

# U.S. PROGRAMS MISSION STATEMENT

The Open Society Institute is a private operating and grantmaking foundation that promotes the development of open society around the world. OSI's U.S. Programs seek to strengthen democracy in the United States by addressing barriers to opportunity and justice, broadening public discussion about such barriers, and assisting marginalized groups to participate equally in civil society and to make their voices heard. U.S. Programs challenge overreliance on the market by advocating appropriate government responsibility for human needs and promoting public interest and service values in law, medicine, and the media. OSI's U.S. Programs support initiatives in a range of areas, including access to justice for low- and moderate-income people; independence of the judiciary; ending the death penalty; reducing gun violence and overreliance on incarceration; drug policy reform; inner-city education and youth programs; fair treatment of immigrants; reproductive health and choice; campaign finance reform; and improved care of the dying. OSI is part of a network of foundations, created and funded by George Soros, that are active in more than 50 countries around the world.

For grant guidelines and a complete list of grants visit [www.soros.org](http://www.soros.org) or email [infoUSprograms@sorosny.org](mailto:infoUSprograms@sorosny.org)

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# PROMOTING OPEN SOCIETY IN AN ALTERED LANDSCAPE

The September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon affected much of the world's population—New York City schoolchildren and Afghan merchants, black Muslims in Detroit, and imams in Jakarta—in intensely personal ways, and may have affected life and politics in ways that will reverberate for some time.

Yet, as much as the world was altered, not everything changed on September 11. The United States still imprisons 2 million men and women, half of whom are racial minorities. Each year, 600,000 of them return to their communities—feared, jobless, and undereducated. In some urban high schools, half of the students drop out before graduation. Forty million people still lack health insurance. Millions of poor single women with children face the end of their welfare benefits. Those employed after welfare-to-work may now be in the first waves of the unemployed. ▶

The most important thing that we can do is to stay focused on assisting these and other marginalized communities by addressing barriers to opportunity, democracy, and justice—the same priorities that launched the Open Society Institute’s U.S. Programs six years ago. At the same time, we have to meet the heightened challenges to human rights in the United States that have been brought on by the United States’ response to September 11.

The altered political and cultural landscape provides some significant opportunities for advancing open society. After years of assaults on government, public servants such as firefighters, police officers, emergency workers, and others are now looked upon with new respect and admiration. The government’s response to the anthrax crisis threw a harsh spotlight on the consequences of 20 years of disinvestment in public health. The lapses in airport security have caused many to question the wisdom of decentralized, privatized approaches to matters of critical public infrastructure. Whether these developments will have a ripple effect on the

increasing privatization of other government functions like prisons and schools remains to be seen, but the discussion has shifted in positive ways.

One thing September 11 brought home is that, because of the nation’s lack of broad public engagement in international affairs, Americans have little context for understanding the attacks or making sense of the response to them. In fact, the average street vendor in Port-au-Prince may be more familiar with global issues than the average American college graduate. Because even the increasingly influential human rights movement lacks a real public constituency, human rights concerns are certainly taking a back seat to military and security issues.

In overlooking the poor human rights records of newfound allies like Pakistan and Uzbekistan, the United States breaks faith with those struggling for freedom around the world, while sowing the seeds for more repression. We must work to build public awareness and support for international engagement in the United States with the intensity and sophistica-

tion that we have applied to campaigns on drug policy reform, gun violence, and other domestic issues.

The United States' behavior at home is a critical part of this equation. Many of the administration's measures after the September attacks raise grave civil liberties concerns. These concerns include the detention, often without charges or access to counsel, of more than a thousand immigrants; the "voluntary" questioning of thousands of others; and the plans to try suspects in military tribunals—denying suspects both the right to a lawyer of their own choosing and the right to appeal.

These tactics also undermine American efforts to lead the fight against terrorism. Spain has understandably refused to extradite terrorism suspects who might be tried before a tribunal that could sentence them to death on the basis of a split verdict with no possibility of appeal.

Countries like Peru, rightly criticized by the United States for their past use of secret military

courts, cannot have failed to notice that in our own confrontation with terrorism we do not practice what we preach.

According to U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, we should all keep silent. In an extraordinary assertion, he warned that those who even raise questions about the administration's anti-terrorism policies give aid and comfort to the nation's enemies. As OSI stated in a full-page *New York Times* ad taking issue with the Attorney General's smear, "When we look back at crises in our history, including the two world wars of the last century, we are often shamed that more did not speak out about incursions on liberty that to many seemed justified by the imperatives of the moment. America will be a stronger country, and its response to the challenges of terrorism more effective, if we encourage and protect dissent and criticism precisely when it is most important." ■

**Gara LaMarche**

***OSI Vice President and Director of U.S. Programs***



# A Time to Speak Up for American Values

**We register our profound disagreement with the Attorney General's extraordinary statement challenging the patriotism of those who have raised questions about some of the Administration's anti-terrorism measures.**

**L**ike all Americans, we recognize that our country must now take additional steps to reduce the risk of future terrorist attacks. But we must be vigilant in striking a balance between liberty and security, acting with a deep respect for the constitutional values at stake – the very values of an open society that terrorism seeks to undermine and that fundamentalism finds intolerable.

We recognize that not all Americans are of a common mind on the wisdom, constitutionality, or scope of the President's order on military tribunals, the detention and questioning of thousands of people, or on the many other recent measures that affect civil liberties and fall with particular impact on non-citizens. But we insist that those who scrutinize, question, and even oppose some or all of these measures, from civil libertarians to law enforcement professionals, are acting in the highest tradition of American patriotism.

**Attorney General  
John Ashcroft,  
December 6, 2001:**

*"To those who pit Americans  
against immigrants, citizens  
against non-citizens,*

*those who scare  
peace-loving people  
with phantoms of lost  
liberty, my message  
is this: Your tactics  
only aid terrorists  
for they erode our  
national unity and  
diminish our resolve.*

*They give ammunition  
to America's enemies and  
pause to America's friends."*

What they are doing can only strengthen the open society we seek to protect.

When we look back at crises in our history, including the two world wars of the last century, we are often shamed that more did not speak out about incursions on liberty that to many seemed justified by the imperatives of the moment. America will be a stronger country, and its response to the challenges of terrorism more effective, if we encourage and protect dissent and criticism precisely when it is most important.

Statements such as the Attorney General's can only embolden leaders of other governments to suppress those who challenge their policies. America can be a leader in supporting those who work for open societies around the world only if we remain true to these principles at home.

We urge the President to re-affirm these basic American values.

**The Open Society Institute  
[www.osi.org](http://www.osi.org)**

The Open Society Institute, a private operating and grantmaking foundation, works to strengthen democracy and civil society in the United States and more than 50 countries around the world. To find out more about efforts underway to protect open society, including the right to dissent at this time of crisis, consult our website, [www.osi.org](http://www.osi.org).

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## HISTORY OF THE OSI U.S. PROGRAMS

George Soros's global foundation network started in 1984, with the establishment of a foundation in his native Hungary, several years before the democratic revolutions of 1989.

In the mid-1990s, Soros launched two New York-based initiatives focused on the United States: the Lindesmith Center, which in 2000 merged with the Drug Policy Foundation and became the Drug Policy Alliance, an independent organization dedicated to research, advocacy, and policy reform; and the Project on Death in America, to improve care at the end of life.

George Soros's work in the United States grew out of his experiences with philanthropy abroad. Appalled by the response of the United States and other Western nations to the humanitarian crises in Bosnia and Rwanda, he began to question the strength of open society values in the world's leading democracy. Consulting a number of scholars and activists, he launched a broader U.S. program in 1996.

Although the United States did not fit the closed society model that characterized the countries in which the Soros foundations worked abroad, there was mounting evidence that many open society values are in disrepair. In response, the U.S. Programs focused on two broad areas: inner-city problems that contribute to the hardening of racial and class divisions, such as the booming incarceration rate and the failure to assist families and provide community support for education; and the promotion of noncommercial approaches to culture, journalism, and professions (such as law and medicine) as well as the reinvigoration of professional, civic, and political ethics and community service.

In 1996, OSI launched the Center on Crime, Communities & Culture (renamed the Criminal Justice Initiative in 2001), to deal with the causes and consequences of the appallingly high incarceration rate in the United States, and announced the first competition for OSI fellowships. OSI also took the first major steps in what would become the Governance and Public Policy program, with major multi-year grants for campaign finance reform and the organizing of low-income groups working to influence the redesign of state welfare programs. To address the unjust treatment of legal immigrants cut off from government benefits by the 1996 welfare reform bill, Soros created the Emma Lazarus Fund, which disbursed \$50 million over three years, to provide naturalization and other services, and support advocates working to change the policy. In 1997, OSI launched the Program on Law and Society, dealing with access to justice, independence of the judiciary, and professional values and standards; a Baltimore office, offering an integrated approach to a variety of connected open society issues—including education, drug treatment, and workforce development—and relying on local leadership and partnerships; an urban debate program; an arts initiative; and a reproductive rights program. In 1998, OSI created the Medicine as a Profession program, promoting physician-consumer partnerships and greater opportunities for public service and advocacy by physicians; Community Fellowships to support entrepreneurs for social change in New York City and Baltimore; The After-School Corporation, with a challenge grant to create universal access to quality programs for young people; and, with the Irene Diamond Fund, the Funders' Collaborative for Gun Violence Protection. In 2000, OSI launched initiatives on youth media, and, in collaboration with the Carnegie Corporation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the reform of urban high schools. In addition, OSI dedicated funds for a special initiative to support organizations working on democracy and justice issues in the U.S. South.

In 2001, the Soros Documentary Fund was discontinued as an OSI project and was incorporated into the Sundance Institute in Los Angeles, California. Renamed the Sundance Documentary Fund, it will finance international documentary films and videos that address the issues of human rights, freedom of expression, social justice, and civil liberties.



# CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The mission of the Criminal Justice Initiative is to reduce excessive incarceration and its consequences; to promote fair and equal treatment in all areas of the U.S. criminal justice system; to redirect public focus and resources away from punishment and toward long-term investment in individuals and communities; and to encourage the reintegration of former prisoners through policies that foster public safety, respect human and civil rights, and promote responsible citizenship. ▷

In 2001, OSI's U.S. Programs integrated its grantmaking on criminal justice reform issues into the Criminal Justice Initiative (CJI). With the goal of reframing the public debate on crime and prisons, CJI promotes equity throughout the criminal justice system to reverse the trend of mass incarceration of poor people of color and supports efforts to create political and financial incentives to reduce prison expansion. CJI also supports research, policy advocacy, and grassroots activism to channel resources away from incarceration and into community renewal such as housing, education, career development, and youth programming.

CJI encompasses three main programs: the Gideon Project, The After Prison Initiative, and the Community Advocacy Project. Other components of the Criminal Justice Initiative are the Policy and Research Program, the Soros Justice Fellowships, and the Baltimore Criminal Justice Program. In addition, OSI continues its drug policy initiatives, which promote alternatives to incarceration for low-level drug offenders and advance strategies for reducing drug-related harm. ▷

# INITIATIVE



**THE GIDEON PROJECT**, named for the landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Gideon v. Wainwright* guaranteeing the right to legal counsel for the indigent, was created to safeguard that right and to promote equal justice throughout the criminal justice system. Increasingly, the justice system has been compromised by unequal enforcement of criminal laws, wrongful convictions in capital cases, and inappropriate incarceration. Such systemic flaws compromise human and constitutional rights while also undermining the foundation of a democratic society.

The Gideon Project provides funds to promote the fair administration of justice in police precincts and in courthouses through research, advocacy, and legal representation. The project has four funding priorities: improving public defense services, increasing prosecutorial accountability, combating racial profiling, and ending the death penalty.

In the area of public defense services, the **National Legal Aid and Defender Association** received a major capacity-building grant to assist in three efforts: the creation of a website offering technical assistance to public defenders around the country to improve their training and services; the development of a communications campaign to train public defenders to advocate for their profession; and leadership training for public defender managers. The **Brennan Center for Justice** was funded to create a Community Justice Institute, which will encourage community organizations to forge alliances with public defenders and other lawyers on issues of mutual concern. **Brooklyn Defender Services** will use an OSI grant to develop a best-practices model for public defenders working on behalf of mentally ill clients.

**The Defender Association of Seattle** received renewal funding for its work with community groups to challenge racial disparities in the policing and prosecution of drug offenses, school truancy, and driving with suspended licenses.

Racial profiling was again spotlighted as a result of several widely publicized incidents of police abuse of authority and the increased focus on Arab Americans in the wake of September 11. The Gideon Project led OSI's efforts to support Arab and Muslim organizations, as well as civil rights and civil liberties advocates, as they confronted profiling by law enforcement agencies. OSI's support also helped organizations address increased housing discrimination against Arab Americans and South Asian people.

Prosecutorial accountability is an issue of growing concern as legislative reforms have multiplied exponentially the power of prosecutors in recent years—often with troubling consequences. In 2001, the Gideon Project and OSI's Program on Law and Society funded the **Center for Public Integrity (CPI)** to study wrongful convictions stemming from prosecutorial misconduct. CPI and the **Constitution Project** also participated in a roundtable discussion on prosecutorial accountability convened by OSI.

Death penalty reform has gathered momentum as reports mount of wrongful convictions in capital cases, often because of inadequate representation for poor defendants. With OSI support, the **Innocence Project of Cardozo Law School's Innocence Network** assists 18 investigative projects around the nation examining claims of wrongful conviction. **Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation**, a 2,000-member anti-death-penalty

organization, was funded to convene its first national conference. Occurring shortly before the execution of Timothy McVeigh, the conference received wide media coverage and offered a voice of opposition to McVeigh's execution and to the death penalty.

The focus of an issue of OSI's newsletter, *Ideas for an Open Society*, was on the death penalty debate. It featured an article on declining public support for capital punishment and a profile of an OSI grantee organization in Alabama that provides legal representation to death-row inmates. In conjunction with OSI's U.S. Communications Department, the Gideon Project sponsored a forum entitled "Murder Victims' Families Talk About the McVeigh Execution and the Future of the Death Penalty."

## THE AFTER PRISON INITIATIVE

addresses the root causes of, and challenges posed by, excessive reliance on incarceration. Once guided by the goals of rehabilitation, today's criminal justice system emphasizes retribution. Those who pay their debt to society face barriers to reintegration that make it all but impossible to transform their lives. Their communities are bereft of the political and economic resources needed to break the cycle of crime and punishment that current policy fosters. For ex-offenders and their communities, the system imposes a "civic death," effectively suppressing their political power and citizenship.

The After Prison Initiative's grants promote a justice system that moves beyond incarceration, in terms of both how punishment is meted out and how former prisoners reenter society. Four program areas make up The After ▶





Prison Initiative's grantmaking agenda: restorative reentry practices, justice reinvestment, eradication of civil barriers to reintegration, and new leadership development.

*Restorative Reentry Practices* support the collaborations of government and communities to rethink parole and other punishments. The **Council of State Governments** was awarded a grant to create a national Reentry Policy Council. By bringing together a bipartisan spectrum of influential state executives of criminal justice, health and housing, labor, and other community agencies, the council helps these stakeholders recognize the crucial overlap among their client populations and the need for improved and coordinated policymaking. A grant to the Brooklyn-based **Fifth Avenue Committee** supports a model reintegration initiative to demonstrate community-development corporations' potential for helping to reintegrate ex-offenders.

*Justice Reinvestment* aims to shift financial incentives away from incarceration and toward community development. The **George Washington University Institute on Crime, Justice & Corrections** was awarded a grant to develop cost-saving parole reforms in various states and to link them to investment funds devoted to community development. This project assists state executives, who are facing impending budget deficits, to implement more reasonable parole release and revocation policies. By reducing incarceration use, those policies help to avert the construction of new prisons, to close units within facilities, or to decommission entire prisons. The project coordinates its work with community-development investment banks, resident leaders, and other

representatives of high-incarceration neighborhoods to reclaim portions of generated savings for investment in community health, housing, education, and business infrastructure.

*Eradication of Civil Barriers to Reintegration* seeks to eliminate the post-prison obstacles to housing, employment, education, and political participation. **DemocracyWorks** was awarded a grant to launch a public education campaign to inform citizens—especially people on probation, incarcerated youth, and voting registrars—about recent legislation that restores voting rights to more than 36,000 Connecticut residents on probation.

*New Leadership Development* promotes participation in justice policy reform by community leaders who have criminal convictions, their families, and their communities. OSI is helping to establish the **NuLeadership Policy Group**, a coalition of four regional organizations led by former prisoners, to humanize the public image of people with criminal convictions and to promote their participation in policy discussions and decisions. A grant was also awarded to **Columbia University's Institute for Research on African American Studies** to analyze the African American experience in the criminal justice system.

**THE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY PROJECT** addresses the massive destabilization of communities that has occurred over the past 30 years as the country invested in prisons and punitive criminal justice policies. Soaring rates of incarceration and prison construction have gone hand in hand with divestment in public education, social welfare programs, and economic development. Families, neighborhoods, and society suffer the

consequences—including higher rates of children with a parent in prison, lack of employment opportunities, and crime.

The Community Advocacy Project supports organizing efforts by those most affected by incarceration to oppose these policies and to devise new approaches to criminal justice and community development. Through the funding of advocacy and grassroots organizing, the project also supports communities often left out of the decision-making process, communities that reject tough-on-crime strategies and incarceration as the final answer to criminal justice problems.

The Community Advocacy Project's grantmaking strategy comprises four program areas: youth- and community-led justice movement building, broad-based coalitions to oppose prison expansion and mass incarceration, mobilization of former prisoners and families for policy reform, and arts and culture as tools for organizing new constituencies around justice policy reform.

*Youth- and Community-Led Justice Movement Building* recognizes that young people are often at the forefront of social justice movements and aims to nurture a new generation of activists through its grantmaking. Funding in 2001 supported the **Ella Baker Center for Human Rights'** campaign, "Books Not Bars," which challenges California's prison growth and policies through media advocacy, grassroots organizing, and hip-hop music—all driven by young people. "Books Not Bars" scored its first victory when it joined with Youth Force Coalition activists and other allies to pressure the Board of Corrections to reduce funding for the proposed Alameda

County Youth Detention Center, limit the number of beds, and reallocate funds for prevention programs. OSI also supported the New York City **Prison Moratorium Project**, a youth-led, grassroots organization dedicated to halting prison expansion and organizing corporate accountability campaigns, while advocating for a fair, effective, and humane criminal justice system.

*Broad-Based Coalitions to Oppose Prison Expansion and Mass Incarceration* supports advocacy efforts among unlikely allies to oppose prison expansion and to propose public policies that invest criminal justice dollars in community development. **Critical Resistance** is a nationwide organization that brings together urban and rural prison activists, former prisoners, college students, and other constituencies to translate local struggles to oppose prisons into a national movement to challenge the prison-industrial complex. Public Safety and Justice Campaign, a project of the southern-based **Grassroots Leadership**, facilitates coalition among a wide range of constituencies—including correctional officers’ unions, faith-based organizations, and former prisoners—to oppose for-profit, private prisons.

*Mobilization of Former Prisoners and Families for Policy Reform* was developed in 2001 in response to the needs of the growing population of former prisoners—600,000 of whom were released last year—and their families. Grantmaking will start in 2002 to fund organizing

activities and leadership development among this often politically invisible constituency.

