

THE HARRY CHAPIN SELF-RELIANCE AWARDS



For the past seventeen years, the Harry Chapin Self-Reliance Awards program -- administered by WHY and underwritten in part by a grant from the Harry Chapin Foundation -- has distributed cash grants (\$5,000 maximum amount) to grassroots organizations judged outstanding for their innovative and creative approaches to fighting domestic hunger and poverty by empowering people and building self-reliance. The awards honor those organizations that go beyond charity to *change* and that help people improve their own lives and the communities in which they live.

Winners of the 2002 Harry Chapin Self-Reliance Awards:

La Puente Home, Alamosa, CO: Provides emergency shelter, food assistance, case management, transitional housing and self-sufficiency services, community outreach, homeless prevention services, job training and employment services, micro-enterprise and affordable housing development for the homeless and community members in crisis. La Puente Home endeavors to meet immediate needs and to empower people to live independently with dignity.

Community Harvest, Washington, DC: Believes that all people should have access to good, healthy food, regardless of one's neighborhood or income level. Community Harvest creates a locally rooted, sustainable food system that meets the needs of both low-income communities and small farmers in the DC region.

inMotion, New York, NY: Offers low-income, under-served, and abused women legal and related services that foster equal access to justice and an empowered approach to life. InMotion recruits, trains, and mentors volunteer lawyers, legal assistants, and law students to provide legal assistance, primarily in the areas of matrimonial and family law, in a way that acknowledges mutual respect, encourages personal growth, and nurtures individual and collective strength. They also train clients to advocate for themselves when self-representation is likely to result in a favorable outcome.

The Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project (NEDAP), New York, NY: Provides people living below the poverty level with vital tools they can use to make informed financial choices and organize and advocate for economic justice in their communities. NEDAP reaches people by working closely with community groups to educate their members and develop creative approaches to addressing redlining and other forms of economic discrimination.

Capital District Community Gardens, Troy, NY: Educates and engages the community in the value of gardening and urban greening for the lives of cities and their citizens. They are dedicated to working with people to foster self-sufficiency through the rewards of gardening, helping families cut their living costs by growing food locally, transforming vacant lots into productive neighborhood garden spaces, and beautifying urban areas through landscaping and street tree programs.

Esperanza Unida, Milwaukee, WI: Demonstrates through unity and mutual respect that they can provide services, guidance, training, education, and economic development, to assist people in growing personally and becoming economically self-sufficient, and to take initiative in providing support and protection of rights to minorities and others who will contribute with pride to the greater Milwaukee community.

All organizations that submit an application to the Harry Chapin Self-Reliance Awards will be included in WHY's Reinvesting In America database. The database is used to share organizational information with grassroots groups, the media, funders, and government officials. Our information has helped grassroots groups raise more than \$4.5 million from other funding sources. Our field staff has visited more than 800 programs in all 50 states. Programs discovered through this awards program may be added to their future itinerary.