explore two components of AEPD's program in depth – Agent Orange and the impact of climate change on persons with disability. Jesse produced a powerful video film – the Siblings Phan – on two brothers who were struck down by dioxin poisoning, caused by Agent Orange. Jesse also helped two craftswomen, Cao Thi Men and Long Ngru, to produce tiles for an advocacy quilt. Several of the tiles describe the impact of climate change on persons with disability.

10.12 Justice for the Wastepickers of Delhi

AP's partner in Delhi, the Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group, had a banner year in 2012, producing several strong newsletters, placing pieces in the media, and winning important awards:

- **Opinion pieces:** The LA Times ran a piece on Chintan on April 27 2012. Chintan's work was recognized in 24 articles in the Indian media, including major outlets like the Hindustan Times.
- **Research:** A research paper by Chintan found that the Ohkla waste to energy plant in Delhi had undermined the livelihood of thousands of waste-pickers.
- **Awards:** On March 9 2012 Bharati Chaturvedi, the director of Chintan, received the first Innovation Award from US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Mrs Clinton paid generous tribute to Chintan: *"Chintan's efforts have reached more than 20,000 waste pickers in India in the past five years. More than 2,000 children have been pulled out of the trash heaps and put on a path toward education and opportunity. Chintan's work in advocacy and research has expanded beyond local concerns and is helping change the way we understand informal labor sectors around the world. It is also a stark reminder about why we must protect and advocate for the rights of workers to organize. In advanced economies, it is sometimes easy to forget what used to happen in our own factories, on our own shop floors, in so many industries where, yes, children were exploited and people's working conditions were dreadful So, for all of these reasons, it is a pleasure to welcome Chintan's founder, Bharati Chaturvedi. Thank you so much, Bharati."*

10.13 Supporting the Blind in Bangladesh

After a delay of one year, AP again recruited a Peace Fellow, Adam Kruse, to work with the Blind Education Rehabilitation and Development Organization (BERDO) in Bangladesh. This partnership began in 2007, and AP is particularly interested in BERDO's innovative microcredit program for the blind, which loans to groups of around 20 women. Each group comprises blind and non-blind.

BERDO loaned to 37 groups, totaling 409 individuals, in the southern province of Barisal in 2012. AP asked Adam to analyze the model, with a view to developing a long-term program in the future. Adam

wrote several strong blogs, and also worked with a group of artisans to produce embroidered tiles for an advocacy quilt. Each tile told, through design, how the beneficiary was using her BERDO loan.

10.14 Defeat at Dale Farm

Throughout 2012, the Travellers of Dale Farm in southeast England continued to live by the side of the road, opposite their former homes which were bulldozed in October 2011. The Basildon Council has promised to find new land for Roma plots, but a year later no land has been opened. AP remained committed to the Travellers during 2012. Former Peace Fellow Susan Craig-Greene continued to blog and tweet about their plight, and made regular visits to offer advice, pick up mail, and transport children to the local school. While the eviction of the Travellers was a bitter blow, their brave campaign produced many positive outcomes, including a change in British law towards minorities.

11. Fellows for Peace

a) Deployment

AP deployed 19 Peace Fellows to work with partner organizations in 15 countries in 2012. AP received 111 applications, from 46 universities. As in past years, the 2012 Fellows had impressive credentials. Laura McAdams (Ain Leuh, Morocco) had not only worked in Morocco – she even spoke Amizigh. Alex Kelly (BASE, Nepal) had worked for the Peace Corps in El Salvador. Rachel Palmer (BASE, Nepal) was a former Fulbright Fellow in Indonesia. Claire Noone (BOSFAM) had worked in Bosnia. Elise Filo (Roma, Lithuania) worked for the European Roma Rights Center in Hungary.

