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Boldness Personified: Echoing Green Names World's 15 Best Emerging Social Entrepreneurs

-- \$1 Million Seed Investment, Exceptional Track Record --

NEW YORK, July 6, 2006 – Echoing Green, a global nonprofit with a 20-year track record of identifying and developing tomorrow's extraordinary social change leaders, has selected 15 individuals as 2006 Echoing Green Fellows. They will receive \$1 million in seed funding and technical assistance to launch new nonprofit organizations around the world based on their bold ideas for developing new solutions to society's most difficult problems.

These 15 rising talents -- chosen from nearly 950 applicants representing 800 applications -- bear watching, as past Echoing Green Fellows have gone on to earn numerous prestigious accolades, including *Time Magazine's* "Time 100: The People Who Shape Our World," the MacArthur Foundation "Genius Award," the President's Service Award, the *Fast Company* Social Capitalist Award, the Reebok Human Rights Award, the White House Fellowship, and the World Economic Forum's Global Leader for Tomorrow. The 350 social change organizations founded with Echoing Green's support include such effective nonprofits as City Year, Teach For America, College Summit, Make the Road by Walking, EarthRights International and Peace Games.

Echoing Green's \$1 million investment in support of the 2006 Echoing Green Fellows will break new ground against many of the world's most entrenched, complex problems. The 2006 fellows' work includes:

- Building a permanent anti-genocide grassroots constituency that combats atrocities around the world;
- Working to alleviate hunger among the poorest farmers in Kenya;
- Creating a new legal model to combat high youth recidivism rates in the criminal justice system;
- Developing Africa's next generation of leaders; and
- Creating new, innovative and affordable housing solutions for our country's most vulnerable populations.

An exceptional number of this year's awardees are focused on international issues, including five projects targeting the continent of Africa. Summaries of the 2006 Echoing Green Fellowship organizations are attached.

"Echoing Green finds and supports bold leaders and their new ideas, and provides the vital early resources they need in order to develop, thrive and bring important and lasting improvements to the world," said Dr. Cheryl L. Dorsey, Echoing Green's President (and a 1992 fellowship recipient for The Family Van, a mobile health unit in inner-city Boston neighborhoods).

“These individuals haven’t turned away from the world’s toughest problems. Instead, they have dedicated themselves to solving them. We are proud of our 2006 Echoing Green Fellows, and we’re looking forward to working closely with them. We’re also proud that our strong track record of selecting emerging leaders who succeed is a proven magnet for attracting further support for their important work,” Dr. Dorsey said.

About Echoing Green

Since 1987, Echoing Green has been committed to supporting new approaches to entrenched problems that have resisted solutions until now. Through a multi-year fellowship program, Echoing Green identifies extraordinary individuals with bold ideas for social change and provides them with the seed money and strategic support they need to launch new organizations. These emerging social entrepreneurs and their organizations work to close gaps in deeply rooted social, economic and political inequities to ensure equal access to basic human and civil rights. With the support of co-founder General Atlantic, LLC (GA), a private equity firm, foundations and individual donors, Echoing Green has invested over \$23 million in start-up funding to more than 400 social entrepreneurs. For more information, visit <http://www.echoinggreen.org>, call 212.689.1165, or email info@echoinggreen.org.

Applications for the 2007 fellowship cycle will be accepted starting in September 2006.

(2006 Echoing Green Fellows Summaries Follow.)

2006 Echoing Green Fellows

African Leadership Academy

Fred Swaniker and Chris Bradford, Johannesburg, South Africa

African Leadership Academy seeks to develop future generations of African leaders. In doing so, the Academy will address one of Africa's most pressing needs: the need for a new generation of ethical, committed leaders to provide good governance and stimulate economic growth on the continent. The Academy will recruit the most outstanding 15-18 year olds from Africa's 54 countries to participate in an intensive two-year program focusing on leadership, entrepreneurship, and African studies at its Johannesburg campus. African Leadership Academy will be the first school in Africa with a comprehensive focus on developing future African leadership.

