

OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE



U.S. PROGRAMS

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

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Photographs, pages 4–5: Sue Johnson

Editor Maria Teresa Rojas

Writer Quynh Thai

Editorial Assistant Yasser Aggour

Designer Jeanne Criscola/Criscola Design

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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 the network of foundations, created and funded by George Soros, active in more than 50 countries around the world.

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, to spark debate about, and reform of, misguided approaches to drug policy; 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.

Though the United States did not fit the closed society model that characterized the countries in which the Soros foundations worked abroad, evidence was mounting that many open society values were 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 or 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, and the reinvention of professional, civic, and political ethics and community service.

In 1996, OSI launched the Center on Crime, Communities & Culture, 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. In 1998, we took the first major steps in what would become the Governance and Public Policy program, with large multi-year grants for campaign finance reform and organizing by 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 \$50 million Emma Lazarus Fund to provide naturalization and other services, and to 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 to offer an integrated approach to a variety of connected open society issues—including education, drug treatment, and workforce development—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 social change entrepreneurs 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, OSI created a Funders' Collaborative for Gun Violence Prevention. In 2000, OSI launched initiatives on indigent defense, youth media, and, in collaboration with the Carnegie Corporation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, 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.

ADVANCING DEMOCRACY

THE 2000 ELECTION POSED some profound dilemmas for American democracy. For OSI's U.S. Programs it also marked the first shift in a presidential administration since our launch five years ago. The Clinton administration's criminal justice and welfare reform policies, among others, were not, by any means, wholly consonant with open society values. But in a number of other areas of concern to OSI—including reproductive health and choice, access to legal services for the poor, and media policy reform—the administration made valuable strides. The political climate surrounding those issues is now changing for the worse.

The issues brought into sharp focus by the election and its aftermath underscore the prescience of many of OSI's 1996 program decisions. Long before the political sands shifted, OSI supported a major campaign to protect the independence of the judiciary from the political attacks that have been leveled against judges and judicial nominees in recent years. The baseless charges against Judge Ronnie White during the confirmation hearings for Attorney General John Ashcroft demonstrate the relevance of the issue. And another important question continues to resonate long after the elections and confirmations: what does independence of the judiciary mean when the Supreme Court itself has sorely tested the public's faith that its rulings are based on principle and not on politics?

OSI has worked to increase public confidence in democratic institutions with a significant grantmaking program designed to advance democracy through campaign finance reform and other measures that increase political participation and assure that all people are represented. The McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform was the first major legislative initiative taken up by the new Congress, which suggests the issue has built significant momentum over the last several years.

Yet there are other critical barriers to electoral democracy that must be overcome. The facts about the Florida vote, and what they suggest about voting practices across the country, make it clear that too many citizens—particularly African-Americans—still face obstacles to voter participation.

Antiquated and malfunctioning ballot practices were disproportionately found in Florida counties with large African-American populations. As many as a third of Florida's African-American males of voting age are permanently barred from voting as a result of their criminal records—a nationwide phenomenon first brought to public attention a few years ago by a Human Rights Watch/Sentencing Project report funded by OSI. The disenfranchisement of hundreds of thousands of citizens who have paid their debt to

IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

society is just one particularly dramatic manifestation of the human and social crisis of our nation's appalling level of incarceration—at two million and counting, the highest in the world. OSI's response to this crisis has been the Center on Crime, Communities & Culture's new three-year initiative to address the overuse of incarceration.

Another issue highlighted by the presidential campaign (and among the key priorities of President Bush), is the improvement of schools serving low-income minority youth. OSI's earliest initiatives in this area included a three-year, multimillion-dollar grant to the Algebra Project, and a five-year, \$125 million grant to The After-School Corporation, which is working with public and private funders and community-based organizations to increase access to after-school programs in New York City. In 2000, OSI, the Carnegie Corporation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation launched a five-year effort to reform and restructure New York City public high schools. OSI's Baltimore office is supporting similar efforts in that city.

As part of our goal to improve education, OSI is also committed to the belief that young people's perspectives are desperately needed in the discussion of public policies affecting them. Building on the success of our Urban Debate Program, which operates in 13 cities, OSI launched a Youth Media Initiative in 2000. It supports magazines, radio programs, websites, documentaries, and other communications projects that provide outlets for the voices of youth, allowing them to be heard on issues from school reform to criminal justice.

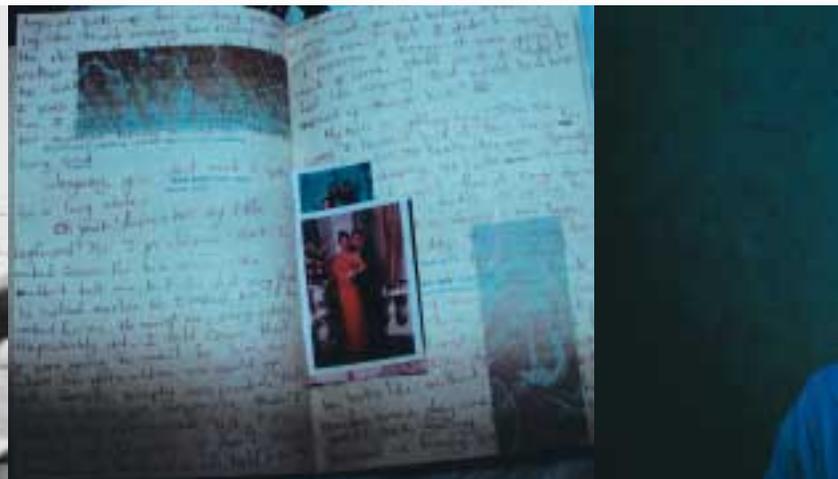
In addition, 2000 saw the creation of a new communications department to concentrate on promoting discussion and debate about open society challenges, and to assist grantees in building their communications and advocacy strategies. The work of the department includes media outreach, coordination of public education campaigns, and the creation of print and web-based materials to advance OSI's mission.

American Civil Liberties Union founder Roger Baldwin was fond of saying that democracy is "like living on a raft—you never sink, but your feet are always wet." The extraordinary array of initiatives described in the pages ahead, from debate programs for the poorest schools in 13 cities to grassroots organizing campaigns in the states of the former Confederacy, are the best hope we have that democracy stays afloat in the rough waters ahead.

Gara LaMarche
Director of U.S. Programs

PRISON DIARIES

For six months, five teenagers in prison, four correctional officers, and a judge used tape recorders to keep audio journals, recording the sounds and scenes of everyday life behind bars. The product, when whittled down by **Crime and Communities Media Fellow Joe Richman**, was *Prison Diaries*, a radio documentary project that aired on National Public Radio. As described in a feature story in the *New York Times*, Richman was looking for “a handful of inmates and corrections officers who would reveal their lives in their own words—no reporter, no narrator, no middleman to corrupt them.”





CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CRIMINALIZING AND INCARCERATING large segments of the population is inconsistent with the principles of a free and democratic society. Yet today, the poor and people of color often get second-class representation and are disproportionately sentenced to prison and capital punishment, making the U.S. criminal justice system an instrument of racial and class division and segregation.

An open society must guarantee equality under the law to all citizens while providing effective and appropriate solutions to economic, social, and racial inequities. Three OSI programs address the foundation's interests in reducing incarceration, advocating for fair and equal administration of justice, and promoting public health solutions to chemical dependence.

THE CENTER ON CRIME, COMMUNITIES & CULTURE

With the U.S. prison population exceeding two million in the year 2000, the public and policymakers have begun to question our nation's incarceration policies, which have turned our prisons into warehouses for people marginalized by poverty, racism, and chronic health problems. Over the past two decades, nonviolent, drug-related offenses have accounted for 76 percent of prison population growth. Many prisoners are mentally ill or chemically dependent and a disproportionate number are poor people of color.

A significant portion of the current prison population has served a previous sentence. Of the 600,000 people leaving prison annually, many will be reincarcerated due largely to a broken social support system. Former prisoners often return to families and communities that have been destabilized by their removal. Most lack access to housing, education, employment, and treatment and in many states are denied the right to vote. Simultaneously, parole mechanisms traditionally overseeing reentry have been abolished or severely curtailed.

In 2000, the Center on Crime, Communities & Culture's strategy for reducing incarceration included promoting community reentry of former prisoners; strengthening flagship criminal justice policy and research organizations; supporting grassroots organizing; and broadening the field of organizations and funders concerned with criminal justice issues. The center concentrated its grantmaking on policy analysis, research, litigation, and advocacy that identify, remove, or help former prisoners overcome barriers to successful reintegration and address the root causes of overincarceration.

Among its research and analysis grants in 2000, the center funded the **Urban Institute**, to develop a research agenda for former prisoner reentry; the **Legal Action Center**, to create a 50-state report card of reentry barriers and to develop model policies; and the **Urban Justice Center**, the **Council on State Governments**, and the

Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, to develop legal and policy strategies to challenge the criminalization of the mentally ill.

With OSI support, a bipartisan coalition in Rhode Island is developing a pretrial services project to address racial profiling and is also piloting the **Family Life Center** to facilitate former prisoner reintegration. Other grantees include the community justice initiatives of the **Fifth Avenue Committee** and the **Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services, Inc. (CASES)** and a public education campaign on felony disenfranchisement by **DemocracyWorks**.

In addition, grants to the **Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Californians for Justice and Critical Resistance**, and the **Public Safety & Justice Campaign of Grassroots Leadership** support multigenerational, grassroots organizing for investment in education instead of prisons and against for-profit, private prisons.

To broaden and strengthen the field, the center continued to forge partnerships with public and private funders, leveraging OSI's investment in criminal justice with over \$3 million from the Mott, Public Welfare, Rhode Island, Casey, Robert Wood Johnson, and MacArthur foundations, as well as from state and federal agencies.

The Center on Crime, Communities & Culture also administers the **Soros Justice Fellowships** and the **Crime & Communities Media Fellowships**, which are described on page 9.

