

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 4, 1998

Professor Avidesh Shashaani
President
Fund for the Future of our Children
5225 Wisconsin Ave, NW
Suite 502
Washington, DC 20015

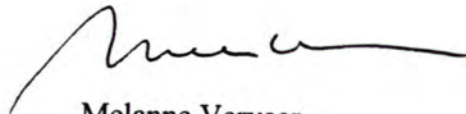
Dear Professor Shashaani:

On behalf of the First Lady, thank you very much for your letter, the most interesting materials, and invitation to "Our Children's Hope: Peace," on October 4, 1998. Thank you also for your tape. It was most thoughtful.

It is too early to determine whether the First Lady will be able to join you. I have forwarded your letter to our scheduling office. They will notify you once a decision has been made.

Thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff
to the First Lady



Fund for the Future of our Children
5225 Wisconsin Ave., N.W. • Suite 502 • Washington, D.C. 20015 • USA
TEL. 202.364.2606 • FAX 202.364.2608

Handwritten initials and a circled 'R'.

...that our children may be peacemakers

To Deane

May 27, 1998

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

I am writing this letter to ask for your support for "Our Children's Hope: Peace" project - a children's performance and art exhibit co-sponsored by Georgetown University. The event will be held at Georgetown University's Gaston Hall on Sunday, October 4, 1998, and will include a performance by area children's choral and dance groups of different ethnic and religious backgrounds. Following this presentation, the audience will be invited to view an exhibit of drawings by Palestinian and Israeli children. I know that children's issues have always been very close to your heart, and it would be a great honor if for us you would accept to open the event and address the audience.

The artwork for this unique art exhibit has been jointly compiled by WINDOWS Channels for Communication, based in Tel Aviv, and the Palestinian Child Arts Center (PCAC), based in Hebron. Since January of 1995, WINDOWS has prepared and published the *WINDOWS Magazine for all Children*, a bilingual magazine containing articles written by Israeli and Palestinian children. I am enclosing for your attention a recent issue of this publication. WINDOWS also sponsors the *My Habitat* touring exhibition of drawings by Palestinian and Israeli children, which was featured at the May 1997 UNESCO Conference in Paris as a model of education for peace through art. PCAC was founded to bring joy through art and creativity to children who have suffered from trauma and fear. Serving numerous Palestinian children, PCAC provides instruction in the arts, including painting, drama and music.

Now these two organizations are working together to prepare the "Our Children's Hope: Peace" exhibit. Monthly workshops are being held which bring together Israeli and Palestinian children to express their creativity and get to know one another. PCAC and WINDOWS hope to continue these monthly meetings even after the exhibit has been completed, involving more people, such as families and friends of the children, and creating art for display in public places. In this way, they hope to encourage ever-growing circles of Palestinians and Israelis to fight for the common goal of peace.

Representatives of WINDOWS and PCAC, as well as several children from each organization, will be traveling to the United States at the time of the exhibit. During their visit, we have

arranged for them to hold workshops and discussions on the project at several area schools. It is hoped that this exchange will open the doors of communication between the two organizations and the schools they have visited.

The Fund for the Future of our Children (FFC) is an international, non-profit organization established to support empowerment opportunities for at-risk and underserved children, who too often bear the brunt of conflict and intolerance. It seeks to promote new societal attitudes and to provide children with a world view that is not bound to prejudice and hatred. To this end, FFC has organized two successful fundraisers for children's groups. The first of these raised funds for six children's organizations working in Bosnia in 1995. The second project, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Henrik of Denmark, benefited sixteen children's organizations across the United States. I am enclosing for your attention the programs from these events.

FFC would like to recognize and support the remarkable efforts of WINDOWS and PCAC by giving them the visibility they need to continue and expand their work with Israeli and Palestinian children. By highlighting the positive impact of this unique children's art project, FFC hopes to show how art and creativity can help to build bridges of understanding and hope for children who have lived their whole lives in conditions of conflict and fear.

I am enclosing for your attention a list of our current Council and Board members. Among the members to whom we are also extending an invitation is Professor Elie Wiesel.

Your heartfelt dedication to children's issues is indeed inspiring to those who work on behalf of children. It is our sincere hope that you will accept our invitation. Your presence at the event would mean a great deal to all the children who have worked so hard to prepare this event, as well as to the participating children's groups and schools.

Please accept my gratitude for your consideration of this request.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Avidah Shashaani".

Avidah Shashaani, Ph.D.
President

AS/es
enclosures

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 8, 1998

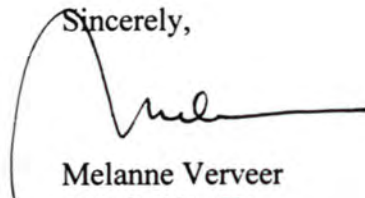
Ms. Helen Semler
International Inc.
444 East 75th Street
14-D
New York, NY 10021

Dear Helen:

What a delight to hear from you! Thank you for your thoughtful letter and offer to serve as an interpreter for a meeting between the First Lady and Mrs. Yeltsin. There is no upcoming trip to Russia scheduled at this time. You'll be pleased to know that we had a delightful visit last month with Mrs. Yeltsin in England when the Presidents were attending the G8. We also spent a couple of the most interesting days with her in her native city, Yekaterinburg, last fall. My Russian is improving!

Best wishes and a belated Happy Birthday. Hope all is well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

**HSB****International Inc**444 East 75th Street, 14-D
New York, N.Y. 10021

Telephone: 212-879-0390

Fax: 212-879-4557

FAX NO. 1202-456-6244
For: MRS. MELANNE VERVEER

May 14, 1998

Dear Melanne:

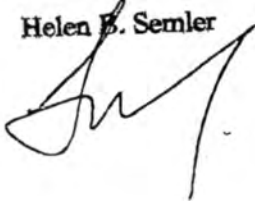
It's May again, and I think of you because your son and I were born on the same day. I wish us both a Happy Birthday.

If Mrs. Clinton will participate in the summit meeting with President Yeltsin and needs an interpreter. I would very much like to do it.

I tried to call you several times to express my admiration for our First Lady and the President, but I think you know it. I believe that despite all the obstacles, the Clintons' genuine desire to help people and their personal charisma will triumph over cynicism and political manipulations. More power to them.

My best regards to you, Katy and Nicole,

Helen B. Semler



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 17, 1998

Ms. Maria Lareto Schnake
Director
Centro de Estudios Ciudadanos
Adriana Cousino 335
Santiago, Chile

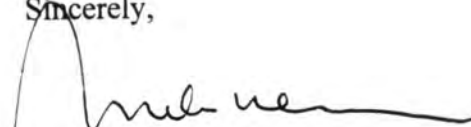
Dear Ms. Schnake:

Thank you very much for your letter and invitation to the First Lady to attend the International Conference for Vincular Divorce in Chile on August 31, 1998.

Although her upcoming official schedule will not permit Mrs. Clinton to attend, I know she would want me to convey her appreciation for the kind invitation.

Best wishes for a successful conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne Verveer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



Mrs.
Hillary Rodham Clinton
First Lady of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
N.W. Washington D.C. 20500
U.S.A.
FAX: 1-202-456 24 61

Santiago de Chile, June 15, 1998

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

I am pleased to address you in your standing as a woman, a lawyer and a fighter for the Rights of Women, to present you with an important initiative being put out in Chile by the Centro de Estudios Ciudadanos, and request your support for it.

The Centro de Estudios Ciudadanos (CEC), center for citizen studies, is a non-governmental institution founded in 1995 with the purpose of promoting and improving democracy in Chile through the strengthening of civil society. Our lines of action are three: social research, civic education and empowerment, and influence on public opinion.

In this framework, CEC will be carrying out on August 31, 1998 an **International Conference for Vincular Divorce in Chile**, with participants of national and international relevance.

Currently, Chile is the only country in the American Continent, and in the Western World, not to have a Divorce Law. The standing judicial and social order consecrates one family model, hierarchical in structure, that leaves women in a position of inequality and disadvantage with respect to men. The lack of legislation on vincular divorce is contrasting with the actual situation in which marriages do constantly break up, leaving women and children especially defenseless.