"African Leadership Academy's ultimate objective is to become the hub for ethical, effective leaders driving positive change across all spheres of African society. Leaders in the Academy's network will accelerate economic growth, encourage pan-African cooperation and solve pressing social problems." --Fred Swaniker and Chris Bradford

Appropriate Infrastructure Development Group (AIDG)

Peter Haas, Weston, MA and Quetzaltenango (Xela), Guatemala

Rural communities in developing countries are critically underserved by large infrastructure projects, leaving them with little to no access to proper housing, electricity, refrigeration, cooking fuel, clean and hot water, and sanitation and communications systems. AIDG will work with engineers in developing countries to establish micro-manufacturing enterprises, which will allow them to produce low cost, environmentally sound infrastructure products such as windmills and water purification systems. AIDG envisions a self-replicating model in which each incubated micro-manufacturing shop then donates worker time and a portion of its profits to help train and finance the next village's or country's shop.

"The basic time-saving amenities of first-world living standards are, with the proper providers, within the realm of affordability for the rural poor, and can help these families lift themselves from poverty. They provide efficiency and health benefits that lead to increased productivity and opportunities for micro-enterprise." --Peter Haas

Bardoli Global Initiative

Anthony Jewett and Michael Williams II, Houston, TX

Leaders in a global society must possess the cross-cultural competencies that come from deeply meaningful international experiences. While African American students represent 12 percent of the U.S. college population, they represent only 3 percent of students who study abroad. The Bardoli Global Initiative will provide international academic and career development opportunities for African American students, using study abroad as a primary vehicle to create a new generation of global citizens succeeding in the highest levels of business, diplomacy, and social advocacy.

"The future's global leaders must reflect our world's diversity, as equitable social and economic progress stems directly from the intercultural environment such leaders will create. Widely accessible, bilateral study is not only key to shaping this next generation of leaders, but also epitomizes the kinds of opportunities people need to broaden their perspectives and actualize their own potential." --Anthony Jewett and Michael Williams II

Ensaaf

Sukhman Dhani & Jaskaran Kaur, Portland, OR, San Francisco, CA and Punjab, India

Although international and domestic human rights groups estimate that Indian security forces tortured, murdered, and caused the disappearance of hundreds of thousands of Sikhs in Punjab, India, between 1984 and 1995, hundreds of perpetrators remain unaccountable for those crimes. Ensaaf will end impunity for these mass state crimes by documenting and exposing the violations, bringing the perpetrators to justice in India and abroad, and organizing exiled survivor communities to advocate for their rights to truth, justice, and reparations.

"The premise underlying our vision is that survivors of gross human rights violations cannot live with freedom and dignity until impunity ends. A human rights movement driven by survivors creates lasting social change because the truth of their experiences challenges impunity." --Sukhman Dhani and Jaskaran Kaur

Genocide Intervention Network (GI-Net)

Mark Hanis, Washington, DC

GI-Net takes an unprecedented approach to empowering global citizens with the tools to directly protect civilians facing genocidal violence. It is also creating the first-ever permanent anti-genocide constituency, which will foster the necessary will to prevent and stop genocide around the globe. Initially, the organization's work will focus on ending the ongoing genocide in Darfur, Sudan, through material support for African Union peacekeepers and political action for a more robust protection force.

"I want to see a world in which the international community is willing and able to protect civilians from genocidal violence. Civilian protection is the most overlooked yet most vital aspect in preventing and responding to genocide. Unable to find how citizens can help provide civilian protection, we created GI-Net." --Mark Hanis

Gisha: Center for the Legal Protection of Freedom of Movement

Sari Bashi, Tel Aviv, Israel

Tight restrictions on the movement of people have stunted the ability of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank to receive the education and training they need to achieve personal and professional goals and to build a prosperous and peaceful society. Gisha will use legal advocacy, public information and lobbying to help Palestinians, particularly residents of Gaza, who are subject to travel restrictions that block access to education and economic development.

"I want to see a world in which the members of an emerging society are allowed to travel and move freely in order to pursue their dreams. I want to see a world in which Palestinians are allowed to study, to develop themselves and to learn the skills they need to build a prosperous society that can live in peace with its Israeli neighbors." --Sari Bashi

Hallmark Community Solutions (HCS)

Mardie Oakes, San Francisco, CA

New housing solutions are needed more than ever in the face of the California housing crisis. Only 15 percent of California households can afford a median-priced home compared to 49 percent of the U.S. The housing crisis is especially acute for people with mental illness or developmental disabilities, where the model of institutionalized living is being dismantled without quality, replicable housing alternatives to take its place. Hallmark Community Solutions proposes to bring together real estate financing tools and new design techniques in new ways to provide cutting-edge housing solutions that are scalable and replicable for Californians in need.