*Arts and Culture as Tools for Organizing New Constituencies around Justice Policy Reform* supports artistic expression—from documentary film and video to spoken-word performance—that has the potential to organize new constituencies to advocate for criminal justice policy reform. **Blackout Arts Collective** and its project “Lyrics on Lockdown” received funds to bring its message to prisons, community groups, and performance spaces across the country. A volunteer organization of young professionals of color, the collective tackles themes such as racial profiling and mass incarceration.

#### THE POLICY AND RESEARCH

**PROGRAM** supports advocacy-oriented research and policy analysis that question existing criminal justice policies and practices, explore and promote alternatives, and provide the basis for policy reform and future research. Research focuses include the purposes and effects of punishment and the social and economic dimensions of criminal justice policy. In 2001, the program also addressed sentencing reform for nonviolent offenders and parole policy reform. Good Jobs First, a project of the Washington, D.C.-based **Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy**, surveyed 60 private prisons in 19 states and found that the majority received a rich array of government subsidies for their for-profit

enterprises, but that the surrounding communities benefited little in terms of jobs and development. A grant awarded to the **Urban Institute’s Justice Policy Center** supported two Reentry Research Roundtables that gathered scholars and policy makers to explore the issue. A policy monograph based on the roundtables, *From Prison to Home: The Dimensions and Consequences of Prisoner Reentry*, garnered significant media coverage and has become an important resource on the reentry phenomenon. The **Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies** was awarded a grant to conduct a national survey of black elected officials to assess their knowledge and views on issues relating to the impact of incarceration on the social and economic status of their communities. The survey will tap black officials’ assessment of policy reform strategies that contrast remedies such as drug treatment and job training programs, with intermediate, environmental-level approaches, such as business development and the creation of affordable housing. **The Sentencing Project**, which carries out research, advocacy, and communications work on sentencing reform and alternatives to mass incarceration, produced reports and analyses that resulted in widespread media coverage and led to congressional and state legislative hearings.

For information on the **SOROS JUSTICE FELLOWSHIPS**, see page 13. For the **OSI-BALTIMORE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM**, see page 21. ■



# FELLOWSHIPS

The power of a community emanates from the strength of the individuals within it. Social change rarely occurs without the singular vision and drive that one individual can bring to the process. Guided by this belief, OSI is committed to investing in individuals who act as agents for debate and change within their communities, their professional fields, and society. ▷

**THE COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAM** connects grassroots activism with policy change by supporting indigenous leaders of marginalized communities. As key stakeholders in, and champions of, social activism, community fellows bring diverse perspectives to important policy debates and act as agents of change in their communities. Operated in Baltimore and New York City, the fellowships are awarded to a broad range of activists.


In Baltimore, 10 community fellows were chosen in 2001. **Christopher Wright**, a

teacher, established Achieving Success through Knowledge, an after-school science program that nurtures technological proficiency and academic excellence among the city's youth. **Lacey Benton**, a businesswoman, established Youth Entrepreneur Associates, a program that motivates teens to develop career goals, acquire employment skills, and increase self-sufficiency through entrepreneurship. **Tony Shore**, an established artist, created Access Art, a southwest Baltimore youth arts center, which provides disadvantaged youth with a safe environment to explore creative arts and to

develop valuable art-related and vocational skills. **Julianne Franz**, a stage manager, established City Theatre Works to provide disadvantaged Baltimore youth with the opportunity to become community activists through writing and performing compelling stories.

In New York City, 10 community fellows were supported in 2001. **Majora Carter**, an activist, used her fellowship to create Sustainable South Bronx, a nonprofit dedicated to implementing sustainable development projects that are informed by community needs and environmental





justice values. **Aida Leon**, a counselor, started the Amethyst Women's Project, a harm-reduction program based in Coney Island, Brooklyn, which assists women and children affected by drug addiction. **Luna Yasui**, a law student, created the Immigrant Day Laborer Advocacy Project, which utilizes a comprehensive community advocacy model to ensure the workplace rights of New York's immigrant day laborers. Yasui has been working with cleanup crews at the World Trade Center site. **Walter "George Stonefish" Willis**, a former prisoner, launched the First Nations Empowerment Project to build fair representation of native peoples living in New York City.

### THE SOROS JUSTICE FELLOWSHIPS

support the mission of OSI's Criminal Justice Initiative (CJI). The fellowships support individuals who further OSI's mission of reducing the nation's overreliance on punishment and incarceration policies, and restoring discretion and fairness to the U.S. criminal justice system. CJI funds professionals in law, public health, the media, and other fields to design and implement projects that are consonant with CJI's three main programs: the Gideon Project, The After Prison Initiative, and the Community Advocacy Project.

**Soros Justice Senior Fellows** enable experienced activists, academics, and community leaders to improve the level of national discussion and scholarship, organize communities, and prompt policy debate on criminal justice reforms. Fellows devote up to one year researching, writing, or initiating projects. Since 1997, the program has supported 38 senior fellows, including lawyers, public health experts, academics, and former prisoners. In 2001, senior fellow **Michael**

**Jacobson** designed strategies for reducing the number of technical parole violators returned to prison. **David Zlotnick** highlighted federal judges' concerns about the harsh impact of mandatory minimum sentencing laws. **Ashanti Witherspoon** developed resources for former prisoners reentering society.

**Soros Justice Postgraduate Fellows** identify and nurture advocates for change at the local and national level. Postgraduate fellowships fund two-year projects implemented in partnership with leading nonprofit agencies whose activities are related to criminal justice. Since 1997, the program has supported 61 postgraduate fellows. Fellows in 2001 included **Heba Nimr**, of INS WATCH/La Raza Centro Legal, who mobilized immigrants to protect their civil rights in immigration proceedings and to change local law enforcement policies on the detention of noncitizens. **Vanita Gupta**, of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, challenged race-biased drug sentencing laws affecting nonviolent prisoners. **Jordan Schreiber**, of Contra Costa Public Defender, promoted drug treatment and mental health services for the poor through outreach and advocacy. **Roslyn Satchel**, of the Southern Center for Human Rights, worked to improve access to legal representation for young women in juvenile detention, and initiated a public education campaign to address their gender-specific needs.

**Soros Justice Media Fellows** support journalists to improve the quality of news coverage of issues that are at the heart of CJI's work. The program frees journalists from constraints that often discourage them from pursuing in-depth stories. Fellows devote up to one year to their reporting projects, which receive wide dissemination. Since 1998, the

program has supported 20 media fellows working in print, photography, radio, and television. In 2001, fellows included **Adrian LeBlanc**, whose series of articles documented the detrimental ways in which children of incarcerated parents absorb prison culture. **Alden Loury** wrote articles exploring how and why African Americans have suffered the greatest casualties in Chicago's "war on drugs." **Steven Rubin** photographed refugees and other detainees, documenting incarceration's impact on them and their families. **Sasha Abramsky's** book, *Hard Times Blues: How Politics Built a Prison Nation*, portrays the political forces in California that led to the implementation of the Three Strikes Law.

**THE SOROS ADVOCACY FELLOWSHIP FOR PHYSICIANS** is administered by OSI's Medicine as a Profession (MAP) program. It encourages physicians to engage in community service to promote public health. Physician fellows join with advocacy organizations to share their expertise as well as to learn advocacy skills. The program, which was expanded to provide one- to two-year fellowships, has supported 17 fellows to date. For example, **Dr. Oxiris Barbot** is working with the National Hispanic Medical Association and the Latin American Youth Center to develop an advocacy education program to address the health concerns of young Latinos. **Dr. Bob Goodman** is collaborating with Public Citizen, a public interest advocacy organization, to reduce the influence of the pharmaceutical industry on medical education and training. **Dr. Kenneth Thompson** is working with the Consumer Health Coalition in Pittsburgh to develop a series of "Black Papers" on the health status of the African American community in Pittsburgh. ■



# GOVERNANCE AND

The mission of the program on Governance and Public Policy is to strengthen the institutions of representative democracy in the United States, to reengage citizens in public life, and to ensure that public services respond to public needs.

The program supports research, education, and nonpartisan advocacy for reform, primarily in three areas: the political process, including efforts to reduce the influence of money on elections and legislation; the devolution of public responsibility from the federal government to states, localities, nonprofits, and the private sector; and media policy, focusing on efforts to ensure public access to an array of independent media. ▷

The pervasive influence of political campaign contributions from special interests seeking political favors challenges the core principles of an open and democratic society. In the last months of 2001, campaign finance reform finally captured sufficient public attention, with the collapse of politically wired corporate giant Enron, to give a final push to the legislation banning soft money. While this victory demonstrates the vitality of the movement we have helped to build, it is just a first step.

Deeper reform of the system by which we fund politics, along with other improvements to the democratic process, can ensure that government responds to the needs and interests of the many, not the rich and powerful few.

Another challenge to effective representative government is the ongoing shift of responsibility for the delivery of social services from the federal to the state and local levels. The devolution of authority, exemplified by the 1996 welfare reform law, has created new demands and opportunities for citizen participation and for policy reform to hold government at all levels accountable. ▷



**THE PROGRAM ON GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC POLICY** was founded with these twin missions: promoting political reform and ensuring public involvement in the devolution process. In 2001, media policy reform was added to the program's mandate, on the premise that an independent media is an essential part of a flourishing democracy. The increasing availability and sophistication of such technologies as broadband Internet and digital television make it possible for more information to be delivered more quickly to more people than ever before. Yet changes in media policy, for example the host of recent deregulatory decisions from the courts and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), suggest that these new avenues for communication will be controlled by an ever-shrinking number of media corporations such as Viacom and AOL-Time Warner. Countering media concentration and securing public access to the opportunities presented by technological advances are crucial to maintaining a vibrant sphere of democratic communication.

