



Partners for Women's Equality

Volume I, Edition I

January 2008

Circle of Leadership

- Lois Yellowthunder
- Marianne Curry
- Sue Hoese
- Faith Lugazia
- Shirley Davis
- Dipankar Mukherjee
- Melissa Eystad

Executive Director

Maureen White Eagle

Organic Gardening! Marketing! PWE Volunteers Needed.

"What we really need is an organic gardener." said Efu Nijaki, Director of Afya. Maureen White Eagle was surprised at some of the needs expressed by PWE partners.

Afya, a holistic healing center for women in João Pessoa, provides care for poor women through diet, herbal medicine, massage, reiki, counseling and group work. As a way of providing healthy organic food to their clientele and the neighborhood, they purchased a garden space and dug a well on the site. They successfully developed a garden area, but feel they lack the expertise needed to garden organically. They would like a PWE volunteer who can mentor them for 6 months to a year, to teach them what they need to know. They dream of producing enough to sell and envision the development of a neighborhood gardening program, teaching the impoverished community surrounding them how to

grow their own fruits and vegetables organically.

Afya has also commenced a small economic development project. The project recycles garbage into useable products, such as baskets, stools, artwork and other items. They need a PWE volunteer who has the know how to develop this project and teach new skills and ideas to volunteers. A PWE volunteer expert in marketing would also be of great assistance to this project.

Afya could also use volunteers who can teach basic computer skills and English as well as skills in administration, leadership training, and group facilitating. Afya provides a healthy, supportive environment in which to work. João Pessoa is a beautiful ocean front community where many Brazilians and Europeans vacation. Volunteers can make a difference while living in an environment that will prove fascinating.



Efu Nijaki and Afya's gardener meet at their garden site.



Baskets made from garbage by Afya volunteers.

Look on our website for more information.

Bremer Foundation Funds Leadership Project

Thanks to a grant from the Bremer Foundation of St. Paul, Minnesota, Partners for Women's Equality will be developing a leadership program for Indigenous women. PWE received the two year grant of \$90,000, which will provide the bulk of funding needed.

Maureen White Eagle, PWE's Executive Director, says the

plan is to develop a program which meets the needs of Native women working in organizations on or near reservation in the U.S. (Minnesota and North Dakota) and Indigenous women in Mexico and Guatemala.

The program will focus on basic skill development. Once we pilot the program and

evaluated it, we intend to expand it to include our international partners and other oppressed groups of women. A major part of our future programming will be centered on developing the skills of women working with oppressed women. Development of the program will take place in 2008 and implementation in 2009.

For more information on volunteering:

www.partnersforwomensequality.org

Call Maureen at 651-686-5492

info@partnersforwomensequality.org