THE GIDEON PROJECT

More than a generation after the Supreme Court declared legal counsel to be a “fundamental right essential to a fair trial,” *Gideon v. Wainwright*'s promise of equal justice is far from realized. The requirement that state and local governments provide free legal representation to indigent criminal defendants today remains, for the most part, a distant ideal. Fully 85 percent of all those arrested in the United States cannot afford an attorney and must rely on the government to provide one. Yet, most jurisdictions devote only a small fraction of their criminal justice budgets to indigent defense. Accused people sometimes wait three months or more in jail before speaking to a lawyer. Burdened by low fees, high caseloads, poor training, inadequate resources for experts and investigators, and sometimes a reliance on patronage for appointments to indigent cases, defense attorneys are seldom in a position to mount a vigorous defense. Crucial witnesses go un interviewed, and important forensic evidence unexamined.

The human consequences of *Gideon*'s underenforcement are erroneous convictions, overly long and illegal pretrial detention, inconsistent prosecution of criminal laws, and inappropriate incarceration of substance-addicted and mentally ill people. All have serious implications for human and constitutional rights in an open society.

In 2000, public debate about fair administration of justice issues reached an extraordinary level. Exposés of racial profiling in New Jersey and elsewhere have forged consensus that racial profiling is wrong and should be prohibited. A spate of death row exonerations and a presidential campaign featuring the governor of Texas—the leading state in executions—sparked new national debate over capital punishment. Illinois declared a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, while the New Hampshire legislature passed a bill for its repeal. Fourteen other state legislatures have introduced bills in favor of death penalty moratoriums, and polls show strong public support for moratoriums, universal access to DNA testing for inmates, and better counsel for the accused.

In focus groups and surveys, Americans across the country cite “sleeping lawyers” and economic inequality as major impediments to justice for criminal defendants. President Clinton’s rebuke of federal prosecutors in the Wen Ho Lee case raised the issue of the extensive, and largely unregulated, power of prosecutors.

Although some of these developments resulted from the election-year spotlight on capital punishment in Texas, many came about through the work of a handful of Gideon Project grantees. The **Center for Wrongful Conviction** at Northwestern University won the exoneration of nine Illinois innocents and publicized the release of dozens of others through a major conference in 1998. Advocacy for DNA testing by the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law’s **Innocence Project** provided a window on systemic problems in the criminal justice system. The prevalence of “sleeping lawyers” and other deficiencies in legal counsel were publicized by the **Southern Center for Human Rights**. And individual grantee and 2000 Soros Justice Senior Fellow Professor **James Liebman** of Columbia University School of Law conducted a study of death penalty cases revealing the systemic nature of error in the capital system.

Adding to the momentum have been successful collaborations with other grantmakers. In April 2000, the Gideon Project and three other funders established the **Funders’ Collaborative for Death Penalty Alternatives** which now includes the **Columbia**

Foundation, J. Roderick MacArthur Foundation, the Fund for Non-Violence, Arca Foundation, the Tides Foundation, and the Public Welfare Foundation. Gideon also leveraged over \$1 million for death penalty projects from new funders recruited in 2000.

DRUG POLICY INITIATIVES

Reform of the current criminal justice and incarceration systems is largely a matter of changing U.S. drug policies and sentencing schemes that have sent inordinate numbers of people through these systems. Drug addiction and proposed solutions are deeply entangled with the broader issues of social welfare, access to health care, economic impoverishment, and attitudes toward medicines and intoxicants.

Through its Drug Policy Initiatives, OSI continued to focus on the failure of the war on drugs, paying specific attention to alternatives to incarceration for low-level drug offenders and efforts to decrease drug-related harm through reduction strategies.

In 2000, the **Lindesmith Center**, which began as an OSI project in 1995, became an independent institution and merged with the Drug Policy Foundation. OSI continues to support the center and other grantees such as: the **Harm Reduction Coalition**, an organizing agency for providers and activists involved in harm reduction efforts; the **ACLU Foundation**, to challenge drug testing and other abuses of civil rights growing out of the drug war; the **Kemba Smith Youth Foundation**, whose mission is to educate youth and their parents on the dangers of drugs and association with those involved in drugs, and the extreme sentences for drug offenders; and the **National Advocates for Pregnant Women (NAPW)**, which reaches both women’s rights and drug policy advocates through a campaign combining expertise in reproductive law and drug policy that debunks the myths about—and attacks on—African-American motherhood.

www.soros.org/usprograms/criminaljustice.htm

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. Operating on this belief, OSI has committed to investing in individuals—in people who act as agents for debate and change within their communities, their professional fields, and society.

THE COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAM supports social entrepreneurs—community activists, organizers, and educators—to create innovative public interest projects that will enrich and empower underserved communities in New York City and Baltimore. Community Fellows achieve social change by organizing, identifying, and responding to gaps in services, and advocating on behalf of communities on issues such as youth empowerment, the environment, workers' rights, the digital divide, education, and criminal justice.

Among the 19 active fellows in New York City in 2000, **Carlos Briceno** of the Harlem Internet Radio Training Station developed and implemented training courses in radio for youth and senior citizens in Harlem; **Thinley Kalsang** of the New York City Tibetan Outreach Project created an infrastructure of resources for social and legal services between the Tibetan refugee community and service providers; and **Omshanti Parnes** of the Youth Empowerment Project provided homeless, runaway, and at-risk youth with access to legal information and tools for self-help advocacy.

In Baltimore, 20 fellows were active in 2000. **Terry Hickey** of Community Law in Action developed the Law and Public Service Academy at Northwestern High School, while **Rebecca Yenwine** of Kids on the Hill provided an after-school arts education program and one-on-one tutoring in the Reservoir Hill community. **Clayton Guyton**, community organizer, collaborated with residents in the Madison-Eastend community in Baltimore to rebuild a neighborhood formerly dominated by open-air drug markets.

THE INDIVIDUAL PROJECT FELLOWSHIPS (IPF) ended in 2000. In four years, the program supported 128 individuals in the United States and abroad who sought visionary solutions to problems that threatened the development of open societies. The IPF program offered recognized and emerging voices the chance to be heard in the crucial debates of the day.

Individual Project Fellowships were awarded for applied research, policy studies, and program design. Among IPF fellows were **Bill Berkeley**, whose book, *The Graves Are Not Yet Full: Race, Tribe and Power in the Heart of Africa*, was published in 2001 by Basic Books; **Linda Williams**, who is writing a book about the role of inner-city churches and faith-based efforts; **Michael Katz**, whose book, *Redefining the Welfare State in America, 1980-1997*, was published in 2001 by Holt; and **Samantha Power**, who is writing a book about the continuous reluctance of the United States to act

against genocide. Many of the fellows will continue to be associated with OSI through publications and forums.

THE SOROS JUSTICE FELLOWSHIPS AND CRIME & COMMUNITIES MEDIA FELLOWSHIPS operate under the direction of OSI's Center on Crime, Communities & Culture. Fellows are leaders and advocates in the criminal justice, legal, academic, and media communities. Their work highlighted the issues that were key to the center's goals in 2000: to curb the excessive and inappropriate use of incarceration in the United States, and to address the individual, social, and economic challenges experienced by people coming out of prison, their families, and communities.

Fellows have contributed to the significant shift in public opinion about the death penalty. They have initiated groundbreaking litigation on behalf of mentally ill inmates, and produced original reporting from within the walls of typically inaccessible prisons. Since 1997, the programs have supported 30 Senior Justice Fellows, 52 Postgraduate Justice Fellows, and 17 Media Fellows.

Soros Justice Senior Fellows are leading experts in the criminal justice and public health fields whose work raises the level of national discussion and scholarship, and prompts policy debate on issues related to incarceration. In 2000, research by **James Liebman**, a professor at Columbia University School of Law, revealed that appellate courts found serious reversible error in nearly 7 out of 10 verdicts issued in the past 23 years. This research has provided added momentum to activists working to shift public opinion and policy on the death penalty. **Jonathan Simon**, a professor at the University of Miami School of Law, is writing a book, *Governing Through Crime: Criminal Law and the Reshaping of American Government*, which explores the way the fear of crime sets the public policy agenda in areas such as education, housing, and health care, and colors many aspects of everyday life, from child-rearing to privacy and recreation.

Soros Justice Postgraduate Fellows are outstanding recent graduates in law, public health, and other disciplines related to criminal justice. **Heather Barr** is an example of such a leading new voice. Through her work at the Urban Justice Center in New York City, Barr raised public awareness of the increasing number of mentally ill people housed in New York City jails and prisons, and

worked with city and state agencies to create alternatives to incarceration for mentally ill prisoners. In the case *Brad H. v. City of New York*, she won an unprecedented ruling ordering the city to provide discharge planning for the 25,000 inmates with mental illness who are released annually from Rikers Island and other city jails.

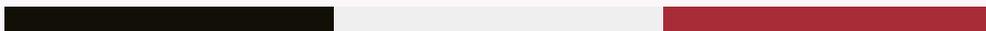
Crime & Communities Media Fellows are award-winning journalists whose work helps to improve the quality and depth of media coverage of overincarceration issues in the United States. Media Fellows are writers, photographers, and radio and television producers. In 2000, their work appeared in *Time*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *The Village Voice*, *The Chicago Tribune*, the Internet magazine *Salon*, and National Public Radio. **Joe Richman**, a radio producer, completed *Prison Diaries*, an arresting series of radio documentaries recorded by teenagers in prison, which aired nationally on NPR's *All Things Considered*. **Nell Bernstein**, a freelance writer, published a series of stories in *Salon*'s "Mothers Who Think" column, on the impact of rising incarceration rates on women, children, and the structure of the American family. **Jennifer Gonnerman**, a reporter, published two cover series in *The Village Voice*: one profiled in stark detail Rikers Island, the nation's largest penal colony, and the other documented one woman's struggle to rejoin her family and society after 16 years in prison. Photographs by another fellow, **Andrew Lichtenstein**, accompanied the series.

THE SOROS ADVOCACY FELLOWSHIP FOR PHYSICIANS is administered by the Medicine as a Profession (MAP) program. It reflects MAP's dedication to a broader vision of professional activity that emphasizes the promotion of social welfare by physician advocates. The goal of the fellowship is to promote greater commitment by physicians to participation in civil society, service to the community, and active engagement on behalf of the public interest. The fellowship allows physicians to join with an advocacy organization for a six-to-twelve-month period in order to sharpen the physicians' advocacy skills and to enable the organization to enlarge its strategies by drawing on the physicians' skills. Soros Advocacy Fellows are expected to serve as role models to their students and peers.