Although large sectors of society favor legislation on the subject, the incomplete transition to, and development of, democracy in Chile causes that the recently approved draft for a Divorce Law in the lower house of parliament be blocked from ratification by an undemocratically generated Senate, dominated by the most conservative social sectors headed by the ex-dictator Augusto Pinochet himself. In the same manner, the public discussion of the subject by the media has being hegemonized by the detractors of divorce -basically the Catholic Church and its most conservative followers- not allowing enough space for expression for the other existing churches nor for the lay sectors of society.

Therefore, the convocation to carry out an International Conference for Vincular Divorce in Chile - first time this initiative has been put forth in the country- has the purpose of generating a **public debate** on the theme and of **promoting a more informed discussion** of greater depth on the need to have legislation that reflects the reality of Chilean society.



The intention of this initiative is to offer a space for expression to the **sectors that favor** legislating on vincular divorce which, although represent the majority of the population, haven't had the adequate means to do so. In the same way, it is intended to treat the subject from a **lay perspective**, for it is a non-religious matter, and in a pluralistic manner, taking into account the **political transversality** of the theme.

On the one hand, it is of interest to generate an event that produces an **impact on the media** - through being an international conference- and from that fact position divorce on the public opinion as a reality that must be dealt with. In this sense, and as supporting measures to the Conference, we have included carrying out an opinion poll and an academic research report, the results of which will be published and massively distributed. Also, a filmed documentary on divorce and a poster will be produced. On the other hand it is intended to develop a **program of activities together with other social institutions and organizations** (universities, student councils, NGO's, etc.) which adhere to the initiative within the framework of this Conference.

The organization of the Conference is in charge of a team of CEC professionals, presided by its director. Nevertheless, to the preparation of the Conference, a wide range of social actors and politicians have been invited, who have supported strongly the initiative and have validated the objectives, the design and the contents of the Conference.

This project has the **sponsorship of different Chilean personalities and organizations** -such as the Minister for Women Affairs, Mrs. Josefina Bilbao, and congresspeople sponsoring the approved draft for a Divorce Law in the lower house, headed by the current vice-president Adriana Muñoz- and also enjoys the fundamental **auspice of the World University Service - German Committee** that has made possible the making of this Conference.

Nonetheless, given the magnitude of the stipulated objectives, we require the most international support we can get, as much in sponsorships for this democratizing initiative as in financial contributions.

Because of this, and taking into account the high level of commitment to just causes shown by you in your recent visit to our country, we would be greatly honored by your participation in this Conference, which would mean an enormous support for us.

I hope that this request finds a favorable welcome.

Very truly yours,

María Loreto Schnake

Director
Centro de Estudios Ciudadanos

Council Member
Municipality of Santiago



Mrs.
Hillary Rodham Clinton
First Lady of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
N.W. Washington D.C. 20500
U.S.A.

CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS CIUDADANOS

Adriana Cousiño 335 Fono-Fax (56-2) 682 09 29 Santiago, CHILE



SANTIAGO DE CHILE, June 20, 1998

Mrs.

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

First Lady of the United States of America

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

N.W. Washington D.C. 20500

U.S.A.

FAX: 1-202-456 24 61

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

I am writing you this letter in name of a group of women members of Parliament, representatives of the *Concertación de Partidos por la Democracia*, the political alliance currently in government in Chile, to present an important initiative for the democratization of our society: the carrying out of an **International Conference for Vincular Divorce in Chile**.

As you surely know, democracy in Chile is far from complete. We have a long road to follow which must include urgent reforms to our Constitution. This letter has to do with one of the subjects in which we haven't been able to advance: The modernization of the legislation on family and conjugal relations.

Since our reconquering of democracy in Chile we have made important legislative progress in matters of the family such as the passing of the Intrafamiliar Violence Law, of which I am the author. Nevertheless, Chile hasn't been able yet to pass a Divorce Law, mainly because of the not democratic composition of its Senate. The existence of designated senators (including the very ex-dictator turned senator for life) has kept the Senate from ratifying the project for a Divorce Law. It has already been aproved in 1997 by the lower house of Parliament which is elected by popular vote and where evidently the governing Concertación de Partidos por la Democracia has the majority.

This situation is worsened by the fact that most of the Chilean media is owned by the most conservative and reactionary sectors of the right wing. In this way the campaign against legislation on vincular divorce is the only voice which is heard loud and clear on the subject.

The legitimacy earned by the Catholic Church during the years of the dictatorship through its support for Human Rights, has been of use for it now to make its opinion against divorce be heeded and accepted even by theoretically progressive sectors of Chilean society.



Within this framework, the carrying out of an International Conference for Vincular Divorce in Chile on August 31 this year, initiative which is been put forth succesfully and with much social support by the non governmental organization **Centro de Estudios Ciudadanos** directed by the city councilwoman **Loreto Schnake**, is of vital importance. Chile needs a public, demythified and well informed debate on divorce, with characteristics of an international event so that it may not be ignored by the national media. The high level of the people invited to the Conference will help us guarantee that the opinion of those in favor of divorce will be heard.

The United States are an important cultural, political and social reference for Chilean society. In the same way your commitment to social causes makes you bearer not only of great international political prestige, but also of a special admiration in our country.

It is in this view that we want to ask for your participation either as a speaker in the opening ceremony of this international meeting or by sending us a message to be read at the Conference, which will give it the high light we need.

Hoping to be able to receive your invaluable support and welcome you in our country, I send you my regards. I am at your complete disposal.

ADRIANA MUÑOZ D'ALBORA

First Vicepresident

Honorable Chamber of Deputies



Mrs.
Hillary Rodham Clinton
First Lady Of the United States
of America
1600 Pensylvania Avenue
N.W. Washington D.C. 20500
U.S.A.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 24, 1998

Ms. Jean Stapleton
Chair
Women's Research & Education Institute
1750 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 350
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Ms. Stapleton:

Thank you for your letter and invitation for the First Lady to speak at WREI's press conference to launch The American Woman 1999-2000, on October 14.

Regrettably, Mrs. Clinton is scheduled to be out of the country and will be unable to accept your kind invitation. But I know she would want me to convey her appreciation for your thoughtfulness along with her best wishes for a successful announcement.

Best wishes, and thank you for all the work you do.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



cc: Melanne
Patti
Maisha

Women's Research & Education Institute

1750 New York Avenue, NW
Suite 350
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 628-0444
(202) 628-0458 FAX
wrei@wrei.org
http://www.wrei.org

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July 8, 1998

Mr. Erskine Bowles
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Bowles:

As the chair of WREI's board, I am writing to ask your help in enlisting Hillary Rodham Clinton to speak at the press conference WREI will hold on October 14 at the National Press Club to launch *The American Woman 1999-2000*.

The seventh in WREI's American Woman series of books on the status of women in this country, the new edition explores the progress and setbacks for women in the second half of the twentieth century and makes projections about what lies ahead for women in the twenty-first.

Juanita Kreps, a founding member of WREI's board, and her daughter, Sarah, have contributed essays to the book. Their personal and wonderfully written perspectives are followed by five chapters: "American Women in a New Millennium" by Sarah Evans; "African American Women in the Twenty-first Century: The Continuing Challenge" by Vicki Crawford; "Hispanic Women in the United States" by Margarita Benitez; "Women and the Law: Learning from the Past to Protect the Future" by Sonia Jarvis; and "The American Woman: The Road Ahead" by Carol De Vita. The book also includes a comprehensive statistical profile of American women.

WREI is a nonprofit organization that was founded in 1977 as the research arm of the bipartisan Congresswomen's Caucus (now called the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues). Since then, WREI has become an independent organization and has enlarged its scope, but its activities are still designed to meet the information needs of members of Congress and other federal policymakers who are interested in advancing the status of women.

