Jen - fyi


# THE Partnership

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

Volume 1 · Issue 1 August 1995

A Business Newsletter of the Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise and the National Women's Business Council


## Our Maiden Voyage

This is the first of two pilot issues of The Partnership. It is designed to inform the public of the importance the Clinton Administration attaches to women-owned businesses and to make those businesses aware of activities and programs designed specifically for them.

If you enjoy The Partnership, if you find it useful, let us know right away. If you don't, we want to know that too, but you don't have to be as quick about it.

**Forty-six percent of all jobs in the Clinton Administration are held by women, by far the highest percentage of any administration in history. Women have taken the helm of the Department of Justice, the National Economic Council, the Office of Management and the Budget, the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of the Air Force, the Federal Railroad Administration and U.S. Ambassador to the UN.**

-The Presidential Personnel Office

## Free Speech!

You now have your own speechwriter. We have prepared a 5-minute speech on women-owned businesses that you may obtain and use whole or in part for your next speech, presentation, or report. Call (202) 205-3850 to order a copy. How much easier could it be?

## The White House

Conference on Small Business: Blueprint for the 3rd Millennium

From October 1994 to January 1995, the White House convened fifteen focus groups around the country to gather information from experts to assess the future of small business into the next century. Fifteen research papers were also commissioned.

With this valuable information in hand, delegates assembled in Washington June 11-15 for the White House Conference on Small Business. The President, Vice President, and cabinet members all attended and spoke.

Hedy Ratner, Director of the Women's Business Development Center in Chicago, member of the National Women's Business Council, and delegate to the conference called it a reaffirmation "of my belief in the effectiveness of coalitions." She says "the delegate coalition of women and minorities and progressive small business associations was successful...Of the 60 recommendations (passed by the conference), 46 resulted from the coalition."

Those 60 recommendations deal with issues such as increasing capital access, facilitating international trade, reducing regulation and paperwork, procurement opportunity, and others. They are embodied in a June 22nd interim report. A final report will be issued this fall. Call (202) 721-0891 for more information.

**"Affirmative Action is about fairness and access, not preferences and quotas. Used correctly it promotes an economically healthy America, creating jobs, contracts, and education predicated upon ability, not race and gender."**

-Margaret Smith, President, National Association of Women Business Owners

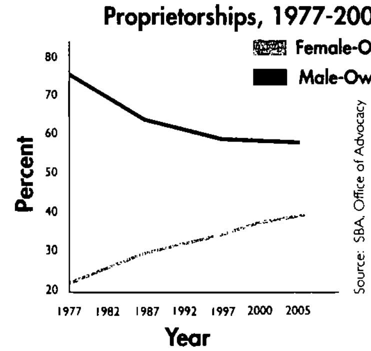
## President Acts Affirmatively

Vowing to work for the day when Affirmative Action is no longer necessary, President Clinton declared on July 19th that it has been good for America. President Clinton will continue Affirmative Action with strong reforms enacted to eliminate fraud and abuse, limit set-asides to areas where serious discrimination remains, and do more to help distressed communities.

## Help Yourself!

This newsletter may be copied, reprinted, or cited free of charge. However, since we have drawn upon numerous agencies and organizations for our information, please credit the source. If there is someone you think should be receiving The Partnership or if you would like camera-ready art for reprints, please call us at (202) 205-3850.

**Women's and Men's Shares of Sole Proprietorships, 1977-2005**




**Business Formation by Women Will Continue to Grow**

According to the National Foundation for Women Business Owners, women-owned businesses employ 35 percent more workers than all Fortune 500 companies worldwide.

DRAFT 2, Decision Memorandum 8/23/95, 5:30 pm

Mr. President:

The attached Presidential memorandum directs the Secretary of the Treasury, through the CDFI Fund, to coordinate the development of program requirements and standardization of data collection and reporting requirements, to ensure harmonization of regulations or define complementary roles for programs, and to explore the feasibility of developing a one-stop shop for micro-enterprise lenders to obtain information on products and services offered by all Federal micro-enterprise programs.

The memorandum also directs the Secretary of the Treasury, through the CDFI Fund, to administer a Presidential Awards program for outstanding micro-enterprise lending programs.

These initiatives would be announced at the Beijing Women's Conference.

Your agreement to this memorandum is also an agreement that OMB and the White House will ensure that the burdens of administering these initiatives, both as to personnel and financial resources, are shared among all involved agencies, and not borne disproportionally by the CDFI Fund.

TO: Paul Weinstein

FROM: Michael Barr

A revised version, more detail. Please let me know what you think. Also would appreciate advice re: decision memo and resources sentence.

cc: Jen Klein
Todd Stern (fyi)

DRAFT 2, 8/23/95, 5:30 pm

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF TREASURY
[OTHER CABINET MEMBERS?]

I hereby direct the Secretary of the Treasury, through the CDFI Fund, to take all appropriate actions to coordinate all micro-enterprise programs administered by Federal agencies and departments. Such coordination shall include, but not be limited to, coordination of the development of program requirements and standardization of data collection and reporting requirements, harmonization of regulations or definition of complementary roles for programs as appropriate, and exploration of the feasibility of developing a one-stop shop for micro-enterprise lenders to obtain information on products and services offered by all Federal micro-enterprise programs.