Since 1999, the program has funded 14 physicians. Fellows have engaged in advocacy for children’s environmental health policy, assessed the health needs of recent immigrants to increase access to care and enhance the quality of care, and promoted training in emergency contraception and medical abortions for physicians entering the field of family medicine. In 2000, **Dr. Michael Fine** established an occupational and environmental health service at Rhode Island Family & Community Medicine, and promoted its mission in the business, labor, and health care communities. **Dr Marji Gold** developed advocacy skills to

integrate training in first trimester abortions and emergency contraception into family medical residency programs at Bronx Montefiore Medical Center, and **Dr. Allen Keller**, of the Bellevue/New York University Program for Survivors of Torture, received funding to promote advocacy efforts on behalf of individuals applying for political asylum in the United States through the Asylum Advocacy Project, in partnership with the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights.

www.soros.org/usprograms/fellowships.htm



THE ETHNOGRAPHIC GAZE: TEENAGERS JOURNEY THROUGH WALLS OF LOSS

In many New York City communities, spray-paint murals on building walls catalog the death toll of inner-city violence. In the summer of 1999, as part of a study conducted by the Harlem Writers Crew and funded collaboratively by the **Project on Death in America** and the **Youth Initiatives** program, a group of teenagers entered city neighborhoods to discover the stories behind the memorial wall art. The resulting photographs are a visual journey through the process of grieving represented in the murals and the teenagers' own experiences with death.





GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC POLICY

THE GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM combines two issue areas that have long been of interest to OSI: political reform and the devolution of federal responsibility for social welfare programs to state and local governments. The program's work in political reform aims to reduce money's role in politics and to improve the democratic process. Its work in devolution aims both to ensure that this profound governmental transformation does not result in compromised services for people in need, and to take advantage of this unique moment to improve the way social services are delivered in this country. On a fundamental level, these areas share the goal of strengthening government's ability to serve citizens.

In the wake of the 2000 presidential election, the need for political reform has never been more evident than it is now. The voting fiasco in Florida highlights the need for nuts-and-bolts reforms, such as improved ballot machines and poll worker education, as well as more sweeping changes to the voting system itself, such as same-day voter registration and proportional representation. At the same time, the unprecedented amount of money spent in both campaigns—over \$3 billion in hard money, and an estimated half a billion more in soft dollars—underscores the urgency for campaign finance reform.

OSI's grantees are working on several fronts to increase the momentum of political reform. Recognizing that public outrage over political corruption is essential for reform, the **Institute for Money in State Politics**, as well as the state-based organizations supported by the **Piper Fund**, track campaign contributions to state legislators and link these contributions to voting records. To provide an alternative to the current financing system, the Washington, D.C.-based organization **Public Campaign** and others advocate, with considerable success thus far, for a public financing model, wherein candidates agree to refuse private funding and to abide by certain spending caps in return for public funding. Four states and many local governments have already adopted various forms of public financing. Maine completed its first publicly financed election cycle in November of 2000; and, in New York City's 2001 citywide elections, almost all candidates are participating in a public matching system that encourages small contributions.

Another crucial component of campaign finance reform is the reduction of money's influence in politics. Running a viable campaign today is prohibitively expensive, with the bulk of the money going to television advertising, which remains the primary way for politicians to communicate with voters. Each 30-second spot costs tens of thousands of dollars. Though the airwaves are owned by the public, broadcasters have little incentive to provide meaningful public service programming. The **Alliance for Better Campaigns** has sought to persuade the major networks to provide free airtime for candidates, which would go far toward reducing the exorbitant cost of running for office.

One of the most promising developments in the campaign finance reform movement has been the formation of state-based, progressive coalitions. Around the country, labor, choice, and civil rights groups, among others, have joined forces to work towards reform, recognizing that to make their voices heard and to bring their issues to the fore of political debate, they first need to level the financial playing field.

The political power that such state-based coalitions create is particularly needed in the effort to shape devolution-era policy. Increasingly, local governments determine the allocation of resources for welfare, food stamps, Medicaid, and a host of other social programs. To ensure that money is spent in the areas where it is needed, regional progressive allies must work together, using a combination of budget analysis, public education, and advocacy to help shape local policy as it affects low-income families and others who are often left out of the debate.

Governance and Public Policy grantees, including the **Economic Policy Institute**, the **Center for Law and Social Policy**, the **Center for Budget and Policy Priorities** and its state-based affiliates in the **State Fiscal Analysis Initiative**, use these approaches to mold public policy on a local level. Their work will make it possible to realize devolution's best promise: the chance to use the states' heightened independence to implement innovative, progressive policies on a state level, where politicians are more connected to their constituents and governments are more often willing to take risks. OSI funding has helped progressive groups across the country to share successful state programs with one another, effecting national change state by state.

www.soros.org/usprograms/campaign.htm

MEDICINE AS A PROFESSION

THE OVERARCHING GOAL OF THE MEDICINE as a Profession (MAP) program is to promote professional values within the medical community. Medical societies, medical school educators, and physicians agree that professionalism within medicine represents the following core values: that patient interests take precedence over physicians' financial self-interest; that medical professionals maintain their own technical expertise and regulate the performance of their colleagues; and that physicians participate in the civic life of their communities, particularly to advocate for care for vulnerable populations. The critical task for MAP is to ensure that these ideals are translated into the everyday practice of medicine and that they become effective policy guides.

Marketplace influences in medicine remain powerful, but they are not alone in challenging professional values. To an unprecedented degree, complex developments are reshaping medical practice. The increasing use of multidisciplinary teams presents challenges to the particular skills of physicians and calls into question the idea of individual responsibility for medical outcomes. At the same time, the proliferation of alternative sources of medical information, including the Internet, has transformed the traditional role of physicians as the primary source of medical information for patients. To ensure that professional values shape the response of the medical community to these new conditions, MAP is pursuing several distinctive funding strategies.

PHYSICIAN-CONSUMER PARTNERSHIPS FOR HEALTH CARE supports the creation and promotion of alliances between consumer and medical groups. It seeks to enhance professional values through collaborations to improve the quality of health care in the community and to respond to market-driven forces in medicine. In 2000, partnerships between consumer and medical groups fostered dialogues and yielded materials that address such problems as inequalities in health care, poor physician-patient relationships, and lack of recourse for patients within managed care. One MAP grant in particular underscored the value of such collaborations. The **California Medical Association Foundation (CMAF)** is working with **Citizens for the "Right to Know,"** a partnership of over 100 consumer health organizations in California, and the **Ethnic Medical Organization Section of the California Medical Association,** a physician group comprised of representatives from statewide and regional ethnic medical organizations. The collaborators have held 15 focus groups with physicians and consumers who are involved in community health efforts. They have also conducted extensive community mapping to identify physicians and consumer advocacy organizations that are working to improve community health. Using the resources and knowledge gained in the first year of funding, CMAF and its partners will provide support and training to launch three new community health efforts.

THE SOROS ADVOCACY FELLOWSHIP FOR PHYSICIANS promotes greater physician commitment to participation in civil society, service to the community, and active engagement on behalf of the public interest. Please see the “Fellowships” section on page 9 for a detailed description.

THE STRATEGIC GRANT PROGRAM funds projects with an extraordinary and unique commitment to MAP’s overall goals. Beginning in 1998 a multiyear grant enabled the **Health Privacy Project** to bring the issue of the privacy of health records to the attention of consumers and policymakers. The project successfully pushed for the inclusion of consumer protection principles in the federal health privacy regulations that were issued by the Clinton administration in 2000. The project will continue to work to assure that the regulations are not weakened in the implementation and that consumers understand their rights.

THE MAP FORUMS convene leaders of the medical profession and distinguished economists, lawyers, and historians to analyze current and future challenges to professional values within medicine, reflect on the nature of professionalism in the field, and set directions for new MAP research and program initiatives. Organized in conjunction with the United Hospital Fund, each meeting focuses on a critical issue confronting professionalism in medicine. The first meeting, in November 2000, analyzed “Money and the Practice of Medicine.” Successive meetings will address topics such as “Medicine and the Information Revolution;” “Professional Responsibility for Competence and Quality;” and “Professional Obligations, Access, and Equity in Health Care.” The forums are unique in devoting such sustained attention to this broad range of issues and are certain to have substantial and lasting impact on the field. Papers from the discussions will be published in medical and policy journals. Once completed, the discussion papers will be compiled into book form for wide dissemination.

THE SOROS SERVICE PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH (SSPCH) provides a sense of service among medical students and young physicians through community-based fellowships, internships, and clerkships. Participants serve vulnerable populations through research, advocacy, and clinical work at community-based organizations, guided by a responsive and culturally sensitive curriculum developed by staff at those organizations.

Based in Baltimore and New York City, the program funded 34 pre-clinical fellows and summer interns in the 1999–2000 academic year to work in 20 community-based organizations doing community health projects in the areas of health education, advocacy, and primary research. The Clinical Clerkship program was launched in 2000 to provide one-month placements in community-based clinics in Baltimore for medical students in their third or fourth year. Students are recruited nationally for the summer internship and clinical clerkship. In 2001, the program expects to expand the number of clinical clerkships to be offered and extend its reach to second- and third-year medical residents nationwide.

www.soros.org/medicine

OSI-BALTIMORE

THROUGH AN INTEGRATED PROGRAM OF grantmaking and networking, the OSI office in Baltimore examines issues of national consequence by focusing on local social, economic, and political conditions. Since 1998, OSI-Baltimore has pursued change that is premised on an understanding of the interconnection of the city's social issues. The program has concentrated on policy reform in interrelated areas: criminal justice, drug addiction treatment, workforce and economic development, education and youth development, and access to justice. It also sponsors a Community Fellowship program and the Baltimore Urban Debate League, and hosts local projects of national OSI programs, such as the Soros Service Program for Community Health.