The program on Governance and Public Policy's grantmaking to promote campaign finance reform achieved important successes over the last year. Diverse groups developed cooperative relationships, propelling a movement whose newfound strength was shown in the victory of the McCain-Feingold legislation. Voting-rights and civil-rights organizations are coming together over the issue because of its connection to the disenfranchisement of minority and marginalized communities. The **Common Cause Education Fund**, an OSI grantee, has been building alliances with groups that previously had not been involved in campaign finance reform, such as the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. **Demos**, an independent think tank and research

institute, was also funded for its work on voting rights and campaign finance reform. A first-time grant was made to the **Fannie Lou Hamer Project**, the first minority-led organization to focus on campaign finance reform. In a movement that has lacked a significant minority voice to date, the project enlists the support of people of color and ensures that their concerns are addressed in reform proposals.

Grants have encouraged activism among groups engaged in the continuing devolution of governmental authority and its impact on their constituents, as they prepare to play a role in the upcoming reauthorization of the welfare reform law. The **National Campaign for Jobs and Income Support**, an OSI-funded coalition of community organizations working on welfare-related issues, will bring the voices of people affected by welfare reform—voices that went largely unheard when the original bill was passed in 1996—to the congressional debate.

The **State Fiscal Analysis Initiative (SFAI)**, a network of 22 state-level groups that analyze state budgets, received continued support to encourage fair and equitable distribution of resources. In a time of dwindling state surpluses, SFAI's work is critical to ensuring that state governments spend their resources where they are most needed. The **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities**, another grantee, assists the SFAI groups and conducts fiscal analysis on a national scale. The center responded quickly to the federal budget proposals and economic stimulus packages developed in reaction to the events of September 11 and the sharp national economic downturn. Its widely disseminated analyses gave the public and members

of Congress a fuller understanding of the proposals' likely impact.

The media policy grantmaking has funded several significant battles for media diversity. **Consumers Union** used OSI's grant to hire an economist to quantify the effects of media consolidation on the public, in preparation for FCC and court hearings on the issue. The new **Center for Digital Democracy** received support to promote the idea of a sustainable nonprofit presence online, by educating the public about the importance of an open Internet format, and by developing a network of activists to work on digital media policy issues. **Alliance for Better Campaigns**, a grantee of both the media reform and political reform subprograms, is continuing its struggle for free television airtime for political candidates by launching a campaign to build grassroots constituencies around the country.

In addition to grantmaking, the program on Governance and Public Policy coordinated two forums in collaboration with the Communications Department: "Money and Politics: How Do We Make Money Matter Less in American Politics?" and "Is Democratization a Response to Terrorism?" Also, the inaugural issue of OSI U.S. Programs' publication series, *Ideas for an Open Society*, featured an article on the obstacles facing comprehensive campaign finance reform and the policies needed to overcome them. ■

# MEDICINE AS A PROFESSION

The Medicine as a Profession program seeks to invigorate the principles of professionalism in medicine to advance trust, quality, and integrity in American health care. MAP funds physician-consumer alliances that aim to reduce the influence of marketplace values on medicine and to improve access to services; provides fellowships to physicians to increase their engagement in civil society; oversees a nationwide service-and-advocacy program for medical students; and, in partnership with the United Hospital Fund, conducts a forum series that brings together leaders of the medical profession to analyze challenges to professionalism. ▶

The transformation of medical practice in the last 30 years has been nothing short of revolutionary. The solo fee-for-service practitioner has been superseded by a health care delivery system dominated by health maintenance organizations, which often pay more attention to bottom-line concerns than to patient well-being. Pharmaceutical companies play an ever-greater role in medical education and research, raising serious conflict-of-interest issues. Physician authority, once supreme, faces fierce competition from new sources of medical information found on the Internet or supplied by drug companies, which now pitch their products directly to consumers. In an environment of shrinking autonomy, physicians face a barrage of challenges to their ethical conduct and professional standards.

There are signs that the marketplace approach to medicine and health care is losing credibility. Managed care and its stringent cost controls are increasingly seen as a barrier to good medical practice. Dissatisfaction with health-care profiteering is growing, creating widespread support for reform and revitalization of the medical profession. The Medicine as a Profession (MAP) program is able to take advantage of this climate to stimulate greater opportunities for change. ▶



**PHYSICIAN-CONSUMER PARTNERSHIPS FOR HEALTH CARE** supports alliances between organizations of medical professionals and consumers of health care services, two groups that have a common stake in promoting quality care and ethical conduct. These collaborations engage physicians in civic life as advocates for those whose needs are often ignored by policy makers. In 2001, this program paused to evaluate its mission and achievements, and it has decided to continue to pursue its long-term goals. The emphasis in grantmaking, however, will shift from managed care issues toward increasing access to health care for disadvantaged populations and promoting consumer voices in health-care policy decision making.

**Brigham and Women's Hospital** in Boston received funding to establish a group of physicians and patients who explore how cross-cultural differences affect medical encounters and treatment outcomes, especially when patients are African American and physicians are white. The project was prompted in part by concerns about persistently high African American infant mortality rates and the question of whether racial and ethnic differences between providers and patients pose barriers to care. The **South Carolina Medical Association Foundation** and the **South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center** were funded to educate uninsured and underinsured consumers about health insurance eligibility and coverage under private and publicly funded health plans, such as Medicaid. They published "A Guide to Getting the Health Care You Need," which contains a glossary, explanations of insurance laws, and information on consumer rights. It is being widely distributed to community clinics, physicians' offices, legal-services offices, and human-resource directors in the state.

The **Health Access Foundation**, a consumer advocacy organization in San Francisco, was funded for its Medi-Cal Quality Assurance Project. In collaboration with the California Physician's Alliance and the University of California at San Francisco School of Medicine, the foundation worked with the California Department of Managed Health Care to produce "report cards" on Medi-Cal plans. The report cards will help consumers make informed choices among varied insurance plans.

**THE SOROS ADVOCACY FELLOWSHIP FOR PHYSICIANS** encourages physicians to engage in community service as concerned citizens and as advocates involved in promoting public health. Please see the Fellowships section on page 13 for a detailed description.

**THE STRATEGIC GRANT PROGRAM** supports projects that contribute to MAP's mission of promoting professionalism, civic participation, and high ethical standards among physicians. Grantees to date include the **Health Privacy Project**, which devised consumer protection rules that became part of federal health-privacy regulations in 2001. **Public Citizen's Dr. Sidney Wolfe** and **Dr. Peter Lurie** received support for their program to train medical students and young physicians to do research and advocacy on public health issues. **Physicians for Human Rights (PHR)** was funded to make human rights an important aspect of medical education. In 2001, PHR increased its number of chapters in medical schools from 40 to 50. PHR also has members in 45 other medical schools throughout the United States.

**THE SOROS SERVICE PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH (SSPCH)** fosters service among medical students

by placing them in community-based organizations where they assist in projects to benefit the public health and learn advocacy skills. The program offers a summer internship, a one-year preclinical program, and one-month clerkships for third- and fourth-year students. Attracting medical students from across the country, the program encourages advocacy to make a difference in the way health care is delivered to vulnerable populations.

Because MAP is committed to placing physicians within, not above, the communities they serve, community organizations play a major role in shaping the student curriculum. Operating in New York City and Baltimore, the program placed 35 students in both cities last year. In Baltimore, for example, medical students worked with Health Care for the Homeless and New Song Neighborhood Health Center. To date, 85 students from 28 medical schools have received MAP-funded summer internships, preclinical fellowships, and clerkships.

**MAP FORUMS** bring MAP board members together with physician leaders and social scientists to assess challenges to medical professionalism. Launched in 2000, the forums are a joint project of OSI and the United Hospital Fund. The forums frame the context in which medical professionalism operates and they identify critical trends physicians must confront. In 2001, forums were convened on "Medicine and the Information Revolution," "Professional Responsibility for Competence and Quality," and "Professional Responsibility for Access and Equity in Health Care." ■



# OSI-BALTIMORE

OSI-Baltimore develops and supports a grantmaking program that fosters debate, empowers marginalized groups, and strengthens communities and families. Areas of interest include drug addiction treatment, criminal justice, workforce and economic development, access to justice, education and youth development, high school urban debate, and a community health and services initiative. The office also sponsors a Community Fellowships Program. ▷

Baltimore has been besieged by more than its share of urban woes. Crime, high levels of drug use, failing public education, and depleted civic pride are just some of the persistent barriers to revitalization. OSI-Baltimore was established as an experiment in philanthropy and advocacy to address locally many of the issues that define OSI's national agenda and that prevent Baltimore from moving ahead.

The Baltimore office's unique approach combines grantmaking, advocacy, and networking with local partner groups to confront the social, political, and economic concerns facing the city. The office applies the substantial resources and skills of a national foundation, while enlisting the expertise and knowledge of local residents who serve as staff and as members of the board of directors.

Although the national economic downturn hit Baltimore hard, effective political and community leadership has inspired new confidence that the city is experiencing a renaissance. OSI-Baltimore's activities have been especially significant in supporting meaningful change. ▷



Many of the Baltimore programs concentrate on policy reform and on how public monies are spent. They help organizations to think about sustainability, to pursue state and federal funding, and to develop the advocacy skills to work with the executive branch in the city and state budget process. The Baltimore office's overarching goal is to help build strong nonprofit and public sectors that can sustain programs and policies that "open" Baltimore's society and ensure social and economic justice.

OSI-Baltimore also sponsors the educational forum series "Forging Open Society: Generating Ideas, Partnerships, and Solutions." The forums draw leaders from government, religious institutions, academia, and the community for substantive discussions that can stimulate action on issues of particular interest to the Baltimore region. Topics in 2001 included urban high school reform, the growth of suburban sweatshops, and community reentry for people released from prison.