I also direct the Secretary of the Treasury to administer a Presidential Awards program for outstanding micro-enterprise lenders, consistent with the mission of the CDFI Fund.

In discharging these responsibilities, you are directed to consult with the heads of other Executive departments and agencies as may be appropriate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

August 22, 1995

To: Melanne Verveer
Deputy Assistant to the President and
Deputy Chief of Staff to the First Lady

From: Michael Barr
Special Assistant to the Secretary
Department of Treasury

Re: Micro-enterprise initiative

Talking Points

- As part of U.S. participation in the Beijing Women's Conference, the United States is proposing a microenterprise initiative. As you know, women play a central role in microenterprises and in microenterprise assistance programs throughout the world.

- The President has made community development banks, his CDFI program, and microenterprise development central themes of his approach to economic development since his days in Arkansas. The CDFI Fund is obviously of great importance to him.

- For Beijing, the First Lady (or Madeleine Albright) will focus on the work CDFI is planning to do, including lending, training and technical assistance, and information dissemination.

- We'd also like to announce two new initiatives: a Presidential Awards program for microenterprise assistance programs, and an interagency coordinating body chaired by the CDFI Fund to help get more bang for the buck out of current microenterprise programs spread throughout a number of agencies.

- The CDFI Fund could coordinate development of program requirements, standardization of data collection and reporting, harmonization of regulations as appropriate, help define complementary roles for the various programs, and explore the feasibility of a one-stop shop for micro-enterprise lenders to obtain information on products and services offered by Federal micro-enterprise programs.

- The President will be issuing a memorandum directing Secretary Rubin to undertake these two new initiatives, but as they will undoubtedly require a commitment of resources from your department, I wanted to let you know about it.

- Let me emphasize that we're talking about a coordination role here; we're not proposing any reallocation of funds.

Note: I have received informal sign-off on this approach from Bob Litan at OMB, as well as from Missy Kincaid at SBA, Peter Edelman at HHS, Larry Parks at Commerce, Bruce Katz and Mike Stegman at HUD, although, of course, much of the details remain to be worked out, particularly with respect to resources and staffing.

# Microenterprise Programs -- Partial List

SBA: Microloan Program
Office of Women Business Ownership

HHS: Job Opportunities for Low-income Individuals (JOLI)
Demonstration Partnership Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement

Treas.: CDFI Fund

Labor: JTPA Microloan Demonstrations
UI Self-employment Assistance

Ag: Rural Business Enterprise Grant
Intermediary Relending Program

HUD: Community Development Block Grants
CPD Technical Assistance
Tenant Opportunity and Tenant Participation Program
Public Housing Modernization Program
Family Investment Center Program
Severely Distressed Public Housing
HOPE
Entrepreneurship Demonstration for Youth
John Heinz Neighbordhood Development Program

Commerce: Minority Business Resource Development
Native American technical assistance program

Micro-Enterprise Initiative

The CDFI Fund has broad authority to promote the development of financial institutions, including micro-enterprise lenders, that are dedicated to community development.

The CDFI Fund's work can make an important contribution toward micro-enterprise lending in the United States. As part of the CDFI program, the Fund will take the following steps:

- o The CDFI Fund will enhance the capital base and lending capacity of domestic micro-enterprise lenders through its CDFI Capital program.
- o The CDFI Fund will provide financial and management training and technical assistance to the existing network of domestic micro-enterprise lenders.
- o The CDFI Fund will collect and disseminate information on the best practices of micro-enterprise lenders and other CDFIs, which will enhance product and service delivery.

These should be highlighted at the Beijing Women's Conference. In addition, it is proposed that the CDFI Fund undertake two additional programs to be announced at the Beijing Conference:

- o The Fund will run a Presidential Awards program to recognize outstanding micro-enterprise lenders.

A national award would recognize the important work of micro-enterprise lenders in the United States, and would give awardees greater credibility in obtaining private sector resources.

The Awards program could utilize information collected through the CDFI Capital program and other outreach efforts to identify outstanding micro-enterprise lenders for Presidential Awards.

The Fund could also publish a list of micro-enterprise lenders that are certified as CDFIs. Appearing on such a list would demonstrate that an institutions achieved minimum standards.

All awardees would be required to be certified by the CDFI Fund as CDFIs and meet the minimum financial viability standards required of all assisted CDFIs. All or some of the selection criteria used in the CDFI Capital Program could be used to identify outstanding micro-enterprise lenders.

- o The CDFI Fund can facilitate coordination among the Federal agencies that support micro-enterprise programs. Currently, there are at least 8-10 such Federal programs.

The CDFI Fund could coordinate development of program requirements, standardization of data collection and reporting, harmonization of regulations as appropriate, help define complementary roles for programs, and explore the feasibility of developing a one-stop shop for micro-enterprise lenders to obtain information on products and services offered by Federal micro-enterprise programs.