OSI's impact in Baltimore can be measured not only in direct grantmaking, but also in the network of organizations, advocates, and funders that the foundation has helped to build. Over two years, OSI support has linked local organizations, markedly improving their services. In the areas of workforce development and criminal justice, OSI-Baltimore established "learning circles" in which groups identify common problems and share resources. Through "Forging Open Society: Generating Ideas, Partnerships, and Solutions," an educational forum series, the foundation convened a diverse group of community, religious, and government leaders to address challenges facing the city relating to criminal justice, addiction, and arts education. Three sessions on race and criminal justice in 2000 addressed national research on disenfranchisement, racial profiling, and the overrepresentation of people of color in the criminal justice system.

OSI-Baltimore worked closely with local organizations and city agencies in 2000. The staff and board members took an active part in Mayor Martin O'Malley's transition into office, drafting four transition papers on behalf of diverse committees. They also served on the **Baltimore Workforce Investment Board**, the board of the **Baltimore Substance Abuse Systems**, and on subcommittees of the **Maryland Afterschool Opportunity Fund**, the **Baltimore City Public School System**, and the **Maryland State Task Force on the Effectiveness and Availability of Drug Treatment**. OSI-Baltimore remains well-positioned to provide leadership to private and public funders in the foundation's areas of expertise.

THE DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT PROGRAM aided in efforts to unify Maryland's civic leaders in support of drug treatment. The program continued its goal of increasing access to comprehensive and integrated drug treatment services for uninsured, drug-dependent Baltimore residents. Efforts in the past year benefited from a growing consensus among government and community leaders that treatment must also address the poverty-related problems associated with addiction, such as unemployment and lack of housing and health care.

The city of Baltimore has grown closer to its goal of treatment on demand. In the past two years, the foundation's funding helped lay the groundwork for the city to increase the level of state funding for treatment efforts by \$16 million. Key grants in this area were awarded to **Baltimore Substance Abuse Systems**, which administers the public treatment system, for its Scientific Advisory Committee, a group of national treatment researchers and clinicians; the **National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence–Maryland**, to add the voices of providers, and recovering addicts and their families, to advocacy efforts; and **Drug Strategies**, a nonprofit research institute, to review Baltimore's treatment approach in order to build consensus and support for the city's efforts to expand treatment. Two significant grantees that offered integrated services were the **Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health**, which provides drug treatment patients with testing and linkage to treatment for hepatitis and HIV, and the **Baltimore Mental Health System** for six clinics to integrate psychiatric and addiction treatments.

THE CRIME, COMMUNITIES & CULTURE PROGRAM seeks to reduce incarceration in Maryland, which disproportionately affects large segments of Baltimore's population. The removal of men and women from already marginal neighborhoods has further destabilized those communities. In 2000, the program funded the successful transition of ex-prisoners into the community and alternatives to incarceration for juveniles.

OSI awarded grants for programs that assist former prisoners as they make the transition from prison to society. Among them were **Goodwill Industries**, to create a workforce training program, and **People Encouraging People**, to assist former inmates with mental illness and drug addiction to live independently.

Following the exposures of abuses in boot camps for juvenile offenders in 2000, the state of Maryland dismantled the leadership of the Department of Juvenile Justice. The **Maryland Juvenile Justice Coalition**, through an OSI grant to **Advocates for Children and Youth**, played a critical role in reshaping juvenile detention policy and practices in the state. The result has been a growing public commitment to reducing the number of incarcerated juveniles and an increasing sensitivity to the overrepresentation of children of color in the juvenile system.

THE WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM supports promising job training and placement programs that also address persistent barriers to employment, ranging from inadequate transportation, lack of childcare, and insufficient addiction treatment to distrust of former prisoners among employers. In 2000, the program's grantmaking emphasized assistance to the public sector to build a better system for workforce development, support for education and advocacy

for policies that benefit low-income residents, and model training, placement, and job-retention programs.

In partnership with the new mayor's administration, OSI-Baltimore awarded a grant to **Baltimore City** to engage consultants and organize an advisory committee to create a more comprehensive system for developing the workforce, provide broad analysis of available funding sources, and develop an inventory of workforce providers in the city. For years, economic development in the region has been stymied by a mismatch of workers and jobs. Though workers existed, they needed to acquire skills to qualify for jobs. In the climate of a new administration, this grant offered OSI an ideal opportunity to make the system more effective and user-friendly for job seekers and employers. The new **Baltimore City Workforce Investment Board** has announced plans to implement some of the initiative's results.

At the state level, OSI co-funded a conference organized by **Jobs for the Future** on strategies to advance low-income workers in the new economy. The conference included a report on the state's workforce system and a poll on the public's perception of government efforts to lift people out of poverty; it resulted in collaborative efforts to promote policies benefiting low-income families. OSI also funded the **Center for Fathers, Families and Workforce Development** to help its program, STRIVE, build job retention and wage advancement services for its graduates. **Catholic Charities** will launch a training center, in partnership with an employer task force, that integrates employment and support services for drug-dependent people and former inmates.

THE EDUCATION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM supports better learning opportunities during the school day and in the nonschool hours. Although Baltimore's children continue to perform well below state averages, they made significant progress in 2000. In state-mandated standardized tests, children in **Baltimore City Public Schools** achieved higher scores in virtually every subject area and grade level than in previous years. Grants made by OSI played a key role in these gains. OSI was the lead private funder of **Achievement First**, a whole-school reform effort sponsored by the **Fund for Educational Excellence** and the **Baltimore City Public School System**. Schools that participated in

this two-year-old initiative had average gains that were double those of the system's elementary schools as a whole. With this success, the number of schools now participating in Achievement First has increased from 10 to 66, and the financial contribution of the school system now exceeds private support for the program.

Opportunities for learning in the out-of-school hours also grew dramatically—in large part due to OSI support to the **Safe and Sound Campaign's** effort to build a system of quality out-of-school opportunities, extensive training and technical assistance, and sustainable public and private funding. Safe and Sound has leveraged OSI's three-year investment of \$6.2 million into a total of \$25.5 million in new funding for after-school programs. This funding translated into 14,000 additional center-based, after-school slots and 2,300 more after-school special activity slots for Baltimore's children.

THE BALTIMORE URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE introduces policy debate to Baltimore public high schools as an academic and after-school program. Debate teaches students to command attention with words rather than physical aggression, provides skills to manage day-to-day conflict, and inspires them to think critically about the world. The Baltimore Urban Debate Program is administered through a partnership among **Towson University**, the **Fund For Educational Excellence in Baltimore**, and the **Barkley Forum** at Emory University in Atlanta. The league is based on the model developed by OSI in New York City.

In 2000, OSI funding enabled 13 of the 21 eligible Baltimore City High Schools to form active debate squads. It convinced the Baltimore City Public School System to commit to comprehensive support for the Debate League, and allowed 200 Baltimore City students and 30 teachers to be trained in team policy debate at the nationally renowned Emory National Debate Institute. A Baltimore Urban Debate League Advisory Board was established to provide overall direction and support to the program, and the Baltimore City Council passed a bill endorsing school system support for the Baltimore Urban Debate League.

THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM strives to build a robust public interest law community through support to key

groups in Baltimore. The quality of public policy often suffers without rigorous debate, particularly debate fostered by an active advocacy community. In Baltimore and Maryland, the lack of such a community has resulted in a low level of civic engagement, hostility among policymakers towards advocacy initiatives, and little capacity to achieve systemic change.

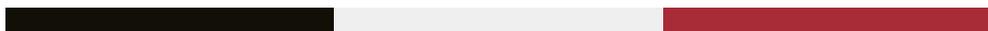
OSI's considerable investment in the public interest law community has yielded measurable gains. A 1998 grant of \$1 million over three years (including \$500,000 from OSI's Program on Law & Society) to the **Maryland Legal Services Corporation** established the **Maryland Legal Assistance Network**. The Network has created, among other things, a centralized intake and referral system for public law groups, a **People's Law Library** website, and an Internet-based, legal resource center to connect legal services and private pro bono attorneys. OSI awarded \$225,000 over 30 months to the **Maryland Association of Non-Profit Organizations** to establish the **Maryland Advocacy Leadership Program** in partnership with the **Advocacy Institute** in Washington, D.C. The program will provide year-long training to classes of emerging advocates from a range of nonprofits. In 2000, **Access to Justice** continued to fund key legal organizations, including the **Legal Aid Bureau**, to create a statewide

Support Unit to provide substantive expertise to staff attorneys on the systemic causes of clients' problems.

THE COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM is described in the "Fellowships" section on page 9.

THE SOROS SERVICE PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH (SSPCH), a 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.

www.soros.org/baltimore



SOUTHERN COMFORT

Robert Eads was born a genetic female. After undergoing a difficult medical procedure to become a man, Robert was diagnosed with cancer of the cervix, ovaries, and uterus. "The last part of me that is female is killing me," he says dryly. Robert is the subject of *Southern Comfort*, a documentary produced, directed, edited, and photographed by Kate Davis with a grant from the **Soros Documentary Fund**, which won the Grand Jury Prize in the documentary competition at the 2001 Sundance Film Festival. Framed by the final seasons of Robert's life, the film explores questions of identity, family, and friendship through Robert's relationship with his small group of transgendered friends, whom he terms his "chosen family."

Robert (r) and his lover, Lola (l).





Cas, one of Robert's transgendered friends.

PROGRAM ON LAW & SOCIETY

SINCE 1997, THE PROGRAM ON LAW & SOCIETY has promoted full access to fair and impartial justice. In 2000, the program concentrated its funding activity on three broad goals: protecting access to fair and impartial courts; increasing access to civil legal assistance for low-income people and marginalized communities; and improving lawyers' conduct and their accountability to the public.

AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY is an essential component of our democratic system, serving as guardian of our Constitution and legal rights. However, the ability of our courts to render fair and impartial justice is increasingly threatened. During 2000, political battles between the U.S. Senate and the president over the selection and confirmation of federal judges continued to leave many judicial vacancies unfilled. Elected state judges scrambled to raise large sums of campaign money, usually from those who have a special interest in court rulings, such as lawyers, parties in the cases, businesses, and interest groups. Politicians and partisans sought to intimidate judges who rendered unfavorable decisions by threatening—and engaging in—electoral retaliation, by distorting judges' decisions, and by questioning the very legitimacy of the courts. At the same time, legislatures imposed restrictions on the ability of the poor and unpopular or marginalized groups to receive legal assistance or judicial protection.

Law & Society supports a broad-based, nonpartisan campaign to achieve an accountable and impartial judiciary through system-wide reform and increased public support for independent courts to protect all citizens from governmental abuse, majority disregard of minority views, and threats to individual rights. These goals can be achieved only if judges are insulated from political and monetary pressure. Over the last few years, OSI has endeavored to build a field of organizations, reflecting a wide range of experiences and expertise, to work collaboratively to protect judicial independence. Thanks in part to the efforts of those organizations, the media, politicians, and the public, the year 2000 focused unprecedented attention on both the threats to an independent judiciary and potential reforms.

A number of national and grassroots organizations supported by Law & Society contributed to the national **Justice at Stake Campaign** by conducting research, issuing reports, developing public education materials, challenging restrictions on access to the courts, and organizing training and educational conferences. The campaign has begun providing strategic assistance to participating groups, coordinating their activities, and implementing a national public education strategy.

Perhaps the most promising development in 2000 was the **Summit on Improving Judicial Selection**, initiated by state chief justices in response to unprecedented costly and contentious state judicial elections. The summit brought together chief justices, legislators, and reform advocates from 17 states that elect judges, who then issued a collective "Call to Action." The summit provided invaluable leadership, credibility, and

momentum to the movement for reform. Going forward, summit participants will work with the Justice at Stake Campaign to translate the “Call to Action” into reforms that reduce the impact of money and politics in the selection of judges.

Another participant in the campaign was the **Constitution Project**, which conducted a successful pilot campaign in five states to promote “Higher Ground Standards of Conduct for Judicial Candidates.” The **American Bar Association** approved official standards for state judicial selection that lend the bar’s imprimatur to a host of best practices and innovative reforms which can be promoted throughout the country. On the grassroots level, state-based campaigns by the **Wisconsin Citizen Action Fund** and the **League of Women Voters of Ohio** promoted public financing reform in two states recently plagued by costly, divisive judicial election campaigns.

THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE grantmaking program was developed in response to a crisis in civil legal services for the poor. In 1996, Congress slashed one-third of federal funding for legal services providers, eliminated funding for all groups providing technical and legal support to the field, and imposed crippling restrictions on how legal services lawyers may represent poor clients. Law & Society seeks to expand legal and problem-solving services to low-income people and communities by increasing financial and public support for such services; expanding public interest law fellowships; and facilitating partnerships and collaboration among groups seeking to support low-income and marginalized communities. It supports innovative delivery approaches that improve and expand client services and provides capacity building and resource development for the field. In the long term, the program seeks to promote collaboration among legal, client-service, and advocacy organizations to develop joint strategies for achieving equal justice for those who need it most.

In 2000, the Legal Services Corporation won a total of \$7 million in “add-on” congressional support for technology grants and credited the Program on Law & Society’s prior support for innovative technology models reviewed by the congressional committee. In other initiatives, the **Project for the Future of Equal Justice** and the **Project to Expand Resources for Legal Services** helped state and local legal services providers expand and diversify their funding sources. Law & Society also continued to build collaboration of public and private grantmakers to increase support for law and social justice-related projects.

As part of Law & Society’s long-term strategy to bolster public support for legal services, the **Project for the Future of Equal Justice** launched a communications campaign to educate people about the crucial role civil legal services organizations play in addressing the needs of the poor.

Finally, Law & Society made grants to advance the urgent goal of improving and expanding the availability of legal assistance for communities of color, immigrant

communities, and communities with limited English-speaking proficiency. OSI grants to the **Asian Pacific American Legal Center** and the **National Asian Pacific Legal Consortium** support the development of potential models for centralized intake, brief advice, and legal referral systems tailored to the cultural and linguistic needs of Asian Pacific Islander communities in the United States.

THE LEGAL PROFESSION PROGRAM focused on promoting higher standards of conduct and improved accountability among lawyers for the past four years. In the United States, the administration of law and justice relies in large part on a legal profession that puts the interests of its clients and the public ahead of the self-interest and personal gain of lawyers. Unfortunately, the profession does not always meet these expectations. Many lawyers have adopted marketplace values—at the expense of professional values—in response to economic and competitive pressures. As a result, many people in this country do not have trust and confidence in the legal profession or the justice system. Law & Society works with organizations inside and outside of the profession to promote higher standards of professional conduct and increase accountability to the public.

In 2000, OSI saw the culmination of many of its efforts to engage the American Bar Association in professionalism issues. Leading organizations, including the **Conference of Chief Justices** and the **National Conference of Bar Presidents**, have assumed responsibility for addressing lawyer misconduct and regulation. In addition, the **University of South Carolina's Center on Professionalism** created an online network and clearinghouse on professionalism efforts so that all of those working in this area can communicate and share best practices. To educate people about systemic problems in the profession that cause injustice and require reforms, Law & Society

collaborated with OSI's Gideon Project on a grant to the **Center for Public Integrity** to document the level of wrongful convictions that are the result of prosecutorial misconduct.

Law & Society also continued its efforts to increase the commitment of lawyers, law students, and legal educators to fulfill their professional obligations to provide services to the poor and to reform the legal system. OSI's matching grant for the **National Association for Public Interest Law's (NAPIL) Fellowship Program** has supported 222 lawyers throughout the country serving underserved communities, with co-sponsorship from approximately 160 law firms, corporations, and other sources. To increase the involvement of corporate counsel, a grant to the **American Corporate Counsel Association** and the **Pro Bono Institute** helped create a web-based resource to promote and support pro bono services by important sectors. To promote public service by law students and legal educators, Law & Society continued support for the **Association of American Law Schools**, both to encourage law schools to expand pro bono opportunities for law students and to promote partnerships between law schools and access to justice groups. Finally, to ensure pro bono and civil rights lawyers have the substantive legal support they need, Law & Society funded the **Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights** to create a civil rights litigation support network with **Pro Bono Net**, a grantee that is using technology to expand and improve the quality of legal services for the poor.

Beginning in 2001, Law & Society is narrowing the focus of the Legal Profession Program to a few ongoing projects, including the NAPIL fellowships. As a result, the program will no longer accept new proposals in this area.

www.soros.org/lawandsociety

PROGRAM ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

RECENT POLLING DATA DEMONSTRATES overwhelming support by Americans for the continued provision of comprehensive sexuality education, accessible family planning programs, and safe, legal abortion. At the same time, study after study confirms that improving and expanding the country's sexual and reproductive health services results in significant declines of sexually transmitted diseases, adolescent pregnancy rates, and unwanted pregnancies and abortions, especially among women in poverty. All of these developments are central to securing full equality for American women and maximum opportunity for their families.

Yet today's public policies are being driven by the moral and ideological agenda of a determined conservative minority bent on reversing the social interventions that have helped produce these positive outcomes. The increasingly strong hold of this minority over American politics threatens the core principles of an open society and informs OSI's funding in this arena.

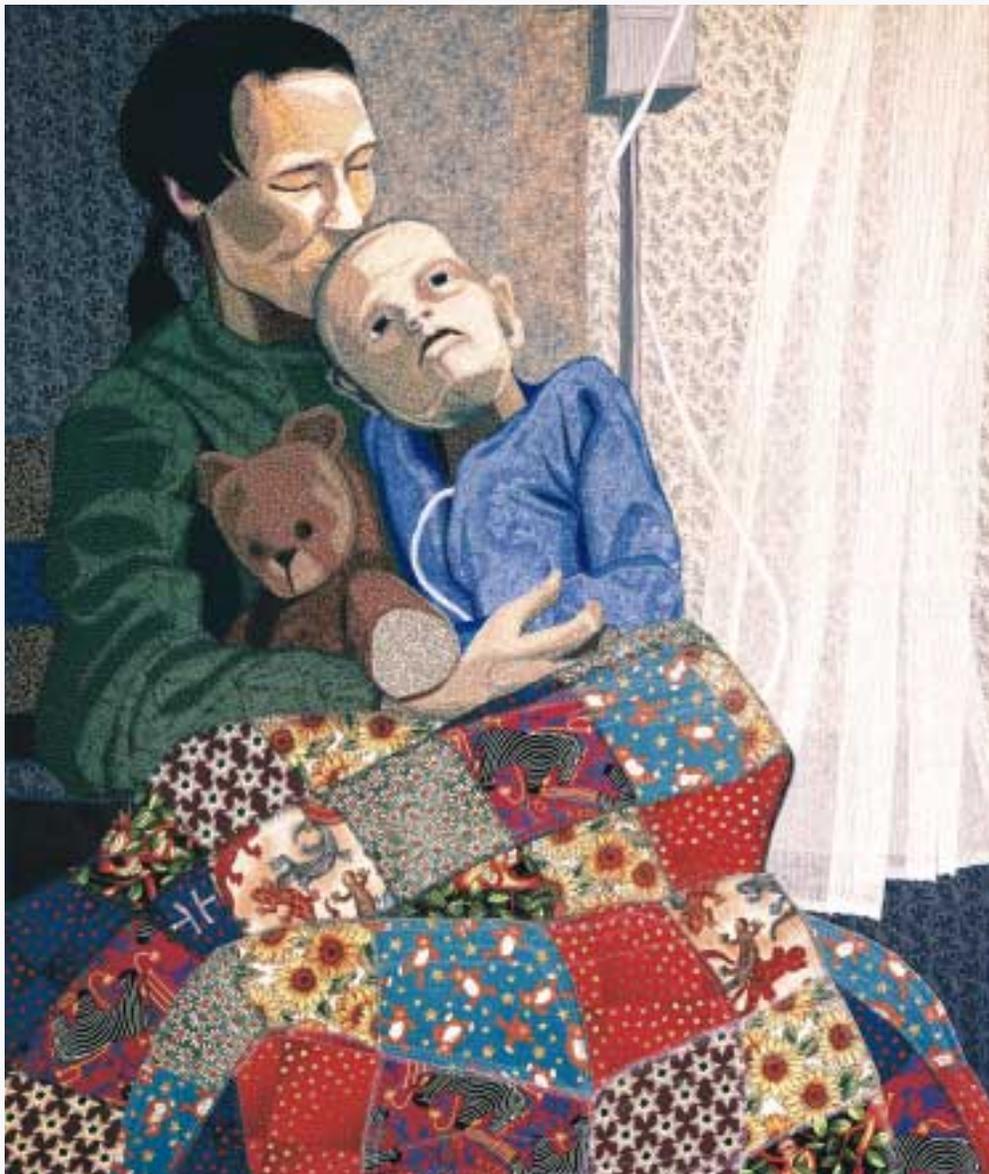
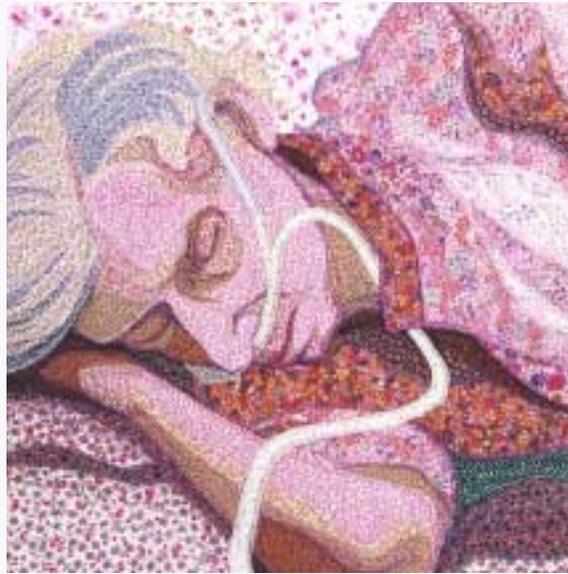
OSI's Program on Reproductive Health and Rights aims to clarify public understanding of the issues at stake in America's pitched battle over sexual and reproductive health and rights. In 2000, the program provided funds to the **Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS)** for an analysis of federally funded abstinence-only programs, and for promotion of more comprehensive approaches to sex education. The **Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI)** received support for widespread dissemination of its analysis of the accomplishments of Washington's 30-year tradition of public subsidy for family planning through the Title X family planning program. A grant to the **National Women's Law Center** helped produce a state-by-state women's health report card that attracted local and national media coverage of the uneven standards of services and availability of health insurance to women across the country. **Catholics for Free Choice** received support to fight the accelerating trend of placing secular hospitals under church jurisdiction, which threatens the provision of standard medical procedures, including tubal ligation, infertility treatment, abortion, and even contraception.

