



Mary's Pence
Funding Women. Changing Lives.

Annual Report – FYE 2010

We are a small organization with a big vision. We want women in the Americas living in poverty to have a say and a hand in how poverty can be alleviated and social equity achieved. Therefore we invest in local women who are creating models to increase women's economic status and strengthen their voice in their community. We look for models that foster women working together, to learn from each other, support each other, and explore new ideas. We fund women in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean.

Two Types of Grants

Mary's Pence has been giving grants for 21 years. In that time we have given over 500 grants totaling over 1 million dollars to women in 15 countries. We like investing in the creation of something new to a community – new organizations, new programs, new structures, and new thoughts. We believe that there is power in community, and when a project is accomplished through collaboration, each participant becomes stronger. We support two types of grants, Ministry Grants and the ESPERA Fund.

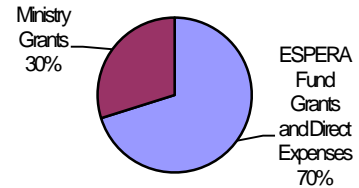
Ministry Grants

Mary's Pence offers grants of up to \$4,000 to creative start-up projects or organizations with budgets under \$150,000. We invest in projects that support women's well-being – physical, social and economic. We look for models that foster women working together, to enhance learning, mutual support and creativity.

ESPERA Fund Grants

An ESPERA Fund is a grant to a women's network to create a lending pool in their community. The women own the funds and manage the funds. Mary's Pence provides additional support during the first few years, including resources for training, dollars for travel and meals, and sometimes a coordinator's salary. We accompany the group on this new enterprise by visiting with the women 2-4 times per year. We implemented ESPERA Funds just two years ago and we have 4 model projects, we are ready to replicate great success.

Grant Expense Distribution FYE 2010



Funding in the Americas

We fund local women's initiatives across the Americas and the Caribbean; these are our neighbors. We give at home, in North America, because there is need. We give internationally because there is even greater poverty, because our policies and economies are linked. And we give in the Americas, close to home rather than across the globe; we do so we can work in close relationship with those that receive grants.



Vamos Unidos/Common Law, Inc.
working on vending permits in NYC

Funding for Social Change

We fund projects that foster human dignity, where everyone can support themselves or has access to what they need, and everyone has a say in decisions that affect their lives. This is social justice. We fund projects that:

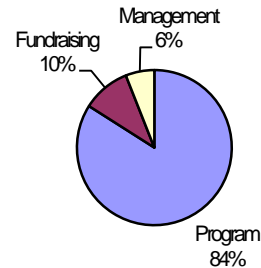
- educate community about injustice
- help groups organize so they have a strong voice in their community
- build skills so people can advocate for themselves
- change systems that make it hard for the poor to get ahead

Financials

Our Fiscal Year is July 1-June 30. Our income during FYE 2010 was \$261,129, and our expenses were \$227,943.

Mary's Pence has a policy of holding a 9 month reserve, approximately \$173,000 at this time. As of June 30 we had \$220,012 in reserve, and we will look to invest some of the excess in additional fund raising outreach or program expenses.

Expense Allocation FYE 2010

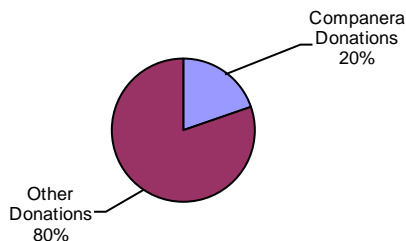


Donors and Outreach

Mary's Pence is not a foundation, and has no endowment. We depend on donors to do our annual grant making and program support. In 2010 we had 1227 individuals and organizations donate to Mary's Pence. Companeras are donors that give regularly. They provide 20% of our support and are greatly valued.

Our outreach to new donors includes *presence at conferences and gatherings*. This past year we exhibited at Call to Action, Pax Christi and Leadership Council of Women Religious.

Other Donations vs. Companera Donations FYE 2010



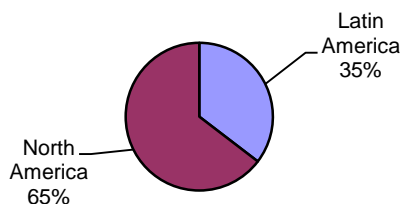
We hosted a reception at both Call to Action and LCWR. At Call to Action we lead a morning prayer session - Standing in Solidarity with Women of the Americas. We also provide materials for use in *faith communities*, including materials for Giving Tree and Lenten Soup Suppers.

This year we initiated *Giving Circles*. Board members and supporters of Mary's Pence host gatherings to introduce friends and family to Mary's Pence. During the past year 21 such gatherings were hosted, with over 150 people attending.

In addition to our twice a year newsletter we also increased our *electronic communication with supporters*. We created a FaceBook page, and started an eNewsletter. Circulation for the eNews has reached over 1000. We held a teleconference for donors focused on ESPERA Funds with our funds facilitator, Gilda Larios, in attendance.

Ministry Grant Recipient

Grants in North America vs. Latin America FYE 2010



Sixteen women and organizations were awarded Ministry Grants this year, in the U.S. and Latin America.

Latin America

Because violence and domestic abuse continues to affect many women we supported Juanita Benedicto. Working at Buen Pastor, a shelter for women and girls in Mexico, Juanita brings healing touch through massage.

Another group, Empowering Paraiban Black Women Leaders, Brazil, is in their 3rd year of funding and does workshops on women's health and sexuality, human rights and spirituality. They have received increasing recognition from the local community.