Africa

- Kenya: Megan Orr (University of California) *Kakenya's School of Excellence*
- Rwanda: Mallory Minter (Tufts/Fletcher) *Initiatives for Peace and Human Rights*
- Uganda: Dane Macri (Windsor) *The Gulu Disabled Persons Union* Katie Hoffman (Georgetown University) *Kinawataka Women's Initiatives* Oluwatooni Akanni (New York University) *The Gideon Foundation*

Asia

- Bangladesh: Adam Kruse (Luther) *Blind Education and Rehabilitation Organization*; Matthew Becker (New York University) *Subornogram Foundation*
- India: Alicia Evangelides (Columbia University) *Vikalp Women's Group*
- Nepal: Alex Kelly (Georgetown University) *Backward Society Education*; Heather Webb (New York University) *Women's Reproductive Rights Program*; Rachel Palmer (Michigan) *Backward Society Education*
- Vietnam: Jesse Cottrell (Columbia University) *Association for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities*.

Europe and the Middle East

- Bosnia: Claire Noone (University of Denver) *Bosnian Family – Bosfam*
- Morocco: Laura McAdams (University of Washington) *Ain Leuh Weaver's Cooperative*

- Lithuania: Elise Filo (UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute) *Roma Community Center*
- Israel and the Palestinian Territories: Nur Arafah (Columbia University) *Democracy and Workers Rights Center*; Thayer Hastings (University of Washington) *Alternative Information Center*
- United Kingdom: Susan Craig-Greene (Essex University); *Dale Farm Housing Association*.

Latin America

- Belize: Laura Burns (George Washington University and Fletcher/Tufts) *Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management*

North America

- Canada: Caroline Risacher (University of Strasbourg) *Association for the Defense of Azerbaijani Political Prisoners in Iran*

b) Long-term fellows

Four fellows spent more than the three months with their hosts. **Susan Craig-Greene** has volunteered with the Travellers at Dale Farm since 2011. She lives close to the settlement and services inquiries from the Travellers about practical issues and needs. Susan has tended to steer clear of political lobbying and kept a low profile during the actual eviction in October 2011. But her photos were strikingly good and her blogs offered the only consistent commentary on the run-up and aftermath of the 2011 eviction. **Heather Webb** graduated from NYU Law School in May 2012 and was able to spend 5 months at the WRRP. **Claire Noone** also spent 5 months in Bosnia, although she was forced to return briefly to the US for a family emergency. Claire has made a commitment to sell BOSFAM's knitted goods in the US. **Megan Orr** spent the year at Kakenya's Center of Excellence in Kenya, and received a salary from KCE.

c) How They Lived

AP helps Fellows to prepare for the vicissitudes of working in unstable situations, but 2012 was notable for several unexpected medical emergencies. Mathew Becker (BERDO Bangladesh) developed an inflamed appendix and had to undergo an emergency operation in Bangladesh. We were deeply grateful to the US embassy in Dhaka for recommending a hospital and monitoring Mathew's condition. Tooni Akanni (Gideon, Uganda) contracted malaria and also moved to Entebbe at news an Ebola scare. Katie Hoffman (KIWOI, Uganda) also left the country earlier because of the Ebola scare. Dane Macri (GDPU, Uganda) spent a week in hospital. These incidents again underscored the importance of AP's mandatory medical insurance policy for Fellows.

Five Fellows produced a Day in the Life video - Laura, Tooni, Adam, Alicia, and Heather. These make for good viewing. Another feature of the 2012 cohort was the number who followed the blogs of other Fellows and left a comment. Alicia, Mallory and Heather all offered repeated reassurance to their fellow bloggers. When Mathew Becker fell ill in Bangladesh, Adam Kruse travelled up from the south of Bangladesh to be at his bedside in the Dhaka hospital. Alicia visited Rachel and Alex in Nepal. These friendships were forged at the training in Washington and were a testament to the skill with which Karin Orr had recruited Fellows.