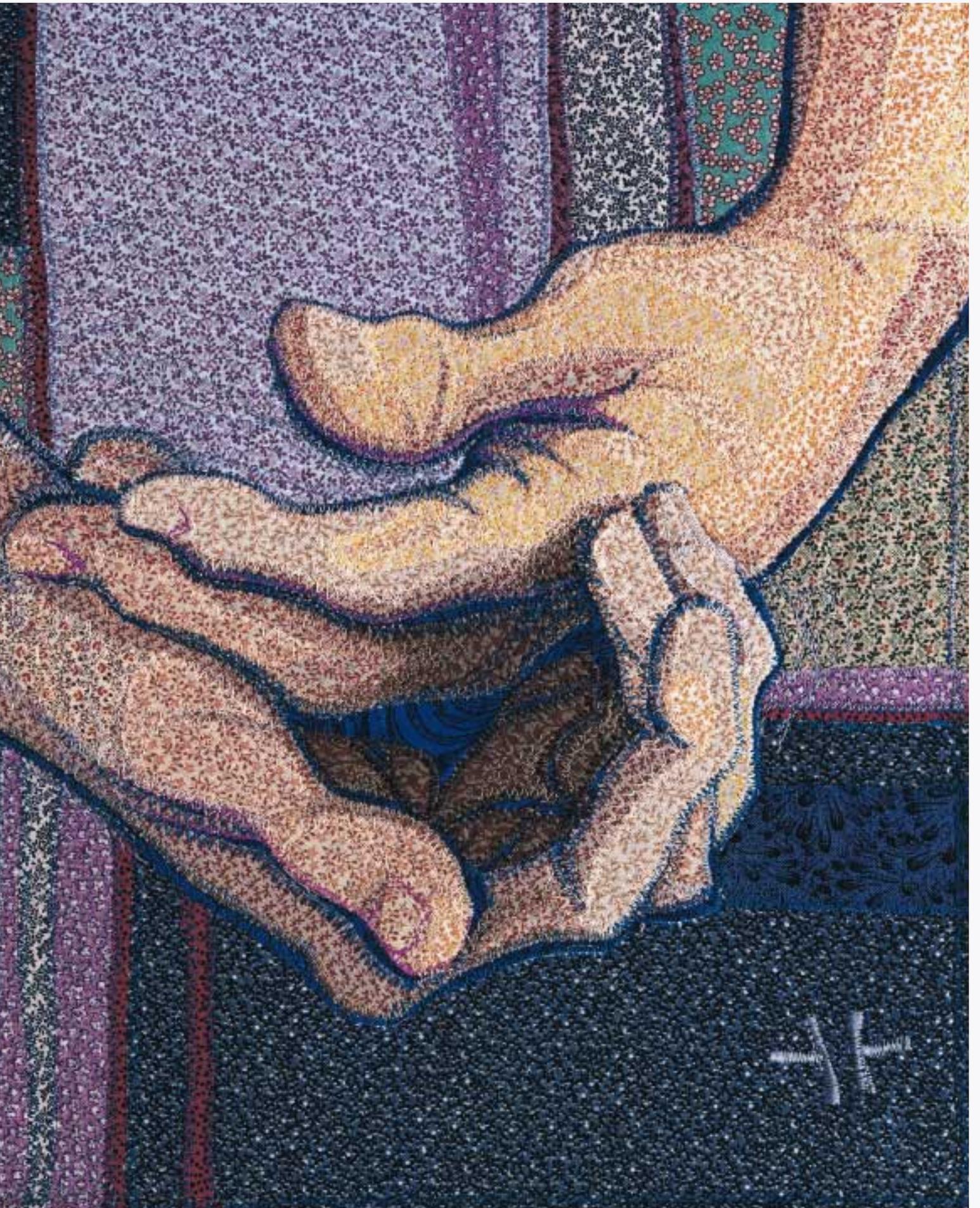
The program also provided funds for direct advertising and grassroots mobilization by the **National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (NARAL)**, and by other pro-choice organizations. These efforts have had a dramatic impact, increasing support for reproductive rights in areas of the country where it had eroded in response to intense earlier pressure from opponents.

In 2000, the Program on Reproductive Health and Rights invested significantly in direct education of federal and state policymakers and opinion leaders, and in the mobilization of grassroots support around legislative and legal challenges to reproductive health and choice. Grantees in this category include the **Center for Reproductive Law and Policy**, the **Reproductive Freedom Project of the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, Inc.**, the **National Partnership for Women and Families**,

SURROUNDED BY FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Through the unusual medium of fabric-and-thread panels, artist Deidre Scherer evokes how families and friends, in offering support to the dying, behold the most powerful of life's events. This work, supported by a grant from the **Project on Death in America**, consists of panels portraying the richness and complexity of our relationships at the end of life.





and the **National Black Women’s Health Project**. In response to the increasing devolution of decision-making to the states, where the religious right has so successfully mobilized, OSI is also shifting its focus to state-level initiatives, with funding to pilot organizing projects under way in Texas and several other states.

Recent scientific advances present new options in pregnancy prevention, which may help move public discourse on abortion away from “the clash of absolutes” that has prevailed for decades. The Food and Drug Administration has approved emergency contraception, the so-called “morning-after” pill, and mifepristone (widely known as RU-486), a pill regimen that terminates early pregnancy in the first two months after conception. The Program on Reproductive Health and Rights has taken a leadership role in funding public education and training for health care providers around these new developments. Grants have been made to **Advocates for Youth, Population Services International (PSI), Pro-Choice Resource Center, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Physicians for Reproductive Health and Choice (PRHC), National**

Abortion Federation (NAF), and the Reproductive Health Technologies Project (RHTP), among others.

Beyond its U.S. focus, the program works with colleagues in the international network of Soros Foundations to advance the historic, woman-centered health and development agenda agreed upon by the United Nations. The program launched reproductive health intervention projects in Eastern Europe and Haiti in 2000, and funded a research grant for an assessment of options for women with HIV/AIDS in southern Africa. Finally, OSI provided funding for advocacy and public education around the United Nation’s five-year review of the World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995, with grants awarded to the **Communications Consortium Media Center, the Center for Women’s Global Leadership, and Women’s Human Rights Net,** among others. This funding complimented core support from the office of OSI’s president to the **International Women’s Health Coalition.**

www.soros.org/repro

THE PROJECT ON DEATH IN AMERICA

FOR THE DYING AND THEIR CAREGIVERS, the end of life is often a time filled with physical pain, feelings of abandonment, and isolation. American culture, intent on curing disease and prolonging life, often fails to provide support during one of life's most emphatic phases—death. The Project on Death in America (PDIA) was created in 1994 to transform the culture and experience of the dying through 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 PDIA GRANTS PROGRAM recognizes that creating social change requires the development of organizations that can provide the professional activities necessary to sustain the growing field of palliative care. In 2000, the Grants Program continued to support grassroots organizations such as **Americans for Better Care of the Dying** in Washington, D.C. Responding to the growing numbers of grieving children in elementary and high schools nationwide, PDIA funded the **American Hospice Foundation's Grief at School Program** to train teachers, counselors, psychologists, nurses, and social workers to provide grieving children with support and age-appropriate lessons on loss and grief.