"I've seen first hand how high-quality, affordable housing can transform lives. When created as part of a comprehensive strategy, great housing can completely transform a neighborhood. Where and how people live directly affects their health, productivity, stability, and happiness." --Mardie Oakes

The Inner Circle

Muhsin Hendricks, Johannesburg, South Africa

Gay Muslims face severe suffering and challenges within this religious community. For example, Muslim clergy refuse to grant burial rights to gays especially if they died of AIDS-related illnesses and also block them from being buried in Muslim cemeteries. Working in South Africa, the first country to safeguard freedom from discrimination based on sexual orientation in its Bill of Rights, The Inner Circle will work to reconcile Islam with notions of sexuality as well as provide public education and training, research, and outreach services to the South African LGBTQi (*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and Intersex*) community and beyond.

"I am interested in seeing people in South Africa change their attitudes and enhance their understanding of the LGBTQi community through eradicating homophobia and stereotypes that exist within the Muslim world." --Muhsin Hendricks

Mapendo International

Sasha Chanoff, Somerville, MA and Nairobi, Kenya

There are over 3 million refugees in Africa. The most marginalized among these, because of ethnicity, HIV status, religion, or gender, are threatened by violence, rape, disease, and death in urban centers and in the refugee camps established to care for and protect them. Mapendo International works to identify, rescue, and protect the most vulnerable refugees fleeing conflict in Africa whose struggle to survive goes unnoticed and

unattended.

"Refugees have commonly experienced significant violence and trauma, with the loss of family, friends, home, possessions—everything people build their lives around. In my work across Africa, I have seen that in a sea of urgency, the needs of people fleeing conflict who have no access to aid are most urgent."--Sasha Chanoff

One Acre Fund

Andrew Youn, Bungoma, Kenya

In too many regions of Africa, the "hunger season" is an annual occurrence, causing severe and widespread food shortages. In Kenya, 19 million people, or 44 percent of the population, are chronically hungry, the vast majority of whom are children. Longstanding humanitarian programs providing food aid, while necessary and politically popular, are only a temporary solution and address only a part of the problem. The One Acre Fund will work toward a sustainable approach to ending hunger in rural Kenya by making small investments in farm inputs, providing agricultural education, and creating market opportunities for increased outputs of bumper crops.

"The One Acre Fund hopes to lead a revolution in chronic hunger alleviation in Africa, away from food aid and towards a permanent solution... Every poor person has it within herself to change her own situation. I have a very clear vision of a world where every hungry farmer is able to feed her own children." --Andrew Youn

Youth Empowerment Movement

Farajii R. Muhammad, Baltimore, MD

More than 50 percent of Baltimore 9th graders drop out of school. Of those who advance to their senior year, 11 percent drop out. Shifting budget priorities in recent years caused the city to close several recreation centers, and a current proposal by the school system will close several public schools. City and state programs to address high school drop out rates, juveniles in the justice system and unemployment have not effectively engaged youth and are frequently run by adults who cannot relate to the population they intend to serve. Youth Empowerment Movement will engage Baltimore youth as decision makers in their communities. This hands-on, youth-driven approach to leadership and community development will use a four-step process that involves engagement, training, strategizing, and action.

"We are working with a whole new generation, with a whole new set of challenges that have made this generation handicapped. It is our duty not just to say "believe," but to show youth how they can use their talents and skills to exemplify the best part of themselves and make their communities better in a practical way." --Farajii Muhammad

Youth Rights and Reentry Center (YRRC)

Laurie Parise, New York, NY

In the U.S., the national "get tough on crime" agenda has had a tremendous impact on the number of juveniles charged with crimes and sentenced as adults. It is estimated that in 2006 over 200,000 juveniles will return to their neighborhoods with adult conviction records, which can bar them from employment opportunities and access to public housing and other government assistance. At a very young age, these individuals are caught between the family court system and the adult criminal justice system and are on their own to navigate access to legal assistance and public services. YRRC will reduce many challenges faced by young people who are involved in or exiting the criminal justice system by providing support for successful reintegration, including criminal, delinquency and civil legal representation, social services, and workforce development opportunities.

"By offering legal, re-entry and social services in one organization, YRRC works to ensure that these young people do not slip through the cracks and instead get the support they need to reclaim their lives and become productive members of society." --Laurie Parise

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