**THE DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT PROGRAM's** primary goal is to ensure that Baltimore residents who are drug-dependent and without health insurance get the treatment and services they need. Over the past three years, OSI-Baltimore has worked with the city to significantly increase state funding to the **Baltimore Substance Abuse Systems**, which administers public treatment programs. In 2001, the city received the second installment of a \$25 million state funding increase promised by the governor. Such support helps fill the gaps in treatment options, including expansion of residential and methadone treatment.

Integrating a variety of services needed by drug-dependent patients in one location is an important strategy. To that

end, the **Baltimore City Health Department** was funded to mesh primary health care with drug addiction treatment services for men. Drug dependency is often accompanied by a host of other problems, from lack of decent, affordable housing to unemployment, which affect the drug treatment participants and their families. ASSET, a project of the **Historical East Baltimore Community Action Coalition**, links comprehensive case-management services for individuals enrolled in treatment programs and their families. The **Citizens' Planning and Housing Association** was funded to work on the community level to build acceptance for drug treatment facilities, which too often are considered unwelcome neighbors and are opposed by residents. While the Not-In-My-Backyard (NIMBY)

syndrome can be an obstacle, there are legal strategies to overcome it. A grant to the **Legal Action Center** funded a study of the city's zoning laws on the siting of drug treatment facilities as one way to counter NIMBY opposition.

**BALTIMORE'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM** complements OSI's national Criminal Justice Initiative. The program focuses on the return of former prisoners to their communities and incarceration alternatives for juvenile offenders. Grantmaking supports demonstration projects, advocacy, technical assistance and evaluation, and encourages partnerships between nonprofit providers and correctional agencies. The program sponsors Reentry





Roundtables, bimonthly meetings of nonprofit providers to discuss improving transition services and opportunities for prisoners as they return to the community. These roundtables have been successful in solving problems and building partnerships between providers and city and state officials. The **Center for Behavioral Health, Criminal Justice, and Public Policy** at the University of Maryland received a grant to provide technical assistance for programs that help ex-prisoners to reintegrate into their communities. The center's Evaluation Workshop teaches nonprofit providers to assess the effectiveness of their programs. Participants include **Alternative Directions, Goodwill Industries, Maryland New Directions, People Encouraging People, Marion House, Prisoners' Aid, Patrick Allison House, and Catholic Charities**, all OSI-Baltimore grantees.

**THE WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM** funds solutions to the unemployment problems city residents face, from child care to transportation, as well as job training, placement, and retention. Because workforce development involves interrelated issues, no single strategy or agency can do it alone. The **Job Opportunities Task Force** was funded to bring together workforce development practitioners to share information and best practices, and to explore policy issues. In collaboration with the Annie Casey Foundation, the task force was funded to set up a Job Advancement Network, which gathers leaders in the workforce development field to discuss job training and retention strategies, skills building, and career paths. The **Citizens' Planning and Housing Association** received continued support to educate and mobilize residents to improve city and

regional transportation, which increases access to employment opportunities. OSI-Baltimore also laid the groundwork in 2001 for the **Baltimore Fund**, a new community development venture capital fund. Working closely with a local advisory board and the Reinvestment Fund, OSI-Baltimore cultivated support from other foundations and local corporations to provide matching funds for the project, which is scheduled to begin operating in 2002.

**THE EDUCATION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM** supports efforts to improve in-class and after-school learning opportunities for Baltimore's public school students. In 2001, the program made a major five-year grant to the **Fund for Educational Excellence** to support high school reform in the Baltimore Public Schools System. Under the plan, nine neighborhood high schools will be restructured, and six to eight new Innovation Schools will be created in partnership with universities or other institutions. The program leveraged additional funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and from Baltimore-based funders, resulting in a \$21 million contribution to Baltimore's high school reform efforts.

When school lets out for the summer, many of the achievements students attained over the school year evaporate. Students, particularly from low-income families, often fall behind. A grant to **Johns Hopkins University** helped **Teach Baltimore** conduct education and advocacy on the value of summer learning programs for urban public school students.

**Advocates for Children and Youth** received a grant for a training, research, and advocacy project to increase the use

and availability of sustainable, public-funding sources for programs to benefit children and youth. A second grant will help articulate a youth agenda with appropriate public spending for Maryland policy makers.

**THE BALTIMORE URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE** engages Baltimore public high school students in the art of policy debate to impart critical thinking and communication skills. Operated in partnership with Towson University, the Barkley Forum at Emory University, and the Fund for Educational Excellence, the league encompasses 17 high schools. A three-year summer program that sent high school students to Emory for debate camp ended in 2001, and a new local summer debate camp run by Towson University began. The **Baltimore City Public Schools System** assumed control of the debate program from OSI-Baltimore and, with OSI support, made the program coordinator a schools system employee. The **Fund for Educational Excellence** received a grant to evaluate the debate program and to measure its importance to participating students.

**THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM** provides institutional support to public interest law groups in Baltimore while also cultivating connections between them and the communities they serve. **Maryland Legal Services Corporation** received a grant for "Lawyering for Social Change," a series of educational forums for public interest lawyers, students, and academicians. The series examines lawyers' role in creating an agenda of social change. **Casa of Maryland** was funded to extend its community lawyering with Latino day laborers into Baltimore. As the Latino population in the

region has grown, so has its vulnerability to abusive labor practices and its need for legal advocacy and organizing expertise. Because its clients are typically low-income, Casa de Maryland adopted an innovative approach to payment for its services called “time dollars,” which also works as a community-building strategy. Clients earn legal assistance by providing a service to their community or to other individuals, from babysitting or demonstrating to legal casework. OSI-Baltimore also provided support to the **Public Justice Center** for its policy advocacy, including a groundbreaking effort to establish a right-to-counsel in important civil cases (a “civil Gideon”) under state law.

**THE SOROS SERVICE PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH (SSPCH)**, an OSI Medicine as a Profession initiative, seeks to enhance the exposure, perspective, and commitment of medical students to vulnerable special-needs populations in Baltimore. The program has funded a consortium of community agencies to develop community-level training sites for teaching and mentoring medical students. Through SSPCH summer internships and clerkships, medical students from Johns Hopkins University, the University of Maryland, and schools throughout the United States have gained experience in community settings in Baltimore by providing care to people with HIV/AIDS and addictions, to the homeless, to families of the working poor, and to youth at risk. In 2001, the

program conducted a study of Baltimore’s “safety net” organizations, including soup kitchens, outreach centers, and community clinics. The study documents both the array of services that the organizations provide and the health care needs of the area residents who rely on them. The findings indicate that the organization’s free medical and social services are critically important to residents, nearly three-quarters of whom are uninsured and underserved by area hospitals. At a time of government cutbacks, the report offers resounding proof that, without the safety net, many residents would face greater economic hardship and deteriorating health.

**THE COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAM** connects grassroots activism with policy change by supporting indigenous leaders of marginalized communities. A detailed description is found in the Fellowships section on page 12. ■



# PROGRAM ON REPRODUCTIVE

OSI's Program on Reproductive Health and Rights promotes reproductive freedom as a core element in advancing women's civil liberties and human rights, and in securing larger social and economic opportunities for individuals and their families. The program funds litigation, advocacy, public education, and model service-delivery projects that enhance the capacity of family-planning and pro-choice organizations to raise public and political awareness of their objectives and values. A signature strategy involves education and training around advances in emergency contraception and early abortion. These new technologies are critical factors in moving public discourse on abortion away from "the clash of absolutes" that has prevailed for decades. ▶

In recent years, medical science has devised new options for contraception and very early termination of unintended pregnancy. Emergency contraception (the "morning-after pill") works up to 72 hours after unprotected sex by preventing fertilization or by interrupting the implantation of a fertilized ovum in the uterine wall. The method is especially warranted as a backup to condoms, which, as a result of successful education and social marketing, are now widely used to protect against sexually transmitted diseases. Mifepristone ("RU-486"), which blocks the production of hormones needed to sustain pregnancy, is now licensed for use in the United States through the seventh week. It is used in combination with another drug that produces moderate contractions and the equivalent of a heavy menstruation. ▶



# HEALTH AND RIGHTS

These new early options have the potential to shift the political, ethical, and medical terrain on abortion, as the debate over stem cell research has done—making it clear that most Americans do not attach much moral significance to very early embryos. The ease of administering these therapies also makes possible the reintegration of services into neighborhood primary medical care settings. Over time, this development should diminish the need for freestanding abortion clinics, which are frequent targets of protest and violence.

OSI grantmaking in 2001 supported efforts to promote early options through consumer education, provider training, and the elimination of barriers to access. A program-related investment was also made in the **Women's Capital Corporation**, the U.S. and Canadian distributor of the dedicated emergency contraception product PLAN B.

Because only 11 percent of Americans are aware of emergency contraception, OSI supported the "Back Up Your Birth Control" national public education campaign sponsored by the **Reproductive Health Technologies Project** in collaboration with hundreds of partner organizations throughout the country. A grant to the **American Forum**, a national clearinghouse of progressive opinion, is also advancing efforts to increase local news coverage of reproductive health developments, especially in the southern states.

A grant to the University of California at San Francisco's **Center for Reproductive Health Research and Policy** contributed to the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology's decision to endorse advance provision of emergency contraception to all patients. The **Public Health Institute's Pharmacy Access Partnership** received funds to train California pharmacists to provide emergency

contraception without a prescription. OSI is also supporting the **Center for Reproductive Law and Policy** and other organizations in their petition to the Food and Drug Administration for approval of over-the-counter emergency contraception.