To address the needs of families who must confront the sudden death of loved ones in homicides, accidents, or other traumatic circumstances, PDIA funded the Recover Program of the **William Wendt Center for Loss and Healing** to place professional grief counselors in the **District of Columbia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner**. PDIA also funded the **GRACE Project** (Guiding Responsive Action in Corrections at End-of-Life) to organize a national meeting of professionals from a wide range of disciplines to call attention to the care of the terminally ill and dying in prison.

PDIA has served as a model program for private philanthropic organizations to create momentum for change in transforming the culture of death. It continues to support **Grantmakers Concerned with Care at the End of Life**, a national network of grantmakers that PDIA helped found, which includes the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**, the **Nathan Cummings Foundation**, the **Commonwealth Fund**, and the **Rockefeller Family Office**.

THE INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES were launched in January 2000 to enhance hospice and palliative care in Eastern Europe. The three-year program, co-sponsored with OSI's Public Health Program, funds health care professionals, associations, and organizations to expand hospice and palliative care programs in the countries of Eastern Europe. The **Eastern Europe Palliative Care Initiative** received 200 applications for the first award cycle and awarded 53 grants in Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Ukraine, and Yugoslavia.

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION continues to be a cornerstone of PDIA's work. During the last six years, PDIA has supported 68 faculty scholars in 42 medical schools in the U.S. and Canada. The 2000 class of ten scholars expands PDIA's commitment to improving end-of-life care in an inner-city trauma program, establishing a statewide minority program, and providing educational resources for patients and physicians dealing with end-of-life care. **Anne C. Mosenthal, M.D.**, and **Patricia A. Murphy, Ph.D., R.N.**, both of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and University Hospital, are designing and implementing an end-of-life care program for urban trauma services at the hospital. **Jerome E. Kurent, M.D., M.P.H.**, of the Center for the Study of Aging at the Medical University of South Carolina, is creating the Institute for Community and Professional Education in End-of-Life Care.

NURSING LEADERSHIP is critical in all settings of end-of-life care. PDIA supports nursing leaders to effect change in academic, hospital-based, and community settings through educational and training programs, and web-based information networks. The 2000 **Nursing Leadership Academy in End-of-Life Care** gathered leaders from 22 national nursing organizations representing 463,000 nurses. The academy educates, trains, and organizes a network of nursing leaders. Accomplishments so far include: a commitment from the **Oncology Nursing Society** and the **Oncology Nursing Society Foundation** to initiate ten grassroots projects on end-of-life issues, using the Bill Moyers PBS series *On Our Own Terms* as a model; the development by the **Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association** of a network of nursing experts in end-of-life care to serve as resources to nursing leaders nationwide; a pilot study by the **Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses** to determine beliefs and attitudes that affect the ability of pediatric nurses to provide quality palliative care; and the creation by the **Institute for Johns Hopkins Nursing** of a website for the Nursing Honor Society, to centralize access to information and resources on palliative care nursing.

The training of graduate nurses as expert practitioners in palliative care was a priority for PDIA in 2000. Most states require that a nurse practitioner be certified in order to practice in a specialty area. Currently, there is no such certification process in advanced palliative care, which constitutes a serious obstacle in recruiting nurses to pursue advanced practice in this area. In response, PDIA provided a

grant to **New York University** to create a nationally recognized **Advance Practice Palliative Care Credentialing Examination**.

THE SOCIAL WORK LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AWARDS PROGRAM granted in its second cycle seven awards, bringing the number of Social Work Leaders to fifteen. These awards have promoted the visibility and prestige of social workers committed to end-of-life care and have enhanced their effectiveness as academic leaders, role models, and mentors. **W. June Simmons**, of Partners in Care Foundation in Burbank, CA, received an award for the **Geriatric Social Work Education Project**, which creates and distributes graduate-level field and academic training for social workers in end-of-life care. This project is a partnership among the University of Southern California, UCLA, and the California State Universities at Long Beach and at Los Angeles. **Katherine Walsh-Burke**, Association of Oncology Social Work, Springfield, MA, was recognized for the web-based **Continuing Education Curriculum Project**, which will develop a continuing education program for social workers affiliated with the **Association of Oncology Social Work**, **Hospice Social Workers**, and related social work organizations.

TEENAGE EXPERIENCES OF DEATH, launched in 1999 with the OSI Youth Initiative, explores the issue of death from the teenage perspective. The initiative engaged eight New York City youth media organizations to document the texture and variety of teen experiences with death. The fresh, direct, and perceptive insights of the youth participants have provided OSI and the field with a powerful collection of materials that will inform the work of professionals who work with young people, as well as the young people themselves. The projects—in video, print, radio, photography, and the Internet—have aired or been exhibited throughout 2000 on public television and in communities throughout the country.

Among projects created by young people were a special issue of *Urban Health Chronicles*, a youth publication of the **Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health**, on how young people experience and cope with the death of a loved one; a documentary video entitled *R.I.P.—Teens Coping With Death* by the **Downtown Community Television Center** about experiences with death among low-income and minority youth in New York City; and a student-produced website by the **Global Action Project**.

www.soros.org/death

SOROS DOCUMENTARY FUND

WITH POWERFUL IMAGES AND COMPELLING STORIES, documentaries are invaluable tools for social change. Since 1996, the Soros Documentary Fund (SDF) has supported the production of documentaries on social justice and human rights issues from around the world. In the shrinking universe of documentary funding, SDF has become an essential source of support for films and videos that deal with vital and extremely difficult subject matter.

SDF has provided the pivotal support that many filmmakers need to launch or complete their productions. It was the first major funder of *Long Night's Journey Into Day*, a documentary about South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission as told through four tales of individuals and families struggling to make peace with the country's past. SDF funding enabled filmmakers Frances Reid and Deborah Hoffman to travel to South Africa during the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings on the cases they document. The film won the Sundance Documentary Grand Jury Prize and was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary in 2001. It will be aired on U.S. television and has been broadcast in numerous countries around the world. It is also being widely screened and used as a teaching and advocacy tool.

Among other SDF-funded projects released in 2000 were: *Sound and Fury*, by Roger Weisberg and Josh Aronson, an Academy Award-nominated film about the rift in the deaf community between "oralists" who speak and read lips and "manualists" who sign; and *Red Rubber Boots*, by Jasmila Zbanic, about those missing from the war in Bosnia. Both films have been exhibited widely at festivals and will be broadcast on television. *Sound and Fury* will also reach deaf communities and their advocates through an extensive outreach plan and a website. *Southern Comfort*, by Kate Davis, is a sensitive and compelling story about Robert Eads, a female-to-male transsexual who dies of ovarian cancer after repeatedly being denied medical treatment because of his gender. This documentary has been accepted in numerous film festivals, including Sundance, where it won the Grand Jury Prize for documentaries, and will be theatrically released and broadcast internationally.

SDF continued limited, but crucial, support to professional training and outreach activities in 2000. The fund concentrated its efforts on *Steps for the Future*, a project involving international broadcasters, nongovernmental organizations, and AIDS activists, which will commission short documentaries by local filmmakers on the HIV/AIDS crisis in southern Africa. These documentaries will be used internationally to raise awareness and promote advocacy around the epidemic. A grant to the **Sundance Institute** supported a new initiative, *House of Docs*, to heighten focus on documentaries and create a meeting point at the festival for filmmakers, distributors, broadcasters, buyers, festival directors, and programmers of documentaries.

www.soros.org/sdf

SOUTHERN INITIATIVE

THE U.S. PROGRAM'S SOUTHERN INITIATIVE promotes democracy and social change through a strategic focus on the South. More than a century after the Civil War, the South can be understood in terms expressed by noted journalist W.J. Cash as “not quite a nation within a nation, but the next thing to it.” The region remains in many ways a society apart, bound by a repressive combination of political, economic, and social barriers. As evidenced in Florida during the recent presidential election, voting systems in the region inhibit public participation and the flow of political information. Educational inequities produce schools that fail to prepare children for today’s workforce, while severe criminal justice practices lead to high incarceration rates and an increasing reliance on capital punishment.

Compared to other regions, the South receives significantly fewer philanthropic dollars to overcome these injustices. Yet a variety of local and regional grassroots organizations are taking bold steps to transform the South by increasing political participation, information flow, and public accountability. The Southern Initiative seeks to capitalize on this opportunity by investing in grassroots organizing that empowers communities to advocate on their own behalf around pressing issues, particularly criminal justice and education.

Created in 1999, the program initiated its first funding cycle in 2000, after convening an advisory board to set the program priorities, investigate the needs in the region, and determine the viability of groups already engaged in work that interested OSI. The initial requests for funding far exceeded the allocated budget for the program. They represented the breadth and diversity of significant community organizing work in the South, and they stood for a cohesive mix of grassroots organizing, direct services, technical support, and state and regional policy advocacy to advance social justice.

Among the first grantees were: **Project South**, a policy research organization with a long history in the region whose recent publications include a community activists’ guide to campaign finance reform; the **People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond**, which provides training to community groups and organizations to confront racism and discrimination; **Esperanza**, a social justice and cultural arts institution, which develops local community capacity to participate in the democratic process and create progressive policy alternatives through their *Puentes de Poder/Bridges of Power* community leadership and advocacy training program; and **Southern Echo**, a model leadership development, education, and training organization that develops grassroots leadership in African-American communities in Mississippi and the surrounding region.

www.soros.org/usprograms/southern.htm

YOUTH INITIATIVES

 **OSI'S YOUTH INITIATIVES PROGRAM** works 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. To accomplish this, the program focuses on three strategies: formal debates, youth media projects, and the arts. In addition, OSI supports two significant school-based collaborative initiatives in New York City: The After-School Corporation and the New Century High Schools Consortium for New York City.

THE URBAN DEBATE PROGRAM seeks to institutionalize competitive debate as an extracurricular and academic activity in urban school districts across the United States. Based on the Urban Debate League model founded by the Barkley Forum at Emory University, OSI's Urban Debate Program has funded debate leagues in Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Detroit, Kansas City, New Jersey, New York, St. Louis, Tuscaloosa, Providence, the San Francisco Bay Area, and two in Southern California.

The program gives young people the tools to express themselves, command attention with words, and respond effectively to the arguments of those who may disagree with them. Debate develops critical thinking, academic research, and communication skills, and increases self-confidence. Students who debate often receive higher grades than those who do not participate in debates, and are more likely to continue to post-secondary education.