Both political parties are represented on WREI's board, which is racially and geographically diverse, as well, but all of us on the board support the broad goals of economic and social equity for women. WREI rarely endorses or lobbies for specific legislation (the exceptions have involved equity issues for military women). Our primary commitment is to encourage informed public policy debate that recognizes the needs of American women today.

Regret
out of
country

WREI's funders include the Ford Foundation, the Commonwealth Fund, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and the Department of Labor, as well as many corporations and labor unions.

WREI's projects currently include:

- The Congressional Fellowships on Women and Public Policy, through which talented women with strong research and analytical skills are placed for nine months in congressional offices. WREI Fellows enhance lawmakers' capacity to assess public policy with respect to the implications for women. This is our longest-running project—it is beginning its 19th year.
- The Women's Health Project, which prepares and disseminates reports and holds seminars on women's health issues. The latest of several reports published under this project is *The Health of Mid-Life Women in the States*.
- The Women in the Military project, which gathers, analyzes, and disseminates information about women in the military services and women veterans. Earlier this year WREI published the second edition of *Women in the Military: Where They Stand*, a concise resource that, I'm told, even speechwriters at the Pentagon use.
- *Older Women: The Economics of Aging*, of which WREI will shortly issue a new edition. This publication pulls together and presents in readable format a wide range of information relevant to the economic status of older women today and in the future.

We are confident that WREI's values are consonant with Mrs. Clinton's. We know that her participation in our press conference would give the information and insights about the status of American women that are contained in our book exposure that could not otherwise be equaled. We will be most grateful for your help in making it happen.

Very truly yours,


Jean Stapleton

Enclosures

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 24, 1998

Barbara Strauss
Director of Development and Public Relations
Clifford Beers Clinic
93 Edwards Street
New Haven, CT 06511

Dear Ms. Strauss:

Thank you for your letter and invitation for the First Lady to attend the Clifford Beers Clinic's 85th Anniversary Gala on November 21, 1998. Bill Galston had also conveyed the invitation to us, and endorsed the work of the Clinic.

Regrettably, on November 21 Mrs. Clinton is scheduled to be out of the country and will be unable to accept your invitation. But I know she would want me to convey her appreciation for your thoughtfulness, and all the important work you do for children and families.

You have the great satisfaction of knowing that what you do matters to so many. Thank you for all you do and best wishes for a successful event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne Verveer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



Clifford Beers Clinic

Established in 1913

July 17, 1998

*Regret
only the
Country*

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Office of the First Lady
The White House
Washington D.C.

Building Strength in Children and Families

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Dear Ms. Verveer,

This letter is to follow up on a recent conversation you had with Mr. William Galston on July 9th, 1988 regarding an invitation for Ms. Hillary Clinton to attend the Clifford Beers Clinic's Anniversary Gala to be held Saturday evening November 21, 1998.

This November the Clifford Beers Clinic will be celebrating its 85th Anniversary and would be so thrilled if Mrs. Clinton could join us. We would like to honor Mrs. Clinton with the *Clifford W. Beers Recognition Award* established to honor those individuals who advocate for the well being of children and families. Ours is a daunting task and Mrs. Clinton's attendance at this event would provide an extraordinary opportunity to tell our story and draw much needed support

The Clifford Beers Clinic, established in 1913, is the oldest mental health outpatient clinic in the United States with a fascinating and rich legacy. Today it provides critical community based outpatient mental health services for children and families in the Greater New Haven Area. The children seen at the Clinic encounter such difficulties as physical and sexual abuse, violence, drug abuse, depression, anxiety, teenage suicide and homelessness. Specialized services include treatment for children and youth who have been sexually abused, affected by AIDS/ HIV, witnesses to or victims of violence, as well as for youth who are acting out in sexually inappropriate ways. I have enclosed a packet of information as well as a 13 minute video which highlights client testimony for your review.

We would also like to extend an open invitation for Mrs. Clinton to visit the Clinic at a time convenient to her. I know Mrs. Clinton would find it a most interesting and worthwhile experience and we certainly would be thrilled to have her!

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We will wait to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Barbara Strauss
Director of Development
and Public Relations

p.s. Mrs. Clinton has donated signed copies of It Takes A Village for use in our Silent Auction at our anniversary galas over the past two years.

Supported by:

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New Haven

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of Branford

93 Edwards Street
New Haven, CT 06511

phone 203-772-1270
fax 203-772-0051

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 26, 1998

Ambassador James Sasser
US Embassy, Beijing
PSC 461; Box 50, FPO AP 96521

Dear Ambassador Sasser:

Enclosed are photos taken with Mrs. Clinton during the President's trip to China.

Thanks again for your graciousness, counsel and support before and during the visit. Your leadership made all the difference.

Very best wishes to you and your family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 26, 1998

Ms. Robin Smith
Video/Action Fund
1000 Potomac Street NW, Suite 202
Washington, DC 20007

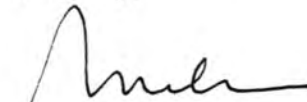
Dear Robin:

Thank you for your thoughtfulness in forwarding the materials on the work of the Video/Action Fund. What an impressive array of informative and important documentary productions.

You have the satisfaction of knowing that your work makes a positive contribution to society and you clearly deserve every award that comes your way. We enjoyed seeing you and Bill

All the best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

MANAGING

Governance and Regulation

Letting TV Tell the Story of People in Need

A former CBS producer splices conflict and emotion into videos, steering away from talking heads and too many facts

By ELIZABETH GREENE

WASHINGTON

AS A PRODUCER on CBS's "Sunday Morning," Robin Smith got a quick lesson in the power of video to generate sympathy for a wide variety of little-known causes. A short television profile on the magazine-style show, she found, could turn a small, struggling charity into an overnight success story. She tucked that information away.

After leaving network television in 1986, she dabbled briefly in Democratic politics, producing a 30-minute video for Presidential candidate Michael S. Dukakis and other shorts for the election. She found she liked her new role as an advocate and started to dream about ways of turning her professional skills into a boon for her favorite causes.

"I said, Okay, now I want to create an organization that will allow me to do the kind of television programming I want to do and to help people who have always been left out," says Ms. Smith.

In 1990 she started the Video/Action Fund to do just



Robin Smith, president of the Video/Action Fund, making a film about substance abuse: "There are a lot of things that need to be said and there are a lot of people that need to have their voices heard."

that. Today, the non-profit fund has eight videos to its credit, including "Shooting Back: Photography By Homeless Children," which won a regional Emmy in 1991. The award, from the local chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, was for an outstanding documentary. The group's work has been shown on ABC, CBS, NBC, and PBS, as well as "The Oprah Winfrey Show" and cable television, and by local network affiliates.

Advocates for a variety of causes have presented the videos to policy makers and other influential people, and charity officials have used the tapes to raise money, train staff members and volunteers, and introduce their groups to potential clients.

Video/Action mainly focuses on organizations that

help disadvantaged kids or their mothers. Sometimes it decides to work with non-profits that come seeking help; at other times its projects evolve from the interests of its staff. The process of deciding which project to undertake is very informal, dictated more by the time constraints of the tiny organization than anything else.

Housed in the basement of the tony Georgetown house Ms. Smith shares with her husband, CBS White House correspondent Bill Plante, Video/Action is essentially a three-person team that relies heavily on help from local video editors and camera and sound experts, many of whom offer their services at a discount because they want to help good causes.

Ms. Smith, the group's president, serves as executive

Continued on Page 34

A Sampling of the Video/Action Fund's Projects



Who's Gonna Sing Our Song?: A 30-minute documentary that describes Video/Action's program to help poor kids in Washington. The film will be shown in schools.



Shooting Back: A documentary about a program that encourages homeless kids to take photographs of their lives. It won a regional Emmy award and has been broadcast around the country.



Art for Eyes: An eight-minute piece about Eye Care, a charity that works to improve the quality of vision treatment for people in Haiti.

Continued on Page 34

Former CBS Producer's Videos Tell the Story of People in Need

Continued from Page 33

producer for each project, setting up and overseeing the shoots, among other things. Barbara DeClerk, vice-president for development, coordinates fund raising, and Betsy Cox, vice-president for programs, assists in production and an assortment of other tasks.