Nationwide training in medical abortion was advanced through major grants to allow the **Planned Parenthood Federation of America** and the **National Abortion Federation** to educate their members. Locally, support for the **New York National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL)** helped produce a groundbreaking agreement by the city's Health and Hospitals Corporation to mandate residency training in up-to-date abortion procedures. Pilot projects are also underway to provide emergency contraception and mifepristone in New York's two largest networks of publicly assisted maternal and infant health care: the **Community Healthcare Network** and the **Metropolitan Health and Research Association**. A grant to the **New York Civil Liberties Union** funded research on legal mechanisms to allow mid-level health care providers to deliver these medications under doctor supervision.

With a grant to **Planned Parenthood of Western Washington** for its Fair Access to Contraception Project, OSI supported

important litigation to defend reproductive rights and promote access to contraception. In 2001, lawyers for the project prevailed in the U.S. Circuit Court in Seattle in *Erickson v. Bartell Drug Co.*, arguing that failure to provide health insurance coverage for contraception constitutes unfair discrimination against female employees. To prevent further compromise of judicial protections for reproductive rights by potential conservative nominees to the federal courts and the Supreme Court, OSI is supporting the **Emergency Campaign for Choice**, a national, public education, and grassroots organizing campaign, developed collaboratively by nine national women's groups.

In spring 2001, OSI U.S. Programs published its second issue of *Ideas for an Open Society*, on the topic of reproductive health and rights. It discussed the current political debate over abortion and medical advances in reproductive health, and profiled a model neighborhood health clinic attempting to begin offering medical abortions. A forum presented in collaboration with the Communications Department, "Rhetoric and Reality in the Stem Cell Debate," featured Ann Lewis, former director of communications for the Clinton White House, and former vice president of public policy at Planned Parenthood. ■



# PROJECT ON DEATH IN

The mission of the Project on Death in America is to understand and transform the culture and experience of dying and bereavement through funding initiatives in research, scholarship, the humanities, and the arts, and to foster innovations in the provision of care, public education, professional education, and public policy. ▷

The Project on Death in America (PDIA) entered its third three-year funding period with the continued mission of transforming the culture of death in a society that avoids public discussions of the end of life and that, through medical interventions, dehumanizes the experience of dying. With strategic funding in research, professional education, and innovations in the provision of end-of-life care, PDIA seeks to improve public policy, attitudes, and the conditions that affect the care of terminally ill people and their caregivers.

Alleviating suffering and breaking the silence about the process of dying are integral to the project's goals. Thanks to the efforts of many PDIA grantees, palliative care, which encompasses quality of life for patients with life-threatening illness, is increasingly on the public agenda. In the next two years, PDIA will focus on building leadership and infrastructure in the palliative-care field. ▷

**IN 2001, THE PDIA GRANTS PROGRAM** focused on building capacity among individual and organizational grantees to support professional education and to encourage legal and political initiatives that address barriers to

excellent end-of-life care. The **Center for the Advancement of Health** received a major first-time grant to undertake a comprehensive report on the state of the grief and bereavement field and to develop policy recommendations. The

report will provide important information on what services are available and where gaps exist, and will educate policy makers about the need for bereavement services. PDIA also funded the **Pain and Policy Studies Group** at the University of





Wisconsin to evaluate the extent to which the regulation, or perception of regulation, of opioid medication affects pain management.

Growing evidence suggests that the health care system is failing children and families when they are confronted by a life-threatening condition. In close collaboration with the National Association of Children's Hospitals, the Society of Pediatric Nurses, and the New York Academy of Medicine, **Education Development Center, Inc.**, will develop a framework for children's hospitals to improve care for gravely ill children and their families. Six leading hospitals will pilot-test program materials, undertake new policies, and measure progress toward establishing new quality indicators for family-centered pediatric palliative care. A grant to the National Academy of Science's **Institute of Medicine (IOM)** will fund a report on palliative care for children, with recommendations for improving policy and practice. This follows an earlier IOM report, also funded by PDIA, which greatly influenced the debate on end-of-life care and presented a vision of the changes necessary to improve care for the dying.

Today, only 18 percent of Americans receive comprehensive end-of-life care, and African Americans often face additional barriers. To help define and promote a research, education, and policy agenda to improve care for African American patients, PDIA gave a grant to North General Hospital in New York City to establish the **Initiative to Improve Palliative Care for African Americans**.

**PDIA'S PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM** builds and maintains a cadre of clinicians, researchers, and educators

with expertise in palliative care. The Faculty Scholars Program has, to date, supported 78 faculty scholars from 50 medical schools and 3 nursing schools. They represent a variety of disciplines, including medical ethics, economics, geriatrics, neurology, pediatrics, psychiatry, and critical care. For seven years, these faculty scholars have sown the seeds of institutional change in clinical practice, medical education, and research, and they are now mentoring another generation of committed practitioners. Faculty scholar **Dr. Joanne Hilden**, a pediatric oncologist, founded the end-of-life care task force for the Children's Oncology Group, a national network of pediatric cancer specialists. Its goals are to ameliorate the physical and emotional suffering of pediatric cancer patients through better medical practices and the education of health care providers.

**NURSING LEADERSHIP** grants have helped nursing professionals from 22 subspecialty organizations transform the way end-of-life care is provided in academic, hospital, and community settings through education and networking. Training nurses in palliative care and fostering networks of nursing leaders has been the focus of this program's grant-making. In 2001, a nursing initiative that evolved from previous work began to integrate nursing leadership organizations with other foundation efforts that share common ground and common goals in the field of end-of-life care.

#### **THE SOCIAL WORK LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AWARDS**

**PROGRAM** promotes collaboration between social work schools and service provider organizations to conduct innovative research and training projects.

The goal is to develop expertise among social workers in end-of-life issues and bereavement counseling for their work with terminally ill patients and their families. Twenty-three individuals have received awards to date. In 2001, **Shirley Otis-Green** of City of Hope National Medical Center in Duarte, California, was chosen for her work developing a community partnership model for cancer centers serving Spanish-speaking patients and their families. Entitled *Proyecto de Transiciones: Enhancing End-of-Life and Bereavement Support Services for Latinos* within a Cancer Center Setting, the project's findings, based on focus groups made up of the dying, family caregivers, and the bereaved, will also help to develop relevant social work interventions with other underserved groups.

**PDIA'S INTERNATIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE INITIATIVES** ended the second of a three-year commitment to enhance hospice and palliative care in Eastern Europe. Widespread interest and support from partner organizations helped the **European Association for Palliative Care** to increase the capacity of existing organizations. The **Eastern and Central European Palliative Care Taskforce (ECEPT)** was created to advance policy, professional education of nurses, doctors, and social workers, and advocacy within the region. A grant will fund ECEPT's work with the initiative to share information, resources, and technology. ■

# SOUTHERN INITIATIVE



The Southern Initiative was created to promote democracy and social change in the South. More than a century after the Civil War, the region remains a society apart, bound by a repressive combination of political, economic, and social barriers. These include voting systems that inhibit political information and participation by citizens; educational inequities that produce failing schools ill equipped to prepare children for the changing workplace; and draconian criminal justice practices that result in high incarceration rates and increasing reliance on capital punishment. ▷

In the South, where the vestiges of centuries-old inequalities and injustices remain tenacious and visible, particular challenges exist for those committed to civic engagement and participatory democracy. Racial and class delineations of years past have been reshaped, but hardly erased, as changing demographics add greater diversity to this region and, with it, new barriers to social, political, and economic justice. At the same time, the changing South is bristling with energy and opportunities for transformation. ▷



With its Southern Initiative, OSI seeks to support grassroots organizations working for reform in political participation, education, and criminal justice. The Southern Initiative's grantmaking strategy aims at empowering people to advocate for policies that will improve their communities' material, spiritual, and intellectual resources. Since its inception, the initiative has focused on funding community organizing efforts at both the regional and local levels in the South, including Texas.

With OSI funding, **Project South** in Georgia conducted a study comparing state and federal wages. Informed by that study's results, Project South engaged in a public education campaign that prompted lawmakers to increase the state minimum wage to match the federal rate. **The Center for Democratic Renewal**, an advocacy and research institute in Atlanta, monitors and documents white supremacy organizations and hate crimes, which have increased across the South. The center's Southern Action Program was funded for community interventions to prevent hate crimes; for *Climate Reports*, a publication on state-level activities related to intolerance; and for work to build networks of social justice leaders in 11 states.

**Southern Echo** conducts leadership development and education in African American and marginalized communities in Mississippi. With OSI support, Southern Echo has been working with grassroots organizations to ensure that, as political boundaries are reshaped to reflect population shifts, African American communities attain fair representation. Southern Echo's redistricting team provides training and technical assistance for community

groups in Mississippi as well as South Carolina, Tennessee, Louisiana, Alabama, and Florida, as these groups design their own electoral districts using the newest census data.

**Esperanza**, an arts and social justice organization in San Antonio, Texas, was funded for *Puentes de Poder*, a leadership-training program that fosters community and political activism on local issues. Esperanza was at the center of a political controversy when the San Antonio City Council withheld funding to the group in 1997, claiming its activities were more political than artistic. But in May 2001, Esperanza scored a major victory and set an important legal precedent on public arts funding when a federal judge ruled the city council's action unconstitutional and ordered Esperanza's funding restored. ■

# YOUTH INITIATIVES



The Youth Initiatives program aims to develop the analytical, research, and self-expression skills that young people need to think critically about their world and to engage actively in our democracy. The three main components are urban debate, youth media, and the arts. In addition, OSI advances opportunities and resources for youth through education initiatives for school reform and after-school programs. ▷

Perhaps no single group in this society is as marginalized, vilified, blamed, and even feared, as young people. Despite falling juvenile crime rates, there is a perception that young people continue to be a threat to our society. Such thinking has led to increased “zero tolerance” policies in schools across the country, which have had detrimental effects on young people who need constructive engagement rather than punishment. Social attitudes are shaping policies on everything from education to juvenile justice, and the punitive nature of these policies is often detrimental to the most vulnerable youth, who are commonly from minority and low-income communities. Yet young people remain the country’s greatest national resource.