Peace Fellow Claire Noone was [profiled in the local online paper](#) for Grand Junction, Colorado, before she left for Bosnia.

d) Themes and work

Fellows played an important role in developing the campaigns described above in chapter 10. Quilting was also popular, because it allowed Fellows to produce something tangible and valued: as noted above, ten Fellows worked on quilts and all described the work in their blogs. Disability was another cross-cutting issue, and three Fellows helped the blind in Bangladesh, and persons who were damaged by the wars in northern Uganda and Vietnam. Three Fellows - in Nepal and Palestine – blogged about child labor. Elise Filo in Lithuania, and Claire Noone in Bosnia, wrote poignant blogs about genocide. Elise remembered Roma Holocaust day on August 4, and Claire was at the side of survivors of the Srebrenica massacre on July 11 to observe the 17th anniversary of the massacre.

e) The Impact of Fellowships

We received more proof of the value of Fellowships, for partner organizations and the Fellows themselves. One Rwandan activist, from the [Amani Peace Perspective](#), commented on a final blog from Fellow Mallory Minter, in Rwanda: *“Hey Mallory, The people here will miss you too. It was a great pleasure meeting you and getting to know you. You’re such a inspiring person. We learned a bunch of stuff from you and I am sure you collected a great experience as well. Like you said, physical distance will not be the divider as we’ll surely keep in touch and work together. IPHR had an amazing intern this summer. We were lucky to have you. Keep being you! Like you said, Turikumwe for sure!”*

Fellows benefitted enormously from the experience of serving in the field, and understood that they had a unique ringside view on the human rights struggle. Laura McAdams, in Morocco, put it like this: *“I was invited into their homes and they shared their lives with me. I met their husbands, children, and in many cases, their extended families. I broke the Ramdan fast with them, celebrated a birth and a circumcision, mourned at a funeral, attended a birthday party and countless lunches. Each day I spent at the cooperative felt like time spent with friends as I got to know them and understand what was important to them. This summer has been one of great personal growth. I’ve learned how to shoot and edit simple videos and photos, update a website, and utilize social networking sites like Facebook and twitter for a cause.”*

AP asks all Fellows to evaluate their experience. Out of the 17 who answered, 6 gave the program 5 out of 5, and four Fellows gave it a grade of 4. Jesse Cottrell was one of several Fellows whose studies were affected by his fellowship: *“My time in Vietnam completely altered my course of study. As a consequence of the work I did with AEPD, my priorities shifted. My second year of classes at Columbia reflect that shift. (This) reflects an experience that is as enriching as I could have hoped for.”* This was echoed by Rachel Palmer, who wrote: *“I learned more than I ever anticipated about child labor, working for NGOs, challenges in combating human rights abuses, and legal challenges. This fellowship has been an overwhelmingly positive experience and has shaped my academic focus for next year. I plan to apply to graduate school this fall to study international relations and human rights, focusing on women and children's empowerment.”*

Fellows also learned important skills. Laura McAdams in Morocco wrote: *“This summer has been one of great personal growth. I’ve learned how to shoot and edit simple videos and photos, update a website, and utilize social networking sites like Facebook and twitter for a cause. More than this, though, I’ve come to understand more about Moroccan Amazigh culture. I lived with Khadija Oujkak, the cooperative’s treasurer. I am thankful to her for her patience and willingness to share with me her immense body of knowledge. She introduced me to each woman at the cooperative and made sure I was completely involved in the cooperative’s activities. Thanks to her and the women of the cooperative, I was able to improve my Moroccan dialect, learn some key Tamazight words, understand the importance of weavings to Amazigh culture and document traditional motifs used in Amazigh weavings. My experience in Morocco just further confirmed my desire to continue studying development in North Africa and the Middle East. I hope to someday make this my career.”*

AP hopes that the fellowship experience will change attitudes, and make Fellows more tolerant, sensitive to other cultures and also committed to service. In answering our questionnaire, 10 out of the 17 predicted they would be more patient and 9 said they were more culturally sensitive. Hints of this even appeared in blogs. Heidi emailed Adam Kruse in Bangladesh: *“Congratulations Adam! You survived, and persevered and grew! And now when you write about your next adventure, you can use another one: “. . .like a long stint alone in downtown Bangladesh.” May you find some peace in the mountains of Nepal. Remember to breathe.”*

12. People at AP

AP allows partners to draw on a small but committed group of staff, board members, and volunteers.