Video Costs Vary Widely

Although Video/Action has only a small budget of its own—\$277,274 last year—it lavishes a great deal of attention on each project it undertakes. Not only does the group produce the videos, it also raises much of the money needed to make them possible and sees that they are distributed properly upon completion.

The costs associated with the videos vary considerably depending on the complexity of the effort, ranging from \$12,000 for a six-minute piece to \$165,000 for one that is an hour long.

Having made a name for herself at CBS and then in a brief stint as a producer at NBC, Ms. Smith has easy access to network programmers—and doesn't hesitate to exploit it. Using broadcast-quality tape and equipment, she has succeeded in getting five of Video/Action's programs on the air. Most charities don't even try to get their films broadcast, but those that do often get turned down because they don't have the clout or the quality of videotape that television producers demand.

Marcia Shia, a cultural-affairs programmer at WETA, one of Washington's public-television stations, says Ms. Smith's efforts get picked up by PBS and the commercial networks because they combine compelling material with technical mastery. She cites "Shooting Back," a documentary about homeless children who were encouraged to take photographs of their lives. "I think for one thing, just structurally, it told an interesting story," says Ms. Shia. "It had a beginning, it had drama, it had a middle, and it had an end." The piece has been broadcast by PBS affiliates around the country.

Technically, she says, Ms. Smith has a strong understanding of what's involved in "melding au-

dio and visual" and "the intricacies of the electronics of videotape editing."

Not Just 'Sitting on the Shelf'

Ms. Smith's involvement doesn't end with the production of the video. After she's through with a piece, she works closely with the charities that are the subjects of the films to make sure that they maximize the benefits of having a high-quality video about their work.

"I hate the idea of something being produced and just sitting on the shelf," she says. "So I work very actively with each group, be it a community activist or an organization, to teach them how they can use the video for fund raising and to get their message out: How they can plan events around the video which will then get the community interested. How we can use that video to get Charles Kuralt or Maria Shriver or Diane Sawyer interested in the story."

Among the group's productions:

► "Women of Substance," a 10-minute piece on the problems that pregnant women and mothers who are addicted to drugs face getting help. The video is being used in lobbying efforts by advocates who want government to provide more treatment programs for such women. Video/Action is also producing an hour-long documentary for television.

► "Who's Gonna Sing Our Song?," a 30-minute documentary on a project Video/Action developed to help 60 teen-agers in a poor neighborhood here. During the last academic year, the group organized weekly workshops for the kids with artists, computer-science students, and other local residents. The video, which has been shown on local television stations and at the Smithsonian Institution's Anacostia Museum, will be distributed in the fall to schools in the metropolitan area. The piece won a CINDY Award last month from the Association of Visual Communicators, an international group of film professionals based in La Mesa, Cal.

► "Loaded," a 30-second public-service announcement that dramatizes the dangers of drinking and driving. The spot has been broad-

cast around the country and last year received a Telly Award, a highly regarded honor given to outstanding television programs that are not shown on the networks.

► "Best Buddies!," a 10-minute profile of a Washington-based program that pairs mentally retarded people around the country with college students interested in volunteering. The tape has been used by the organization for promotional purposes and volunteer training.

► "Art for Eyes," an eight-minute piece on Eye Care, a non-profit that raises money to buy drugs and equipment to improve the vision of the citizens of Haiti. It was shown nationally on NBC's "Sunday Today" in the summer of 1991. Afterward, the group received calls from around the country from ophthalmologists and others who wanted to volunteer their time. And the video generated interest in the Haitian art the group sells to raise money, says Donna Fujiwara, executive director. "More people know what we do in Haiti, and when they purchase art from the art shows and auctions, they have a better understanding of how this helps the people of Haiti," she says. Sales at a show the group held here after the NBC broadcast went up 21 per cent over the last such show.

► "Young Women's Residence," an eight-minute look at a St. Petersburg, Fla., group home for teen-age girls who have been abused or neglected. The tape is used at least once a week by staff members at Brookwood, A Young Women's Residence in fund-raising appeals and informational forums for volunteers and potential clients.

"Young Women's Residence" is a dramatic improvement over the group's former presentation materials, says Pamela J. Mesmer, executive director. "We had an old slide projector that we used to show some slides," she says. "Very archaic. And we also used brochures and pamphlets, which isn't quite the same as seeing something in action."

Ms. Mesmer adds: "I just know that people really enjoy it. They comment on it. The conversations and the speeches are much more

enlivened. It makes every presentation much easier."

Typical of Robin Smith's work, the video lets the people who are served by the program do the talking. While some staff members give an overview, the focus is on five former residents who benefited from their experience at the home.

Good Way to Show 'Real People'

Ms. Smith is perhaps best liked for this aspect of her productions, which weave the stories of people who are rarely given the spotlight in mainstream television shows with the impressions of non-profit officials and community leaders. This approach makes the group's videos as direct and confrontational as they are highly stylized and slick.

"It's a good medium to actually show what's going on with real people and real communities," says Leonard N. Berman, a program officer at the Public Welfare Foundation, which gave Video/Action a \$10,000 grant last year for the "Women of Substance" project. "It brings the issue home."

Mary Ellen Hombs, director of the Homelessness Task Force of the Legal Services Corporation's National Housing Law Project, says the people depicted in the group's videos benefit from the attention they receive. "They get a lot of self-esteem back just by virtue of having somebody want to hear their story," she says. "It's a very important thing for people whose voices are often not heard." Ms. Hombs worked closely with Video/Action as an assistant producer on "Shooting Back."

She points out that the people portrayed in Ms. Smith's videos are always brought into the production process, gaining valuable experience with high-technology equipment. "That's a great opportunity," she says.

Some Common Mistakes

Ms. Smith says that the biggest mistake she has seen in videotapes produced by others for non-profits is the omission of the perspectives of the people being served. Often, she says, the executive director or a board member does all the talking

"instead of letting the program speak for itself."

A related problem, she says, is too much dependence on narration to explain the group instead of "trusting that the viewers are going to respond emotionally" to shots of a program in action.

Other mistakes, she says, include:

► An overabundance of facts. "You're not going to remember a lot of facts after you see something," she says. "But you are going to remember how you felt about the way a child's life was changed, the way a teacher interacted with somebody. It's that emotional connection that you want to play on. Have the facts on paper."

► Thinking more is better. "You can get a whole lot of information, if it's well-produced, in a 6- to 8-minute piece, whereas you're going to lose your audience with 20," says Ms. Smith. Sometimes, however, she'll produce a longer video to coincide with the way networks program their time slots.

► Using a producer who doesn't understand what is an appropriate message for the organization. "Some really good TV producers will come in and say, 'This is what your story should look like. It has to look like this and nothing else,'" says Ms. Smith. "What we try to do is collaborate: What is your story? How do we tell it?"

For organizations that want the visibility a major network can provide, it helps to work with an insider like Ms. Smith who can get the tape into the right hands. And if Video/Action gets its way, it will soon be able to produce more than the four videos it can now do in a year. The group, which has to rent production facilities, is raising money to build offices of its own that would dramatically cut its costs and increase its flexibility.

"There are a lot of things that need to be said and there are a lot of people that need to have their voices heard," says Ms. Smith, who finds her new career more fulfilling than her work as a network producer flitting in and out of people's lives in a matter of a few days. "I really want to do everything I possibly can to give them the tools to be able to tell their stories."

After watching three of her works with a visitor, she admits, "I feel a certain urgency."

A Sampling of the Video/Action Fund's Projects *Continued from Page 33*



Best Buddies! A 10-minute profile of a program that pairs mentally retarded people with college students who want to be "buddies." The group uses the tape to recruit and train volunteers.



Women of Substance: A 10-minute piece on the problems faced by pregnant women and mothers who are trying to get treatment for drug addiction. A longer documentary on the subject is in the works.



We Are Not Who You Think We Are: A documentary to show the troubles of women who serve long prison sentences and make the case for using alternative means to punish women who are not violent.