OSI’s Youth Initiatives program integrates low-income, marginalized youth into the democratic process by supporting efforts that cultivate their perspectives and help develop their skills in advocacy, self-expression, and critical thinking. The program’s key strategies for enabling youth to gain a sense of civic responsibility are formal debate, youth-generated media, and the arts. In addition, OSI is a lead partner in the New Century High Schools Consortium for New York City, which seeks to improve education by restructuring low-performing high schools and developing small, effective learning environments. ▷



**THE YOUTH MEDIA PROGRAM** is informed by the belief that young people's voices need to be heard and that promoting youth-generated media is an important way to engage them in a national conversation. Print, radio, video, television, and the Internet present boundless opportunities for young people to become not simply consumers but producers of news and information. Youth media offers outlets for self-expression and training for a new generation of media professionals. OSI grantmaking seeks to include young people, typically portrayed in the media in negative ways, by giving them vehicles to speak out about their views and their concerns. It also supports innovation, model programs, partnerships, networking, and technical assistance opportunities.

In 2001, **Project HIP-HOP**, a youth-led project in Boston that is inspired by the civil rights movement, was funded to support communications programs, which include the *Rising Times* newspaper, a weekly radio show, a website, and the completion of a video documentary. **Sound Portraits Productions**, known for its cutting-edge documentaries broadcast on National Public Radio (including OSI-supported "Witness to an Execution"), received funding for Youth Portraits. This series profiles young people living on the margins of society telling their own stories. The **Manhattan Neighborhood Network** received support for the Youth Channel and its pilot partnership with four public access centers—in Denver, Atlanta, Cambridge, and Detroit—to increase media access for disadvantaged youth.

**THE URBAN DEBATE PROGRAM** promotes the principles of open society by teaching young people to command attention with words, form logical arguments, and engage in debates on public policy issues. The program funds debate leagues in 12 urban school districts across the country, which operate in collaboration with university debate programs. In 2001, the **Providence Urban Debate League (PUDL)** received second-year funding for its programs in nine high schools. Sponsored by the Swearer Center for Public Service at Brown University, the PUDL also sponsors debate tournaments and workshops at the Rhode Island Training School, the local juvenile detention facility.

The **New York Urban Debate League (NYUDL)**, created in 1997 as an OSI operating program, received continued funding through the **IMPACT Coalition**, a community-based organization. The coalition now administers the NYUDL, which exists in 43 New York City high schools.

OSI's Baltimore office also funds the **Baltimore Urban Debate League (BUDL)**. Modeled on the New York Urban Debate League, BUDL operates in 13 high schools, and it plans to double that number in 2002. The Baltimore league is operated jointly by the Fund for Educational Excellence, the Towson University Foundation, Inc., and the Glenn Pelham Memorial Fund at Emory University.

OSI's Urban Debate Program has reached a level of maturity after years of building the capacity of grantee organizations, enabling them to assume control of debate programs within their communities. In 2001, the


program made a grant to create the **National Urban Debate Initiative**, an umbrella organization that strengthens the work of the Urban Debate Leagues across the country by providing technical assistance and facilitating the exchange of resources and information among sites.

### **OSI'S EDUCATION STRATEGIES**

advance opportunities and resources for youth through initiatives for school reform and after-school programs.

In 2000, OSI, the Carnegie Corporation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation joined with New Visions for Public Schools, the United Federation of Teachers (UFT), the Council of Supervisors and Administrators, and the New York City Board of Education to create the **New Century High Schools Consortium for New York City**. The goal of this reform initiative is to create smaller, more educationally sound high schools through partnerships between school districts and communities. With a five-year, \$10 million commitment from OSI and each of the other foundations, the first grants were awarded in 2001 to eight school districts and their community partners to plan the creation of new schools and the transformation of large, poorly functioning high schools. Planning grant recipients included the **Institute for Literacy Studies at Lehman College**, which will collaborate with **Bronx School District 8** to plan the Maritime High School for Science, Math & Technology. The **Center for Alternative Sentencing & Employment Services** partnered with the city's **Alternative High School Superintendency** to create the Preparatory School for Court Involved Students, to serve students recently released from





juvenile detention facilities. The **Education Alliance at Brown University** and the **Queens High School Superintendency** submitted a plan to transform August Martin High School into small learning communities with a K-12 option.

OSI also supports **The After-School Corporation (TASC)**, a nonprofit organization that was created in 1998 by OSI founder George Soros to address the growing need for engaging and enriching experiences for young people when the school day is over. With an initial five-year, \$125 million challenge grant, TASC has generated substantial private funding to support the match requirements, while building partnerships with the New York City Board of Education and the community-based groups operating after-school programs. In 2001, OSI extended its support to TASC for two more years.

TASC's successes in supporting high-quality programs throughout New York State are substantial. A total of 205 programs now operate in New York's public schools, 148 of them in New York City. They serve 49,000 young people, from kindergarten through 12th grade between the hours of three and six p.m. The programs are run by 130 community organizations that have a vested interest in providing activities that challenge youth, enhance their academic performance, and offer an

alternative to being home alone. After-school activities include homework assistance, recreational sports and arts, computer training, and community service.

**THE ARTS INITIATIVE** focus in 2001 was on strengthening community-based organizations that provide high-quality arts experiences for communities that have traditionally had the least resources. Grants were made to stabilize and increase the capacity of outstanding organizations that represent model approaches to arts programming for young people and the public. The **Liz Lerman Dance Exchange** in Maryland was funded to plan for long-term stability and to continue to pioneer techniques that foster interaction between dancers and non-dancers of all ages and backgrounds. The **New England Foundation for the Arts** in Boston received a planning grant to determine next steps for their Building Communities through Culture program, a series of collaborations between artists and community leaders. The **Culture Project** in New York City is developing and producing *The Exonerated*, a new play based on interviews with exonerated death row inmates. Also funded was the **New York City Hip-Hop Theatre Festival**, which offers young people and the hip-hop community a rare opportunity to talk about the social, political, and economic issues that concern them. ■



# OTHER U.S. INITIATIVES



## **THE FUNDERS' COLLABORATIVE FOR GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

supports efforts to prevent and reduce the harm caused by the widespread availability and misuse of guns. The collaborative is funded by OSI, the Irene Diamond Fund, and private donors. In 2001, a grant to the **Center for Investigative Reporting** supported the production and distribution of *GunShots*, a documentary about gun trafficking in the United States. Community events were organized for the film's Bay Area screening, and the producers hope to arrange a national broadcast of the film in 2002. A grant to the **Million Mom March** funded the second annual conference of the gun-control organization's grassroots membership. The Washington, D.C. event drew members from the group's more than 200 chapters to participate in training, advocacy, and planning for a national strategy. The **Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence** received support for its **Firearms Litigation Clearinghouse**, which provides information and assistance to plaintiffs suing the firearms industry.

The Funders' Collaborative supported state-level organizations that enable ordinary citizens to become effective advocates. **New Yorkers Against Gun Violence** received funds for its ongoing work. **SAFE Colorado** received a grant to send high school students to Washington, D.C., for advocacy training provided by the Alliance for Justice. **The Michigan Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence** was funded for legal costs associated with its challenge to a state law liberalizing restrictions on the carrying of concealed weapons. **Women Against Gun Violence** in California received a grant to organize educational and advocacy workshops for women on the issue of gun violence.

## **THE NEW YORK CITY COMMUNITY INITIATIVE**

has been established to provide exceptional grassroots organizations with an opportunity to build their capacity to serve disadvantaged communities. The initiative offers comprehensive technical assistance to help organizations acquire new resources in areas such as fundraising, technology, strategic planning, and community organizing. In 2001, **Jews for Racial and Economic Justice** received a grant for building coalitions between Jews and other communities to support social justice campaigns. Funding to the **Malcolm X Grassroots Movement** supported community organizing activity in central Brooklyn. **Art Start** received support for its creative arts projects that serve at-risk youth living in shelters and juvenile detention centers. **NYC AIDS Housing Network** received support to advocate for housing and related services and for sound public policies for people living with HIV/AIDS. A grant to the **Human Rights Project** supported its work to link issues such as environmental justice and welfare reform within a human rights context. **The Latin American Workers Project** was funded to develop community leadership and immigrant workplace projects.

**OSI'S DRUG POLICY REFORM** efforts continued in 2001, with an emphasis on alternatives to incarceration for low-level drug offenders and on efforts to decrease drug-related harm. OSI focused its grantmaking on support for the **Drug Policy Alliance**, the new research, advocacy, and policy entity that resulted from the merger of The Lindesmith Center and the Drug Policy Foundation; and for the **Tides Foundation's Fund for Drug Policy Reform**, a funders' collaborative that now oversees the grants formerly awarded directly by OSI. ■

## NEW YORK MASJID: THE MOSQUES OF NEW YORK

**EDWARD GRAZDA**

After September 11, incidents of racial profiling and immigrant detention posed serious threats to civil liberties and human rights in the United States. OSI's U.S. Programs rose to address these challenges through a series of grants designed to ensure affected groups—in particular American Muslims—their due rights. For photographer Edward Grazda, it has been a familiar struggle. Following the 1993 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, Grazda teamed with Jerrilynn Dodds, professor of architecture and theory at CUNY's City College, to develop a project that would document the dozens of communities of New Yorkers who practice Islam. Images from the resulting photo-essay, *New York Masjid: The Mosques of New York*, were presented as part of Moving Walls, OSI's annual photo exhibition.





