

SDOP disburses \$60,000 for four self-help projects

*Grant money from One Great Hour of Sharing helps oppressed and disadvantaged achieve self-sufficiency*

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Louisville  
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The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) approved grants totaling \$60,000 to fund four self-help projects in the United States. The national committee met recently to approve funding for the projects, funding which is made possible through the One Great Hour of Sharing. SDOP enables members and non-members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to form partnerships with oppressed and disadvantaged people and help them achieve self-sufficiency.

The projects and grant amounts include:

**Picture the Homeless**, East Harlem, NYC, NY, \$15,000 - This group's project seeks to develop practical, common-sense ways to preserve and create housing for extremely low income individuals and families not only in their neighborhood of East Harlem but around New York City and beyond with their advocacy work of Housing, not Warehousing Campaign.

**Women in Agriculture Association**, Atlanta, GA, \$15,000 - A cooperative owned farmer's association promoting their locally grown farm products within the community. The farmer's objective is to provide an environment where the community can access fresh locally grown foods. They will be educated in growing vegetables and developing a relationship with farmers and farming.

**Union Popular de Vendedores Ambulantes (UPVA), *Popular Union of Street Vendors***, Los Angeles, CA, \$15,000 - La Union Popular de Vendedores Ambulantes is an organization of street vendors which fights to defend their rights in order to overcome poverty and homelessness through self-management and a cooperative economy. The UPVA organizes to fight harassment, discrimination, criminalization and policy abuse against street vendors.

**Southside Worker Center**, Tucson, AZ, \$15,000 – This group of low-income members seeks to train emerging leaders in leadership skills to address issues such as wage theft and fair labor practices. The project will provide stipends for people who will lead the training as well as food and childcare for the training sessions. The day worker center is one of the few places in Tucson where day laborers may congregate and it provides a venue for employers to connect with the workers.

In addition, the National SDOP committee welcomed new members including:

- Rev. Karen Brown, Baltimore, MD – Northeast Task Force
- Susan Dobkins, Tacoma, Washington – West Task Force
- Phyllis Edwards – Detroit, MI – South Task Force

The meeting began in the evening with a community-wide event for prospective Self-Development of People community partners.

Guests included Compassion, Peace and Justice Director Sara Lisherness, staff and volunteers from the Miami Young Adult Volunteer site and SDOP community partner Bolitas Harvesters Association.

SDOP Coordinator Alonzo Johnson says “I was excited about the energy of our national committee and new members, as well as getting to meet with local clergy. I am excited about what lies ahead for SDOP in the near future.”

SDOP is constantly looking for ways to engage communities of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people in partnership as well as to promote and interpret the ministry in Presbyterian congregations. For information on upcoming community workshops for community-based groups interested in learning about future partnerships, to set up a workshop, arrange for a member of the SDOP Committee to preach or visit your church, or do a Minute for Mission, please visit [www.pcusa.org/sdop](http://www.pcusa.org/sdop) or contact the national office at:

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Images:

National Committee members

Caption:

-photo provided by SDOP