Melanne Verveer

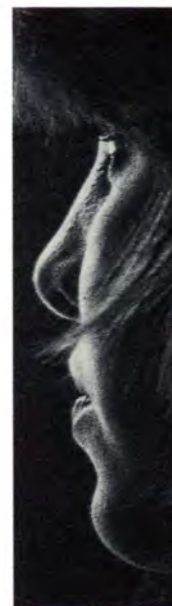
Robin Smith

Thank you for
materials

Q



WE
ARE
NOT
WHO
YOU
THINK
WE
ARE



Revealing stories rarely shared outside of prison.

Women inmates at a maximum security prison talk candidly about growing up with family violence, sexual abuse, drugs and alcohol. As girls, they cried out for help. No one listened. As young women, they tried to escape in the streets.

The women you will meet in *We Are Not Who You Think We Are* offer poignant insight into the patterns of violence, addiction and crime that cycle from generation to generation. Through the Family Violence Program at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in Westchester, New York, the women confront the impact that victimization has had on their lives and the lives of their children. "My mother was a junkie, and now here I am," says Debra. "I don't want my daughter to go through what I've gone through."

We Are Not Who You Think We Are is a powerful award-winning portrait, offering courage to support groups and personal insight to those seeking solutions to the escalating problem of women and crime.

A Video/Action Fund production, conceived by Tracy Huling and produced by Robin Smith for the Women in Jail and Prison Project at The Correctional Association of New York.

VIDEO/ACTION FUND, a not-for-profit production company founded in 1990, provides a voice for people without access to mainstream media. We produce social and cultural programs that focus attention on innovative grassroots efforts to combat illiteracy, violence, substance abuse, racism, poverty and crime. Other award-winning productions include "Shooting Back: Photography by Homeless Children," "Who's Gonna Sing Our Song?," "Art For Eyes" and "Women of Substance."

ROBIN SMITH, Emmy Award-winning producer and founder of Video/Action Fund, is currently producing a documentary on the contributions of Catholic nuns establishing health care in America. An advocate for new technologies, Ms. Smith is developing multimedia programming for the U.S. Public Health Service and testing new markets for documentaries with "video on demand." Her work over the last eighteen years has been broadcast nationally on ABC, CBS, NBC and PBS.

TRACY HULING, a national consultant on women and criminal justice and a progressive activist in the area of criminal justice reform, directed the Women in Jail and Prison Project for the New York Correctional Association from 1989-1993. She is currently directing Video/Action's *Code Of Silence* project, a social action documentary that will further examine links between victimization and criminal behavior among women and girls.

Running Time: 13:45

Format: Shot on Betacam SP Color / Screening Formats available in 1-inch, 3/4-inch and VHS

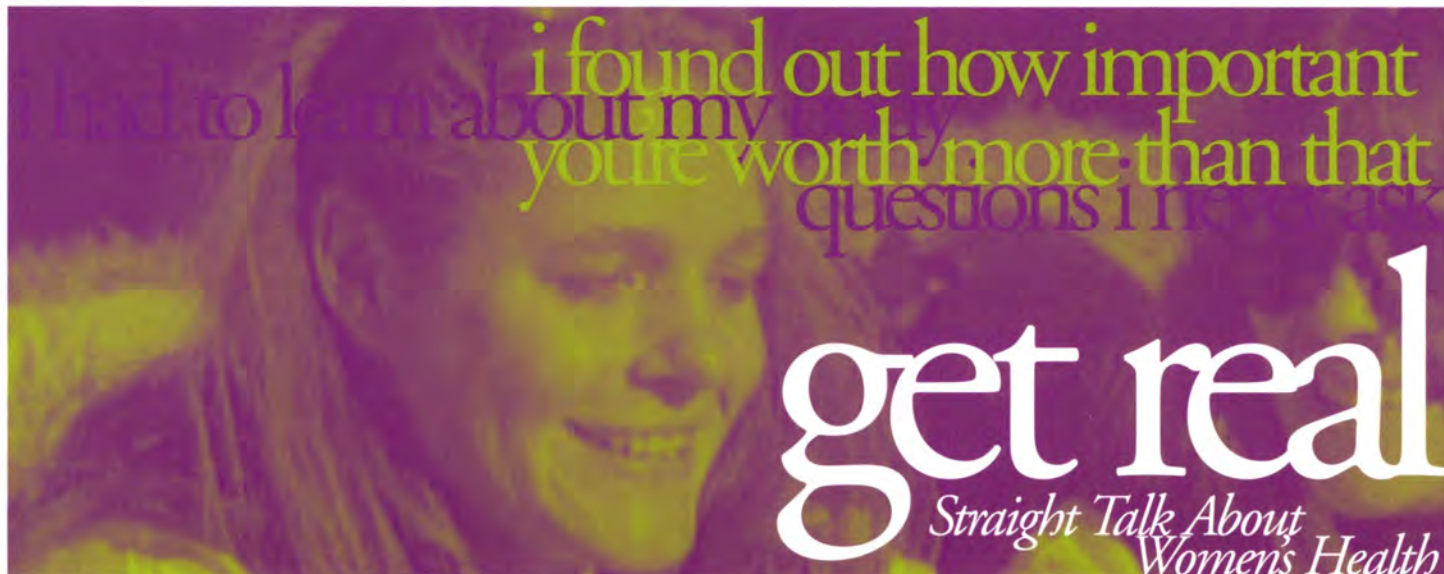
Funding Generously Provided By: Florence V. Burden Foundation
Ms. Foundation
The Sister Fund
Jules and Doris Stein Foundation
Public Welfare Foundation
New York Community Trust

Video/ Action Fund
1000 Potomac Street NW, Suite 202
Washington, DC 20007

All photos by Marjorie Berman

For more information, please contact Video/Action Fund at 202.338.1094.





"One of the things that I came up against was people saying, what are you talking about? You're bright, you're attractive, you're young, you have all these opportunities. Why are you saying you feel this way? That's not possible."

- Kerry from **get real**

How do I know if my drinking is out of control? Everybody has bad days -- when is depression really serious? Why should I be concerned about osteoporosis now? No matter how much I diet, my body will never look like the women in the magazines... Every day, young women face a barrage of choices which drastically impact their health and well-being. Often, they feel as if they face those choices alone.

The award-winning video **get real** is a collection of true stories of women who have each struggled with their own health and lifestyle issues. The women speak candidly -- many for the first time -- of their personal experiences with alcohol, sexuality, eating disorders, violence, breast cancer and osteoporosis. Accompanied by a comprehensive facilitator's guide, the video is a powerful tool to provoke discussion on these frequently taboo subjects.

get real offers insight, hope and support to all young women during a time a great personal change -- the late teens and early twenties. As one woman points out in the video, "We're all in this together."

A Project of the Society for the Advancement of Women's Health Research and U.S. Public Health Service's Office on Women's Health.

Running Time: 25:50

Format: Shot on Betacam SP Color / Screening copies available in Betacam SP, 3/4-inch and VHS

Accompanying Materials: Facilitator's Handbook and Posters

Supported by a Grant to the Society from: Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical

Awards: CINE Golden Eagle

Gold Award, Charleston Worldfest International Film Festival

Silver Apple, National Educational Film and Video Competition

Bronze Award, Houston Worldfest International Film Festival

Certificate for Creative Excellence, US International Film and Video Festival

get real is one of many award-winning programs produced by **Video/Action Fund** that address women's health, domestic violence and social justice. For a complete list of productions or for more information, contact:



"*Women of Substance* offers strategies for ensuring that *all* children receive a healthy start, head start and fair start in life..."
— *Marian Wright Edelman, Children's Defense Fund*

VIDEO/ACTION FUND
proudly presents

Women of Substance

A compelling one-hour documentary narrated by
Joanne Woodward

"...If you think women who abuse alcohol and drugs while they are pregnant aren't worth saving, watch this video."
— *Joanne Woodward*

This film focuses on the lives of three women and their children struggling to overcome drug addiction. *Women of Substance* is presented from their perspective and provides insight into the complex world of drug treatment, family and recovery.