In 2000, students from more than 100 inner-city schools participated in OSI-supported urban debate leagues. The **New York Urban Debate League (NYUDL)** started in 1997 as an OSI operating program and exists in more than 35 New York City high schools. In 2000, NYUDL became a program of the **IMPACT Coalition**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the empowerment of urban students through training in debate skills. OSI provides funding and technical assistance to NYUDL through IMPACT.

Funding to urban debate programs in Atlanta, Detroit, and Chicago enabled them to continue on their own with substantial support from their local school systems. OSI's programs in California and Rhode Island will continue through 2001, as will plans for new sites and exploration of national programming support. Ultimately, increased support from local school districts and other community stakeholders will enable OSI to support the replication of urban debate leagues in additional sites.

THE YOUTH MEDIA PROGRAM represents a unique effort to implement a media-focused strategy to empower young people and engage them in the discussion of social and civic issues. Their perspective, idealism, sense of moral indignation, and ability to test the boundaries of social change allow young people to confront social injustice and inject fresh and compelling perspectives into

discussions of current issues. In the process of working with media, young people gain critical skills, as well as a sense of civic responsibility and relevance to society.

Since 1999, the Youth Media Program has made nearly 70 grants. In 2000, the program funded **Pacific News Service** to organize the first EXPO of Youth Communicators at a juvenile detention center in San Francisco. As a result, civic organizations will establish ongoing arts and media workshops at the center. **WNYC's Radio Rookies Program** trained six Brooklyn teenagers who produced personal stories about the challenges they face in their Bushwick neighborhood. The OSI-funded pilot project for Radio Rookies won the 1999 New York Press Club "Heart Of New York" Award for community media initiatives. In Kentucky, the **Appalachian Media Institute** produced a video documenting the community's struggle with the water supply damage caused by deep mining. In response to a community screening and a call-in radio show hosted by the youth producers, state officials met with community members to discuss strategies for addressing the problem.

THE ARTS INITIATIVE focuses on efforts to inspire and nurture the imagination of young people in underserved or isolated communities. It seeks to stimulate dialogue and support programming that explores the role of the arts in building communities and furthering open society.

In 2000, the Arts Initiative developed a three-tiered strategy that recognizes the value of the arts in fostering creative expression and healthy communities by focusing on public policy, civic dialogue, and community artists and arts organizations.

Grantees in 2000 included several community-based arts organizations that have developed unique models for reaching young people through the arts. **Artists for Humanity**, Boston, MA, has developed a program in which artists and peer mentors provide professional visual arts and business training for teens from low-income neighborhoods. The **Marwen Foundation**, Chicago, IL, provides high-quality visual arts education, college planning, and career development programs free of charge to Chicago's underserved youth. **The Point Community Development Corporation**, Bronx, NY, a community arts center and economic

development corporation in Hunts Point, provides dance, theater, and photography classes to neighborhood youth, and offers space for emerging artists to develop new work.

THE AFTER-SCHOOL CORPORATION (TASC) was founded by George Soros in 1998 with a \$25 million challenge grant per year for five years. The nonprofit organization promotes quality in-school after-school programs in New York and, ultimately, throughout the nation.

TASC-supported programs are operated by community-based organizations in partnership with public schools and state and local officials. They combine educational enrichment, technological skills development, and homework help, with sports, art, and community service activities. In the academic year 2000–2001 TASC funded 145 after-school programs in New York City and 20 in other locations in New York State, reaching more than 40,000 students in underserved communities.

OSI funding also enables TASC grantees to leverage funds from a variety of sources. The City of New York and the Board of Education have provided more than \$40 million in direct and in-kind support. New York Governor George Pataki announced an increase to \$30 million in proposed after-school funding for 2002. By 2001, private matching funds will total nearly \$16 million.

THE NEW CENTURY HIGH SCHOOLS CONSORTIUM FOR NEW YORK CITY, created in December 2000, represents an innovative collaboration among OSI, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Carnegie Corporation to invest \$30 million over five years to transform some of the city's large, low-performing, comprehensive high schools into more effective, smaller schools. The New York City school system is the nation's largest, serving 1.1 million students. The goal of the initiative is to provide effective high schools for all New York City students. The initiative, which is also supported by the New York City Board of Education, the United Federation of Teachers, and the Council of School Administrators, is being administered by New Visions for Public Schools, an educational reform organization in New York City.

www.soros.org/usprograms/youthinitiatives.htm

OTHER U.S. INITIATIVES

THE FUNDERS' COLLABORATIVE FOR GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION provides funding to reduce and prevent the harm caused by the widespread availability and misuse of guns. Funding partners include OSI, the Irene Diamond Fund, and other private donors working to educate the public about gun violence, promote strategies to reduce gun injuries, and bring greater cohesion to the gun violence prevention movement.

The collaborative's most high-profile grantee in 2000 was the **Million Mom March**, the Mother's Day march on Washington, D.C., that symbolized overwhelming public support for gun control policies. In early 2000, the collaborative published *Gun Control in the United States*, a report and comparative survey of state gun laws. By charting existing laws and exposing loopholes, the report debunked the gun lobby's claim that reducing gun violence is simply a matter of enforcing existing laws. It has proved an indispensable tool for advocates and policymakers. Nearly 10,000 copies are in circulation.

In addition to the report, the collaborative funded a number of organizations engaged in public education initiatives. They include the **Alliance for Justice for First Monday**, a two-year advocacy and public education campaign on over 300 college campuses to involve young people and academic leaders in gun violence reduction efforts; the **Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence** for a national public education campaign on handgun licensing and registration; and the **NAACP** for a lawsuit against the gun industry to seek changes in the industry's marketing and distribution practices. The suit contends that the industry's distribution practices fuel an illegal market, resulting in gun violence that disproportionately affects people of color. It builds on the success of *Hamilton v. Accu-Tek*, the landmark victory establishing that gun manufacturers may bear some responsibility when their products are used in crime. The *Hamilton* case was also funded by OSI.

OSI's work on **MEDIA POLICY REFORM** completed its initial phase in 2000. In the last two years, the initiative sought to stimulate public engagement on crucial media policy issues and to strengthen the work of leading advocates working for change. OSI funding enabled the **Media Access Project** to commission a study that was instrumental in helping the FCC successfully argue for the creation of Low Power FM service. It supported groups such as **People for Better TV (PBTv)** and **Children Now** to articulate public interest obligations for digital television broadcasters. **PBTv** conducted successful public opinion research to support grassroots organizing and created local chapters in 12 cities nationwide. In the area of public broadcasting, OSI funding helped launch **Citizens for Independent Public Broadcasting (CIPB)**, which now boasts 25 chapters nationwide and continues to recruit a diverse range of groups to democratize programming and governance at local public television stations.

THE EMMA LAZARUS FUND, established in 1996 to combat the unfair treatment of immigrants in the United States, completed its national grantmaking in 1999. The remaining activities of the fund in 2000 focused on Los Angeles, where philanthropic dollars targeting newcomer communities have been limited, despite the fact that one in three Los Angeles residents is an immigrant or refugee.

In 2000, Emma Lazarus Fund–Los Angeles was the lead funder of the Los Angeles Immigrant Funders’ Collaborative, which provides grants to nonprofit organizations that support the needs of immigrant and refugee communities in the areas of health care, education, civic participation, and economic development. The collaborative engages funders that have historically supported immigrant needs, as well as those funding in the areas of health, children and youth, and community development, but whose work to date has not focused on immigrants’ needs. Other funders participating in the collaborative in 2000 included the ARCO Foundation (now BP Foundation), the California Endowment, QueensCare, the Riordan Foundation, the Streisand Foundation, and the United Way. The collaborative raised over \$750,000 from participating funders, and in the fall of 2000 requested proposals specifically focusing on health care access and education issues

impacting immigrant and refugee communities in Los Angeles. The collaborative plans to continue its work in 2001 and 2002, and beyond if funding continues to be available.

THE NEW YORK CITY COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

complements the work of the New York City Community Fellowship Program. It focuses on select grassroots organizations that are empowering and transforming marginalized communities. OSI provides grants and comprehensive technical assistance to build the capacity of these organizations. Initiated in 2000, the Community Initiative supported, among others, the **Central Brooklyn Partnership** to integrate leadership development, financial literacy training, and community reinvestment advocacy with access to low-cost financial services; **Justice Works Community** to develop the InterFaith Partnership for Criminal Justice for mobilizing a local partnership of religious and secular grassroots groups to advocate for just and humane criminal justice policies for women in New York; and **Community Voices Heard**, which is creating the NYC Transitional Jobs Program to offer better job alternatives to people on welfare.

www.soros.org/usprograms/otherinitiatives.htm

U.S. PROGRAMS — 2000 EXPENDITURES

Center on Crime, Communities & Culture	\$8,980,000
Gideon Project	3,019,000
Drug Policy Reform	5,664,000
Fellowships (Community Fellowships & Individual Project Fellows)	2,592,000
Governance & Public Policy	4,134,000
Medicine as a Profession	3,417,000
OSI-Baltimore	7,310,000
Program on Law & Society	8,425,000
Program on Reproductive Health and Rights	5,091,000
Project on Death in America	5,166,000
Soros Documentary Fund	1,911,000
Southern Initiative	1,108,000
Youth Initiatives	28,861,000
Other U.S. Initiatives	6,615,000
TOTAL U.S. PROGRAMS	\$92,294,000

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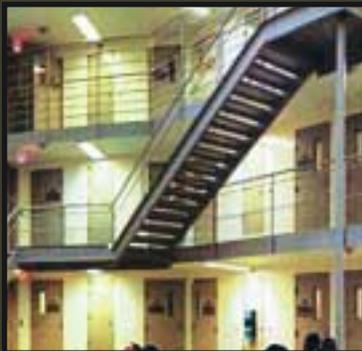
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Program Associate

Gladys Lopez
Program Assistant

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OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE

400 WEST 59TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10019 USA

TEL 212.548.0600 FAX 212.548.4677

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