- **Staff (3):** Iain Guest, Karin Orr, Laura Jones.
- **Interns (6):** Sarah Allen, Erika Burdick, Laura Jones, Peter Dougherty, Thomas Arnold and Beth Wofford supported Fellows in the field from Washington and learned much in the process. Thomas, a German national on loan from the University of California State Fullerton, wrote the following to Peace Fellow Mathew Becker in Bangladesh: *“I am thankful for your blogs. The style you wrote your blog always had to make me smile but also taught me a lot about the Subornogram Foundation and Bangladesh. Thanks.”*
- **Board (8):** Scott Allen, Mary Louise Cohen, Teresa Crawford, Claudia Fritsche, Devin Greenleaf, Susan Martin, Bayo Oyewole and Iain Guest served on the AP Board and contributed generously. Scott visited Nepal with Iain Guest to help develop a program on child labor. Claudia helped to secure a grant from her government for SOSFED in the Congo. The AP Board met three times in 2012.
- **US Quilters (22):** 22 US quilters assembled, or re-assembled ten advocacy quilts in 2012. Our thanks to them all.
- **Peace Fellows (19):** 19 Fellows volunteered for field positions.

13. Feedback

Oluwatooni Akanni (New York University)(Child Sacrifice in Uganda): "This fellowship has been a life changing experience for me. I see the world in such a completely different way. My field experience can be a book all by itself. I learnt so much information in such a short time in Uganda. What I've learned within this fellowship is invaluable and priceless and it's something you can't learn from the books or in the classroom."

Matthew Becker (New York University)(River gypsies in Bangladesh): "It gave me a better understanding of the problems Bangladesh faces and also issues surrounding the way NGO's work there. I got a better idea of the importance of journalism in advocating for human rights and education related issues for the communities that many people don't pay attention to or concern themselves with."

Laura Burns (University of Denver)(Indigenous rights in Belize): "The best aspect of my fellowship was, by far, working with the women of Santa Teresa. I feel very fortunate that I was able to spend time with the women. I was reminded that what I enjoy most is really talking to people, listening to what they have to say, and sharing it with others. I was reminded that sometimes, it just takes a person willing to share that story, to make someone feel great."

Jesse Cottrell (Columbia University)(Landmine survivors in Vietnam): "My time in Vietnam completely altered my course of study at Columbia. As a consequence of the work I did with AEPD, my priorities shifted. My second year of classes at Columbia reflect that shift. Such a fundamental change in academic priorities reflects an experience that is as enriching as I could have hoped for."

Alicia Evangelides (Columbia University)(Tribal women's courts in India): "I learned a lot about the culture, legal system, and human rights situation in India. I also learned a lot about doing on the ground fieldwork, and about the challenges that come with that. This experience has made me more aware of the challenges facing grassroots NGOs, and of the challenges of putting development and social justice into practice."

Elise Filo (Roma Women in Lithuania): "Talk to everyone, and involve them too. It just may be from those you would least expect it that you will learn the most."

Thayer Hastings (University of Washington)(Israelis and Palestinians for Peace): "My fellowship with the AIC has exposed me to the application of grassroots organizing and information dissemination. AIC's advocacy work is natural, extremely well-connected and morally honed. I have had the opportunity to utilize the AIC's network and reputation in order to deepen my understanding of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and develop my writing skills. The broad issues and experiences I have encountered through my fellowship will have lasting impressions on my continuing work on Palestinian human rights issues."

Alex Kelly (Georgetown University)(Child Labor in Nepal): "I enjoyed the chance to get know Nepal and Tulsipur. It was very helpful to see the problems affecting children in a part of the world that I had never been. The chances to go out into the field, as sparse as they were, were very instructive and enjoyable."

Adam Kruse (Luther College)(Blind and disabled in Bangladesh): "What I did in Bangladesh was less about the work I did with the organization and more about the relationships I was able to develop with individuals. I connected people who wouldn't have otherwise been connected, and raised awareness of the issues faced in Bangladesh. The most radical changed thing of all is probably my view of the world and the new ways I've learned to interact with it."