The following background information is provided for your convenience. If you have any questions, please contact VIDEO/ACTION FUND.

PROJECT TITLE: Women of Substance

FILM LENGTH: 55:20

FILM TYPE/FORMATS: Shot on Betacam SP Color/Screening formats available in 1-inch, 3/4-inch, 16mm and VHS

COMPLETION DATE: August 2, 1994

PRODUCED & DIRECTED BY: Rory Kennedy and Emmy Award-winner Robin Smith

SCREENING/BROADCAST DATES:

- Greater N.Y. March of Dimes screening hosted by Joanne Woodward, September 19, NYC Time/Life Bldg.
- Pennsylvania premiere, September 20, 1994
- IFFM screening, September 23, 1994 at 3:00 p.m.
- Citizens Committee for NYC screening, September 23 π , 1994, Capital Cities/ABC, Inc. Headquarters
- Thirteen/WNET, October 29, 1994 at 10:00 p.m.

BROADCAST RIGHTS: Video/ Action Fund

TERM: 1000 Potomac Street NW, Suite 202

CONTACT: Washington, DC 20007
Washington, D.C. 20007
Telephone: (202) 338-1094 • Fax: (202) 342-2660

PRIMARY FUNDING FOR PRODUCTION PROVIDED BY: Metropolitan Life Foundation
Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation

MAJOR FUNDING FOR DISTRIBUTION PROVIDED BY: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

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V I D E O / A C T I O N F U N D
P R E S E N T S

SHOOTING BACK :

Photography By Homeless Children



A 30 minute documentary written, produced and directed by
R O B I N S M I T H

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Video/Action Fund

1000 Potomac Street NW, Suite 202
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 338-1094

OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING SPECIAL AWARDS and 1998

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIM SERVICE AWARDS (Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime) (April 1998) Executive Producer/Writer Robin Smith; Field Producers Heidi Zecher, Robin Cloud and Jennifer Crescenzo - two 12-minute video tributes highlighting the accomplishments of individuals and organizations receiving awards from Attorney General Janet Reno for their innovative programs and dedicated advocacy helping victims of crime.

THAT WAS THEN (Society For The Advancement Of Women's Health Research) (March 1998) Executive Producer Robin Smith; Producer/Co-Writer Betsy Cox; Co-Writer Buzz Cox; Associate Producer Jennifer Crescenzo - an 8-minute historic snapshot (narrated by Lauren Hutton) of prevailing attitudes towards women's health that have changed drastically in the last century.

TOO MANY VICTIMS (Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crimes) (February 1998) Executive Producer Robin Smith; Producer/Director/Writer Heidi Zecher; Associate Producer Robin Cloud; Editor Judy Herbert - an 10-minute video that tells the moving story of how the father of a young man killed while delivering pizzas and the grandfather of the young man who is in prison for the murder have joined forces to talk to junior high students about resisting peer pressure to join gangs; the video is used to introduce and encourage discussion at Violence Impact Forums in schools.

CIVIC JOURNALISM: A WORK IN PROGRESS (Pew Center For Civic Journalism) (January 1998) Executive Producer/Writer/Director Robin Smith; Associate Producer Robin Cloud, Editor Virginia Quesada - an 18-minute documentary-style training video that illustrates how the Editor of *The Gazette* in Colorado Springs, Colorado is changing the culture in his news room to create a newspaper that is responsive to the civic needs of the community.

COVENANT HOUSE ORIENTATION SERIES (Covenant House) (December 1997) Executive Producer Robin Smith, Senior Producer/Writer/Director Betsy Cox - a 27-minute training video to introduce new employees and volunteers working with run-away children to the philosophy and mission of the national Covenant House program.

ONE CHILD AT A TIME (National Network Of Children's Advocacy Centers) (October 1997) Executive Producer Robin Smith; Producer/Writer/Director Betsy Cox with Associate Producer Heidi Zecher - a short training video on innovations in forensic medicine that benefit children.

PROMISING PRACTICES: COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
HELPING VICTIMS OF CRIME (Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime) (September 1997) Executive Producer Robin Smith; Senior Producer Betsy Cox; Producer/Director Heidi Zecher with Writer Shannon Brownlee and Production Assistant Jennifer Crescenzo - a 20-minute "call to action" (narrated by Carole Simpson) highlighting innovative programs across the country. *Bronze Telly Award*

A COVENANT WITH YOU (Covenant House) (June 1997) Executive Producer Robin Smith; Writer/Producer/Director Betsy Cox and Associate Producer Heidi Zecher - a short video tribute to Sister Mary Rose and the work of Covenant House as a refuge for run-away children on the occasion of their 25th Anniversary.

VIVE LA DIFFERENCE! (Society For The Advancement Of Women's Health Research) (May 1997) Executive Producer/Director Robin Smith with Writer Shannon Brownlee - a visually provocative short video introducing a new movement in research called gender-based biology. *Silver CINDY*

LOOK GOOD, FEEL BETTER (CTFA Foundation) (May 1997) Executive Producer Robin Smith with Producer/Director Heidi Zecher - a short training video on a program that assists women and teens undergoing treatment for cancer with techniques for using make-up and wigs to "look good and feel better."

CBS FASTFORWARD (CBS News Productions for "Eye On People" Cable Channel) (April 1997) Segment Producers Robin Smith and Betsy Cox with Associate Producers Heidi Zecher and Sandy Lunner - magazine-style features (narrated by Paula Zahn) updating people and events that were in the news, including profiles on *Shooting Back* graduate Dion Johnson, World Trade Center high wire walker Philippe Petit, Jim Brady's neurosurgeon Dr. Arthur Kobrine, NASA "teacher-in-space" designee Barbara Morgan and Gulf War POW Jeffrey Zaun.

GENETIC TESTING FOR BREAST CANCER RISK: IT'S YOUR CHOICE (National Action Plan on Breast Cancer and the U.S. Public Health Service's Office on Women's Health) (February 1997) Executive Producer Robin Smith with Producer/Director Betsy Cox - a 15-minute overview (narrated by Cokie Roberts) describing risks and benefits of genetic testing for breast cancer from the perspective of women who have had or are actively considering testing.

INNOVATIONS AT THE FAR END (Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance with funding from HUD and the Greater Boston Housing Initiative) (December 1996) Executive Producer Robin Smith with Writer/Producer Sandy Lunner - a 10-minute introduction to innovations at MHSA to assist homeless men find housing and jobs.

WOMEN IN JOURNALISM: SHARING A GLOBAL VISION (International Women's Media Foundation) (November 1996) Executive Producer/Director/Writer Robin Smith - an overview of an organization dedicated to enabling women journalists around the world to be heard, and their courage celebrated.

STORIES from a TEEN SUMMIT ON SEXUALITY (Video/ Action Fund) (October 1996) Executive Producer/Director Robin Smith with Producers Heidi Zecher and Marcia Shia - five short videos in which teenagers at innovative youth programs in New York City speak candidly on issues regarding sexual responsibility, including *Who's The Man?* (The Door); *Do As We Say, Not As We Did* (Mt. Sinai Hospital Health Education Department); *A Play About Abstinence* (The Teen Outreach Pregnancy Program) and two profiles of teen mothers, *A Conversation with Renee Rogers* and *A Day In The Life of Albania Cruz* (Teen Reach and Teach). *Broadcast on BET.*

A CALL TO CARE (Catholic Health Association) (June 1996) Executive Producer Robin Smith; Producer/Writer Betsy Cox - an hour documentary of previously untold stories of courage and vision about the contributions of nuns establishing health care in America. *KQED for broadcast on PBS; CINE Golden Eagle; Gold Award, Worldfest Charleston; Gold CINDY; Silver Telly; Honorable Mention, The Chris Awards; Third Place Certificate For Creative Excellence, U.S. International Film and Video Festival.*