We were also pleased to support Camorones Cooperative, in Ecuador. This is a new group working to start a business making natural soaps to market to local tourist hotels.



Women from Ecuador and Bolivia, attending the UN Commission on the Status of Women

The Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco, Haledon, NJ used funds from Mary's Pence to bringing 3 sisters and 3 indigenous women from Latin America to the United Nations Commission for the Status of Women.

United States

Giving women a safety net and a supportive network will always be essential. Several of our grantees this year focused on exactly that. This year we helped fund:

Beloved Community, Women's Empowerment Project, Asheville, NC
Casa Guadalupana House of Hospitality, St. Paul, MN
Hagar's House, New Orleans, LA
Reflect and Strengthen, Sisters Rising Project, Dorchester
Catherine's Place, Tacoma WA

Each of these wonderful organizations works to make women's lives better through learning, community or shelter. Each also works for social change in some way. For example, Casa Guadalupana opens its doors to churches and community groups to learn about immigration issues. Reflect and Strengthen provides community connection, support for women in prison, leadership development, and community education through theater. Hagar's House provides training on advocacy and members of the community form action teams to work on local issues.

Social Change is the core mission of some of the groups that received grants. We helped fund a meeting of the Women's Caucus as they planned for their participation in the U.S. Social Forum in Detroit. Common Law, Inc. provided legal support to membership organizations in New York City, strengthening community organizations. Still Point Theatre Collective provided part-time creative work for formerly incarcerated women, and uses theater to educate the community about issues faced by these women. Old Lesbians Organizing for Change has chapters across the country providing a place for women to address issues of ageism and discrimination related to sexual orientation.



Still Point Theatre Collective onstage

Study Grants

Three women were awarded study grants:

Marie Jose Pereira, Brazil, Administration of Environmental Policy at the Federal University of Pernambuco

Renate Schneider, Chicago IL, Master of Pastoral Studies at Catholic Theological Union

Donna-Marie Terranova, Tucson AZ, Masters in Pastoral Theology at St. Mary-of-the-Woods College

ESPERA Funds

ESPERA Funds were initiated just 2 years ago. Funds have been established with 4 women's networks in Central America. The results are exciting: 177 women from four different networks living in 29 communities are being served with ESPERA funds.

Asociación de Mujeres Sembradoras de Esperanza, of Santa Cruz de Quiché, Guatemala

The indigenous women of the Asociación have been working on organizing and supporting each other for 7 years. The Asociación is made up of 14 groups from local communities. With an initial \$5,000 grant, 40 women in two communities have received loans of 1000 quetzals. With these loans the women have purchased animals for breeding, supplies for their corn crops (a staple in Guatemala) and treats for their families. Mary's Pence will work with the women of the Asociación to expand the fund to reach more women over the next couple of years.

Concertacion de Mujeres de Suchitoto, El Salvador

Concertacion is a network of 14 groups of women near the city of Suchitoto. The women have worked together for many years on human rights issues. The groups elected a coordinator to the fund, Eva Martinez, and have 5 representatives on their board. During the first year the women were able to do the following:

- 35 women received loans. Fourteen to individuals, 5 to collaboratives (involving 21 women).
- Average loan size: individuals- \$297, collaboratives - \$1156.
- Loans funded the following: purchase of animals and agriculture supplies, stock for vendors, production of candles, production of shampoo and cleaning products. Collaborative businesses included egg incubation and chicken production.

Red de Mujeres Morelenses por un Economia Solidaria, Morelas, Mexico

This network has been working together for about 12 years, with the leadership of Maria Luisa Mejia, a member of the Grail movement in México. The Red has 22 member groups, including 2 indigenous communities, Coatetelco and Cuentepec. The representatives of each group meet every two months to talk about their experience and learn about various topics of interest. Cuentepec and Totolapan women’s groups received ESPERA Funds grants in November 2008; each group has been managing a Fund. This year, 10 more groups received loans of \$1,000 each to support income generating projects. Cuentepec, an indigenous community, is using the loan to build and manage a community bakery. There is also a produce cooperative and a savings and loan cooperative. The diversity of the groups in the network is a strength, the women learn from the experiences of one another.

Red de Mujeres de Nicarahault, Nicaragua

The story of Mary’s Pence in Nicaragua, and the formation of Red de Mujeres de Nicarahault, is a beautiful story. Mary’s Pence had been giving to women in Nicaragua for years. Kitty Madden, one of the leaders at Casa Materna and a Mary’s Pence grantee, saw that there were many talented and dedicated women in Nicaragua that were connected through Mary’s Pence but did not know each other. So she organized a gathering; seven groups were present, and Red de Mujeres Nicarahault was born. The network has grown to a collaborative of 13 women’s groups across western Nicaragua, and they have new groups seeking membership in the network. The network meets annually to make connections, share experiences and develop skills.



Red de Mujeres de Nicarahault

Board and Staff

Board Members

- Rosa Castillo, Los Angeles CA
- Elise Degooyer, Seattle WA - Secretary
- Consilia Karli, Allentown PA – Board President
- Anne Liebig, Dungannon VA
- Roxanne Meshar, Minneapolis MN
- Pat Rogucki, Baltimore MD
- Roxanne Smith, Minneapolis MN - Treasurer
- Cindy Sullivan, St. Louis MO – Vice President

Staff

- Katherine Wojtan, Executive Director, Staten Island, NY
- Gilda Larios, ESPERA Fund Facilitator, Mexico City
- Nicole Wright, Office Manager, Staten Island NY



Mary’s Pence Board & Staff, Oct 2009