Dane Macri (University of Windsor) (People with disability in Uganda):

Laura McAdams (University of Washington)(Women's artisanry in Morocco): "The cooperative has a strong core group of committed women. They are passionate about their work, are open to change, and care about the success of the business. They welcomed me from the moment I met them and made me feel comfortable at the cooperative. Through my work with the cooperative, I was able to gain a practical understanding of what it means to work in development in Morocco; the challenges, the rewards, the best way to get things done."

Mallory Minter (Tufts University)(Peacebuilding in Rwanda): "This experience has broadened my mind on how societies move through conflict and on the power of governments. This experience has also made me more comfortable in my own capabilities as well as more independent. Furthermore, this experience has opened my eyes to many causes -- many of which I do not know how to properly respond and, through this struggle, this experience has also helped me to improve my prioritization."

Claire Noone (University of Denver)(Survivors of the 1995 Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia): "This fellowship reiterated my goal of getting to a place where I do not need to sit back and wait for someone to help me in order to get things done. I really enjoyed being part of a network that was small enough that it felt like a family, but had a global reach."

Megan Orr (UC Santa Cruz) Girls in Kenya, FGM and early marriage prevention): "I learned a tremendous amount about Maasai culture, politics, and education. It taught me about cross-cultural communication and patience. By working with the facilitators I was able to absorb a huge amount of information about FGM, leadership, self-defense and rape prevention."

Rachel Palmer (University of Michigan) Child Labor in Nepal): "I learned more than I ever anticipated about child labor, working for NGOs, challenges in combating human rights abuses, and legal challenges. This fellowship has been an overwhelmingly positive experience and has shaped my academic focus for next year. I plan to apply to graduate school this fall to study international relations and human rights, focusing on women and children's empowerment."

Caroline Risacher (University of Strasbourg)(Defense of Azerbaijani Political Prisoners in Iran): "I learned a completely new aspect of the situation in Iran; minorities in Iran are a topic little discussed but so complex and full of history, and relevant to the situation today. Spending time with the

members of the Azerbaijani community opened my mind to a new culture and way of life. I realized the importance of advocacy work and how campaigning for their rights can make a difference."

Heather Webb (New York University)(Survivors of uterine prolapse in Nepal):"Through my fellowship with WRRP, I have learned so much about life from a very different perspective. I have found it amazing how the layers of understanding keep peeling away the longer I stay here and the more I experience in rural Nepal. This experience has been a life-changing one and has reaffirmed my commitment to a career advancing human rights."

14. Financials (Year Ending December 31, 2012)

AP worked with a zero-growth budget, as in 2011. This continued to produce important benefits – greater focus, more efficiency, and lower administrative costs. AP’s overhead was 11% in 2012.

REVENUE AND SUPPORT	
Grants	\$111,239
Contributions	\$93,795
In-kind Contributions	\$58,450
Program Services	\$0
Rental income	\$9,225
Other income	\$12,518
Total Revenue and Support	\$285,227
EXPENSES	
Program Services	\$241,706
Supporting Services:	
Management and General	\$42,302
Fundraising	\$3,477
Total expenses	\$287,485
INCOME	
Individual contributions (below)	\$41,402
Restricted contributions	\$13,493
Foundations (below)	\$38,900
Corporate Contributions	\$0
Government Grants	\$106,239
NGO donations	\$5000
In-kind donations	\$58,450
Contract Revenue	\$10,785
Miscellaneous	\$10,958,
Total income	\$287,485
EXPENSES	
Salaries and benefits	\$102,408
Payroll taxes	\$3,525
Employee Benefits	\$1517
Business expenses	\$856
Insurance	\$2904
Meetings and conventions	\$1769
Office supplies	\$3,576
Postage and delivery	\$772
Professional Services	\$4,292
Rent and utilities	\$19,823
Other	\$144
Telephone and communications	\$2,399
Travel	\$21,200
Website services	\$2,223
Partners & fellow remittances	\$120,077
Total expenses:	\$287,485

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