

## Self Development of People Committee Report for 2010 Grants

The Self Development of People (SDOP) is a program of the Presbyterian Church USA General Assembly Mission Council. The grant money is received from the One Great Hour of Sharing offerings given during Lent and Easter. In 2010 the Presbytery received \$16,500 for grants. Two of the major criteria are that (1) the groups applying must be grass roots organizations, presented, owned and controlled by the group of people who will benefit directly from it; and (2) they must address long-term correction of conditions that keep people bound by poverty and oppression.

The presbytery committee of 9 ministers and lay people from Presbyterian and other churches, began meeting in September, 2010, to advertise the grant process. We received 21 applications. After reading the applications and holding them in prayer, in December the committee made the final selections.

A grant of \$9,000 was made to the Immigrant Sustainability Grant and Loan Program of the Pioneer Fellowship Group at the Church of All Nations. In order to obtain visas to emigrate to the U.S. immigrants have to meet high standards. However, once they had made the transition to the U.S., they found that the training and degrees they received in their home countries are now regarded as inferior and unacceptable.

The purpose of the Immigrant Sustainability Grant and Loan Program is to give loans of up to \$3,000 to support immigrant families pursuing education in order to improve their lives. These grants/loans are interest free and as they are paid back, the money will be used for others who want to pursue further education.

The second grant for \$7,500 was made to the Self-Help Project of the Self-Help Refugee Network. This project addresses the needs of refugees from the countries of Bhutan and Nepal who arrive in this country with very limited command of the English language, little or no formal education, and non-transferable job skills.

The purpose of the group is to use the experience of some of the group to start a small catering and cleaning business. The money earned from the business will be reinvested into equipment, uniforms, and supplies. Since this is a new business, the purpose of the grant money will be to supplement the workers' salaries.

The Self Development of People Committee thanks everyone who made a contribution to the One Great Hour of Sharing in 2010. Please prayerfully consider making a contribution in 2011. For more information, watch the Presbytery web site, check your church mail, or contact Reverend Karen Kennerly, Committee Chair, [kkennerly@gmail.com](mailto:kkennerly@gmail.com).