YOUR DAUGHTER'S HERE (St. Croix Camp For Girls) (April 1996) Executive Producer Robin Smith; Producer/Director Tracy Huling - a provocative short about a unique residential treatment program with a wilderness survival and discovery component for delinquent juvenile girls in Minnesota. *Broadcast on Minnesota Public TV and Free Speech TV; Featured at 1997 Women In The Director's Chair International Film and Video Festival (Chicago); CINE Golden Eagle; Bronze Apple, National Education Media Network.*

FIRE IN OUR HOUSE (Mayday Media) (1996) Co-Producers/Directors Rory Kennedy and Vanessa Vadim - a short profile of the efforts of harm reduction activists to promote needle exchange programs as an effective method for curbing the spread of HIV and AIDS. *Broadcast on CBS Morning News. Awards: CINE Golden Eagle, Silver Apple, National Education Media Network, Gold Telly, Bronze CINDY, Association of Visual Communicators; Certificate for Creative Excellence, U.S. International Film and Video Festival.*

CHANGING THE SYSTEM FOR CHILDREN (National Network Of Children's Advocacy Centers) (February 1996) Executive Producer Robin Smith; Producer/Writer/Director Betsy Cox with Associate Producer Heidi Zecher - a 10-minute training video to assist communities setting up comprehensive services for children who are victims of sexual abuse.

CROSSING THE LINE (Campaign For New Community) (1996) Executive Producer Robin Smith with Producer/Director Heidi Zecher - an 8-minute overview of three "success stories" in which service providers worked with residents to overcome resistance to the placement of health care and social services in neighborhoods.

CHANGING THE FACE OF THE ECONOMY (National Women's Business Council) (1996) Executive Producer/Director Robin Smith with Producer Heidi Zecher - an inspirational short about public/private partnerships which have helped women entrepreneurs establish businesses. *Featured at Hillary Rodham Clinton's 1996 Economic Summit For Women (Chicago).*

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS (National Network Of Children's Advocacy Centers) (November 1995) Executive Producer Robin Smith; Producer/Writer/Director Betsy Cox with Associate Producer Heidi Zecher - a six-minute tribute highlighting an innovative program of comprehensive services for abused children.

ARLINGTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (Arlington Community Foundation) (November 1995) Executive Producer Robin Smith with Producer/Director Heidi Zecher - an introduction to the philanthropic opportunities of a community foundation.

GET REAL: STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT WOMEN'S HEALTH (Society For The Advancement of Women's Health Research) (1995) Executive Producer Robin Smith; Producer/Writer Betsy Cox - a 30-minute television special/educational resource for college freshmen. *CINE Golden Eagle; Gold Award, 1995 Charleston WorldFest International Film Festival; Silver Apple, National Education Media Network; Bronze Award, 1996 Houston WorldFest; Third Place, Creative Excellence, U.S. International Film and Video Festival; Honorable Mention, Association of Visual Communicators.*

MEYER FOUNDATION: 50 YEARS OF PHILANTHROPY (Agnes and Eugene Meyer Foundation) Executive Producer/Director/Writer Robin Smith - a short tribute to innovative philanthropy from the perspective of Board members and grantees.

WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE (Video/ Action Fund) (1994) Executive Producer/Producer/Director Robin Smith with Producer/Director Rory Kennedy - a 3-part documentary project (narrated by Joanne Woodward) and public education outreach campaign on the struggles and triumphs of women addicts seeking treatment for alcohol and drug abuse. *Broadcast on hundred of PBS affiliates and ABC in Little Rock, Arkansas. Awards: Gold Award for Excellence in Television Programming from the CPB; Gold CINDY with Special Achievement for Directing, Association of Visual Communicators; Bronze Plaque, The Chris Awards; 1996 Central Florida Film and Video Festival; Silver Award 1995 Houston WorldFest International Festival; 1995 Hot Springs International Documentary Festival.*

WHO'S GONNA SING OUR SONG? (Video/ Action Fund) (1994) (Executive Producer/Director Robin Smith with Producer/Writer Betsy Cox of a 30-minute documentary profiling a multimedia humanities project developed by Video/ Action for teenagers living in southeast Washington, D.C. Local artists, musicians, storytellers and older residents use oral traditions to share their personal perspectives on African American history. *Broadcast on WHMM and WETA (Washington, DC) and PBS affiliates through Pacific Mountain Network; CINE Golden Eagle, Bronze CINDY (Association of Visual Communicators), Gold Telly, Honorable Mention, San Francisco International Film Festival; 1994 James River Film Festival; Rosebud Finalist (FilmFest DC)*

LETTERS FROM MOUND BAYOU (Catholic Health Association) Executive Producer Robin Smith with Producer/Writer Betsy Cox - a short feature on Sister Mary Stella, a midwife in the 1960's who pioneered changes in women's and child's health care in a rural town in Mississippi. *Awards: CINE Golden Eagle; Gold CINDY (Association of Visual Communicators); Bronze Telly; 1994 Atlanta International Film and Video Festival; Creative Excellence, 1995 U.S. International Film and Video Festival.*

WE ARE NOT WHO YOU THINK WE ARE (Correctional Association of New York) (November 1993) Executive Producer/Director Robin Smith with Co-Directors Tracy Huling and Marjorie Berman - a 15-minute video in which women serving mandatory sentences for drug crimes reveal alarming patterns that link intergenerational family violence and substance abuse with the development of criminal behavior. *Awards and Festivals: CINE Golden Eagle; Bronze Apple (National Educational Film & Video Festival, Oakland); Silver CINDY Award (Association of Visual Communicators); Women In The Director's Chair 1996 Festival (Chicago); Bronze Award, 1995 Houston WorldFest; 1995 South Beach Film Festival (Miami); New York Underground Film and Video 1994 Festival*

ART OF PREVENTION (Very Special Arts) (August 1993) Producer/Director Robin Smith - a short training video for elementary school teachers illustrating classroom based projects in a variety of subject areas using creative arts to teach prevention messages.

FIGHT FOR YOUR LIFE! (Society For The Advancement Of Women's Health Research) (February 1993) Executive Producer/Director Robin Smith with Producer Betsy Cox - a feisty short in which five women with complications from diseases that could have been detected earlier or prevented if gender-specific research were a priority.

FOR REAL (Video/ Action Fund) Executive Producer Robin Smith - a series of videos addressing attitudes, lifestyles and perceived health care options from the point-of-view of "at-risk" teenagers, including **Que Pasa?** (with the Latin American Youth Center), **Unchain Your Brain** (with the Community Trust Neighborhood Initiative), and **We All Know What He's Thinking** (with the Public Health Service). Broadcast on **WETA** (1996); *Selected for Women In The Director's Chair 1996 Festival (Chicago)*; *Rosebud Finalist (FilmFest DC)*; *Silver Apple, National Education Media Network*; *Bronze CINDY Award*; *Gold Award at 1995 Worldfest Charleston*.

ART FOR EYES (Video/ Action Fund) Executive Producer/ Director/Writer Robin Smith - a 20-minute documentary profiling the work being done by EYE CARE, selling art in America to fund health care clinics in Haiti. *Broadcast on CBS Sunday Morning and NBC Sunday Today*; *Awards: Gold CINDY Award, Association of Visual Communicators*.

IN SEARCH OF COMMON GROUND (D.C. Community Humanities Council) Executive Producer Robin Smith with Producer/Writer Betsy Cox - a 13-minute oral history video with senior citizens living in public housing in Washington, D.C. *Awards and Festivals: Helen & Martin Schwartz Award for National Excellence in Humanities Programming*; *CINDY Award For Editing, Association of Visual Communicators*; *Silver Images Film Festival (Chicago)*; *Rosebud Finalist (FilmFest DC)*

ONE BLOCK AT A TIME (NBC News/WRC-TV) (May 1992) Executive Producer/Director Robin Smith with Segment Producers Betsy Cox and Rory Kennedy - a 30-minute public service documentary on community-based efforts to combat substance abuse-related problems in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of the National Capitol Area for Drug-Free Zones Campaign. *Broadcast on NBC (Washington, DC)*

SHOOTING BACK: PHOTOGRAPHY BY HOMELESS CHILDREN (Video/ Action Fund) (October 1990) Executive Producer/Director/Writer Robin Smith - a 30-minute documentary on a photography project in which homeless children document their lives in shelters. *Broadcast nationally on PBS and The Learning Channel*; *Excerpts featured on ABC, NBC, CBS, FOX and CNN*. *Awards: Capitol Regional Emmy for Outstanding Documentary*; *CINE Golden Eagle*; *Silver Apple, National Educational Media Network*; *Bronze Telly*.