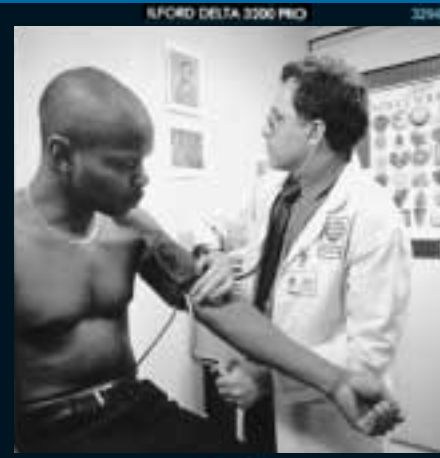
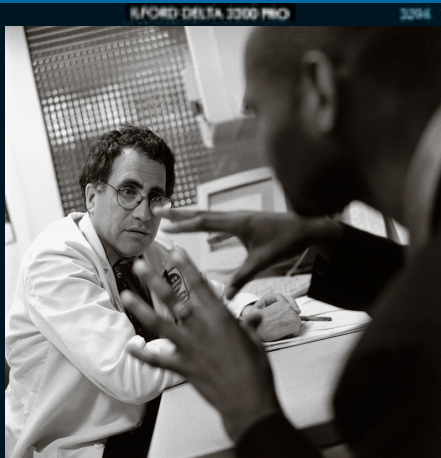
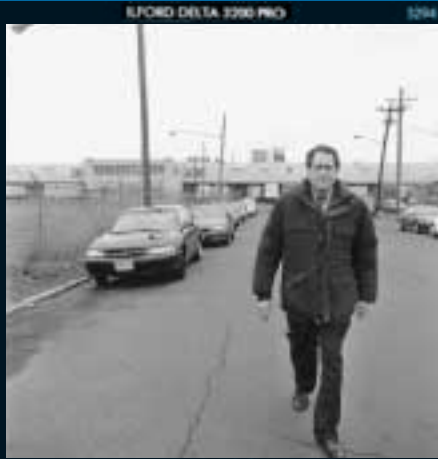




# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF DR. ALLEN KELLER, A SOROS ADVOCACY FELLOW

**ROBERT LISAK**

As part of his Soros Advocacy Fellowship for Physicians, Dr. Allen Keller is evaluating the health of asylum seekers held in INS detention centers in New York City. This day, like many others, takes him from an INS detention facility to a workshop where he provides training to legal professionals working with asylum seekers, and finally to an examination room, where he tends to the medical needs of a refugee from Cameroon. But Dr. Keller emphasizes the fact that his workday begins and ends at home. In fact, when asked where he wanted to meet the photographer assigned to shadow him for a day, he answered without hesitation: at home with his family. "It is my family," he explains, "that inspires me to use my medical skills to promote the health and well-being of asylum seekers."



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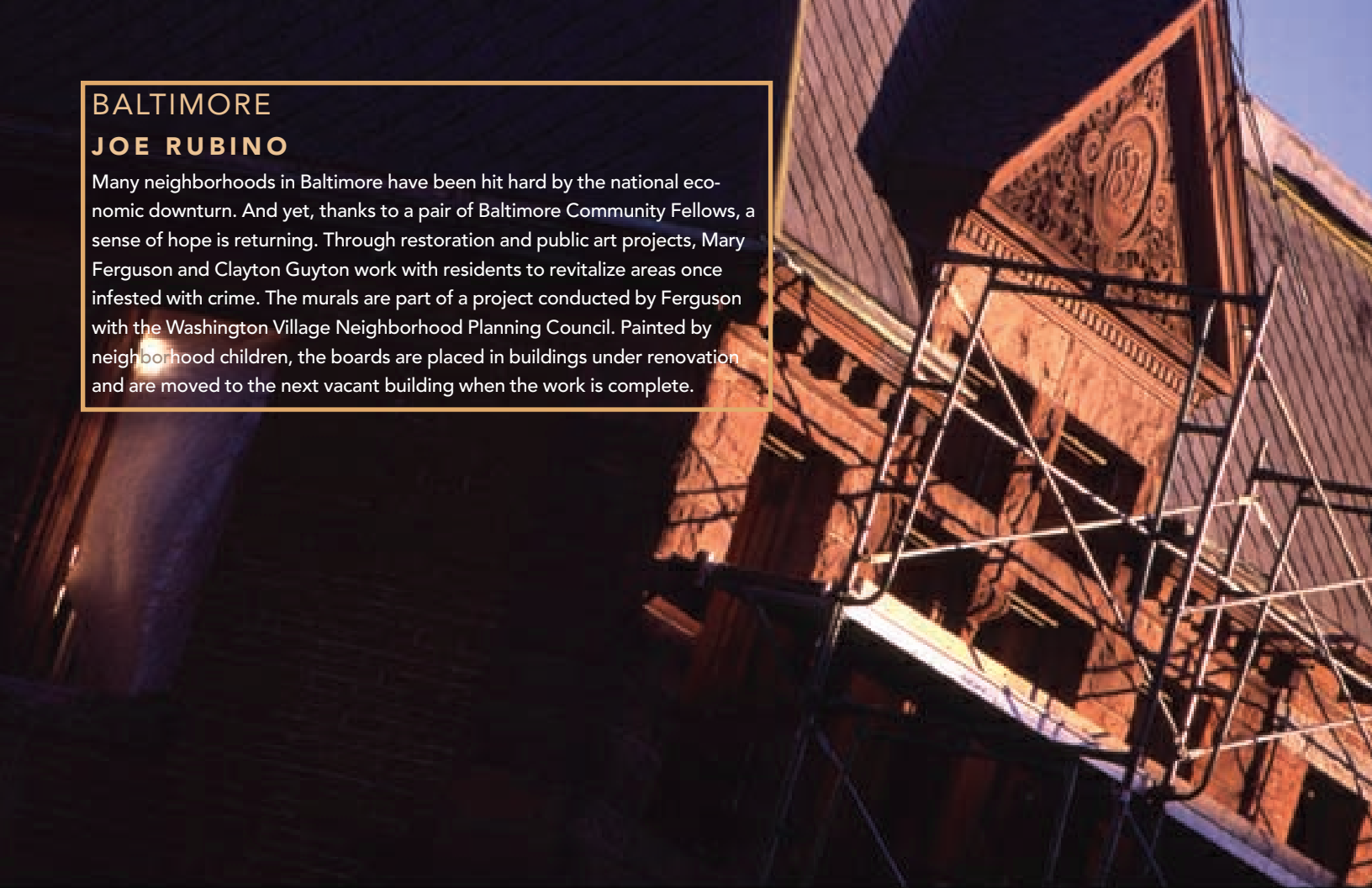
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## BALTIMORE

### JOE RUBINO

Many neighborhoods in Baltimore have been hit hard by the national economic downturn. And yet, thanks to a pair of Baltimore Community Fellows, a sense of hope is returning. Through restoration and public art projects, Mary Ferguson and Clayton Guyton work with residents to revitalize areas once infested with crime. The murals are part of a project conducted by Ferguson with the Washington Village Neighborhood Planning Council. Painted by neighborhood children, the boards are placed in buildings under renovation and are moved to the next vacant building when the work is complete.









## LOST IN THE SHUFFLE RACHEL LEVENTHAL

The impact of incarcerating women for drug related offenses is felt in these photos, which inmates mail to friends as though they were joyful Christmas cards. Polaroids of incarcerated women taken on visiting day betray the reality of children growing up without their mothers. Rachel Leventhal received an Individual Project Fellowship from OSI to create a book that illustrates the lives and issues facing women in prison through interviews, photographs, letters, and other writings.



Dear Sakinah 5-21-97  
 I hope everything's fine with you and I hope you can handle the load you may have to carry.  
 Sakinah I want you share responsibilities with your sister. You know Muneah is good at some things and your good at ~~some~~ <sup>other</sup> things. Allow Muneah to take part in financial matters not ~~only~~ taking care of Antwyne. You know I love you with all my heart and I need you right now to be an adult. It's better to look ahead and prepare for the future than to look back and regret the past. Look I don't know how long I'll be here but, my daughter will share my every sorrow and help me shake it to face tomorrow. You told me to stop calling so I won't call no more for a while. Just make sure you keep me a couple of dollars on the book and take care of Muneah + Antwyne and Elect Bill.

P.S. Now I really need you to be Little Tick #1  
 Love Mommy  
 LET MUNEAH DO Food shopping Kiss ANTWYNE FOR ME





me and my two babies  
8-21-98



5/20/99



Send Back  
10 days the next letter  
E. Lina Santiago  
759-109

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Gladys Lopez  
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*Program Assistant*

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## U.S. PROGRAMS—2001 EXPENDITURES

Criminal Justice Initiative	\$11,235,000
Drug Policy Reform	4,977,000
NYC Community Initiatives (includes NYC Community Fellowships)	1,638,000
OSI-Baltimore	9,267,000
Governance and Public Policy	3,705,000
Program on Law and Society	8,612,000
Medicine as a Profession	2,832,000
Program on Reproductive Health and Rights	7,474,000
Project on Death in America	5,105,000
Soros Documentary Fund <sup>1</sup>	5,673,000
Southern Initiative	1,225,000
Youth Initiatives	3,859,000
Education <sup>2</sup>	10,219,000
After-School Corporation	19,816,000
Other U.S. Initiatives	7,436,000
<b>TOTAL U.S. PROGRAMS</b>	<b>\$103,072,000</b>

1. Expenditures include multi-year commitments to the Soros Documentary Fund, which became part of the Sundance Institute in 2001.

2. Expenditures include multi-year commitments to the New Century High Schools Consortium for New York City.