Videotapes available upon request.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 26, 1998

Mr. Stephen Strickland
National Peace Foundation
1835 K Street, NW, Suite 610
Washington, DC 20006

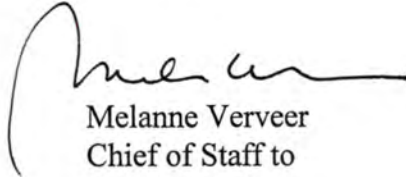
Dear Mr. Strickland:

Thank you for your letter to the First Lady, and the information about the National Peace Foundation's work in Russia. It is inspiring to read about the efforts of women with whom you are working on the grassroots level.

Regrettably Mrs. Clinton's schedule in Moscow will not allow her to accept your invitation. But I know she would want me to convey her appreciation for your work in democracy building and civic participation.

Thank you for all you do for women's civic leadership development and best wishes for continued success. If we can be helpful in the future, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne Verveer', with a large, stylized initial 'M'.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

National Peace Foundation

1835 K Street, N.W., Suite 610, Washington, DC 20006 202-223-1770
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Former Mayor, Atlanta, Georgia

Stephen P. Strickland
President

July 29, 1998

Ms. Melanne Veveer
Chief of Staff to the
First Lady
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Veveer:

Some weeks ago in a conversation with Ambassador William Courtney, he urged that I write directly to Mrs. Clinton to apprise her of the National Peace Foundation's work in Russia, in partnership with several women's organizations, over the past five years.

Mrs. Clinton is a true heroine to our Russian friends and partners, as she is to all of us. Thus I wanted her to know about our joint efforts with them before her possible trip with the President to Russia next month. My letter to her is enclosed.

Thank you in advance for letting Mrs. Clinton know of my report. I will be standing by to provide any additional information she may want.

With kind regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Stephen P. Strickland

SPS/bkj
Enc.

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Stephen P. Strickland
President

July 28, 1998

Mrs. Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

My dear Mrs. Clinton:

I write to tell you about an extraordinary group of Russian women with whom we at the National Peace Foundation have been working for the last five years, and to express the hope that you might get to meet some of them if you accompany your husband to Russia next month.

Our work is led by Professor Sarah Harder of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, former president of the American Association of University Women and current vice president for the International Federation of University Women. As a National Peace Foundation board member, she continued her own earlier work in Russia through the University Women and we have been engaged with her in a new effort, the Russian Women's Civic and Political Forums, since 1991. In this period, our team has trained over 500 professional women in the fundamentals of civic and political activism. We have established networks of such women in a dozen cities across the Russian Federation, including St. Petersburg, Zhukovsky, Ekaterinburg, Krasnoyarsk, Rostov, Novgorod, Obninsk, Irkutsk, Cheboksary, and Izhevsk.

As you can imagine, the principal concerns of these women are social policies that affect their families, especially their children. They are concerned, as well, about the extraordinary difficulties Russian professional women have had in finding and keeping appropriate jobs during this period of transition to a free market economy. I should add that the issues agenda adopted at the Beijing conference – which through Sarah's help a number of the women attended – is a guide to their priorities. So we have been involved in helping to undergird the emergent democracy in Russia, and in peacebuilding as well.

Eighteen months ago Sarah helped organize the first women's conference on the war in Chechnya and its ongoing effects in Southern Russia. At a meeting in Rostov-on-Don, 200 women from the Don Region and the Northern Caucasus Russian republics met to assess the ravages of the war in Chechnya. The purpose was to see what might be done about scores of thousands of displaced persons, thousands of military and civilian casualties, disruptions of jobs and housing, and lack of schooling and medical care for children. They undertook this challenge because the local governments – including those of Chechnya, Ingushetia, Dagestan, and the Don Region itself – seemed unable to deal with the human misery, as did the national government in Moscow.

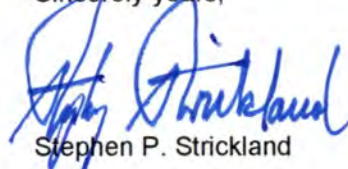
Over the past year and a half, the women have established informal but very effective networks of citizens who are helping solve problems in concrete ways: by finding missing persons; by housing refugees from other parts of the region; by offering nourishment and nurturing to refugee children; and by training and employing new cadres of nurses, teachers, and social workers.

Our principal partner in the Russian Federation is herself a remarkable woman, Olga Bessolova, who is deputy director of the Aerodynamics Research Institute (TsAGI) in Zhukovsky. Beyond her responsibilities as chief operating officer of the Institute, she also chairs the town's advisory council and, with volunteer help, runs a health clinic, a preschool and a small new cultural center (which we have also supported). In addition, Ms. Bessolova is finishing up her Ph.D. in astrophysics.

Zhukovsky is 50 miles from downtown Moscow. If there is a chance for you to meet Olga and some of her colleagues – and our partners – this would be a great honor and inspiration for them. If this might be possible, please let me know and I will provide your staff with names, telephone numbers, email and fax numbers. And if you need any additional references for the National Peace Foundation, I believe Ambassador William Courtney will be glad to provide it.

With admiration and thanks for all that you do, and with all best wishes for a successful trip, I am,

Sincerely yours,



Stephen P. Strickland

SPS/bkj

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 26, 1998

Ms. Lidia Soto-Harmon
Deputy Director
The President's Interagency Council on Women
US Department of State
Rm. 2906, 2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Lidia:

I wanted to add my congratulations to your appointment as Deputy Director. Theresa is lucky to have you, as we all are fortunate to have you at the Interagency Council. We look forward to working with you and it was wonderful to see you already at work at the State Department.

All the best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne', with a large, sweeping initial 'M'.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



The President's Interagency Council on Women

Congrats

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Honorary Chair

Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright
Chair

Secretary of Health and Human Services
Donna Shalala, Immediate Past Chair

July 27, 1998

to Lidia

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
Office of the First Lady
OEOB, Room 100
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. *Melanne* Verveer:

It is my pleasure to introduce to you the new Deputy Director of the President's Interagency Council on Women, Lidia Soto-Harmon. Lidia brings considerable expertise that will further enhance our efforts to implement the agreements made at the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China.

Lidia's work has given her the opportunity to work with immigrants, Hispanics, women and other underserved communities. She served as the Director of Targeted Outreach Programs for the Fannie Mae Foundation for the past four years, where she is credited for developing the first national outreach strategy to reach immigrants in nine languages with information on homeownership. Prior to her work with the Foundation, she worked for the U.S. Department of Labor as a policy analyst in the International Labor Affairs Bureau from 1990 to 1993. In the late 1980s, Lidia served on the staff of the Congressional Commission for the Study of International Migration and Cooperative Economic Development.

Theresa Loar joins me in **inviting you to an informal reception at the State Department on Wednesday, August 5th at 4:00 p.m.** to welcome Lidia. We are looking ahead to our next Council meeting in September/October. Once we have dates confirmed we will let you know. In the meantime, Theresa and Lidia will be in touch to get your thoughts on new directions for the Council.

We are delighted to have Lidia on board to lend her talents to the important work of the Council. Please call the Council office at (202) 647-6227 to RSVP for the August 5th gathering.

Thanks so much for all of your help and support!

Sincerely,

Wendy

Wendy R. Sherman

United States Department of State • 2201 C St., NW • Room 2906 • Washington, D.C. 20520

Telephone (202) 647-6227 • Fax (202) 647-5337

<http://secretary.state.gov/www/iacw/index.html>