Program requirements and Funding

A Presidential memorandum should direct the Secretary of the Treasury to run the Presidential Awards program and to coordinate among the Federal agencies. The Presidential memorandum will also need to direct OMB and the relevant agencies to provide the CDFI Fund will adequate resources beyond current Treasury and CDFI Fund FTE and budgetary allocations to conduct these activities.

8/14/95 DRAFT Please Do Not Circulate

## I. Annual Presidential Awards for US Microenterprise Assistance Programs

The US delegation would announce an annual Presidential awards ceremony to honor best-practice microenterprise assistance programs (MAPs). The awards would raise public awareness of the prevalence of microenterprises within the US economy, and the important work being carried out by MAPs in providing them with such key support structures as access to credit, markets, technical advice, training, and networks.

The awards ceremony would make clear why the awardees were selected. Funded studies could justify the performance criteria used in the selections and advance understanding of the microenterprise field. The first awards ceremony would take place within one year after the Beijing Conference, and annually thereafter.

**Benefits.** In honoring MAPs, this initiative would confer the following benefits on microenterprises and the programs that assist them:

- The publicity surrounding the awards ceremony would better acquaint the public with the role of microenterprise ownership in expanding individual opportunity, and with the importance of micro-credit (and other methods of assistance) in allowing more people to consider self-employment as a realistic option for improving their lives.

- By explaining the selection criteria, the awards ceremony would provide MAPs throughout the nation with challenging benchmarks they can use in assessing their own efforts, and with a means for identifying well-performing peers from which to learn. MAPs could then build upon the best, rather than continually reinvent the wheel.

- Backing the selection criteria with applied research could ensure that the awards go to the most effective programs, not those with the best public relations. The studies could also encourage the policy research community to undertake serious assessments of microenterprise growth and methods of assisting microenterprises.

**Structure.** The Presidential Awards would consist of the honor and an engraved plaque to each of the three-to-five MAPs honored. The selection criteria would be consistent with the CDFI Fund's criteria, but would go beyond them to stress innovation, best practice, progress toward organizational self-sufficiency, creation of viable new financial markets, and expansion of opportunity. The awardees would represent the diverse methods of US microenterprise support. The awards could be provided through a joint effort with several leading private foundations. A selection panel would ensure that the awards process is informed by a range of knowledgeable actors, and would increase its influence on the funding community and the public.

The Secretariat for the awards program would be the CDFI Fund within the Treasury Department. Funding of several hundred thousand dollars per year would be needed to fund one full-time-equivalent (FTE) person, the ceremony, the publicity, and the applied research. Ideally, the FTE would comprise a half-time microenterprise specialist to design and manage the selection process and subcontracted research, and a half-time publicist to manage publicity and logistics.

## II. A Coherent US Microenterprise Initiative

The US delegation would announce the Administration's US Microenterprise Initiative, a coherent program operating across several Federal agencies to support microenterprise development within the United States. This effort would parallel other recent Administration efforts to take concrete action on reinventing government by coordinating related programs.

**Background.** Currently, more than 10 Federal programs provide piecemeal funding of US microenterprise assistance programs (MAPs), but do not provide a supportive environment for their operations. These Federal programs operate as isolated units within a half dozen agencies with diverse objectives, and lack a shared vision or coordinated goals. As a result, Federal government support of US microenterprise development is confusing and burdensome to practitioners and does not adequately serve the needs of the field.

**Goals.** This Initiative would reinvent Federal microenterprise funding so that it is a supportive force for the growth and development of the microenterprise field, one that is informed by and shaped to fit the needs of practitioners. This goal requires appropriate, consistent, and measurable goals to improve the effectiveness and accountability of Federal microenterprise programs; and coordination among the programs to reduce their costs and increase the Initiative's effectiveness.

**Structure.** An inter-agency working group (IWG) could be formed, possibly in response to a Presidential Memorandum, to guide agency staff towards a clear statement of program goals and their relationship to the overall Initiative. The IWG could be managed by Treasury's CDFI Fund, which would provide technical expertise and perform a coordinating function. White House policy councils (NEC and DPC) would also participate.

**Developing the Initiative.** The CDFI Fund would obtain commitments from senior management at each agency to provide staff -- from both microenterprise program and policy evaluation offices -- to participate in the IWG in developing the US Microenterprise Initiative. Ideally, the CDFI Fund would obtain the full-time services of a program design consultant to guide IWG members through a structured process of learning, program review and redesign, and implementation.

This process would begin with the creation of a forum to consider the most advanced thinking on US microenterprises and assistance methods, perhaps using the framework provided by the U.N. Expert's Group on microenterprise convened by Women's World Banking. IWG members would listen in an organized way to MAP practitioners, microentrepreneurs, legislators, banks, foundations, and other experts. Drawing on this foundation, IWG members would develop common performance measures and definitions and would redesign and coordinate their microenterprise programs, resulting in a coherent Microenterprise Initiative.

**Implementation.** The IWG coordinator would then obtain commitments from senior management at each agency operating a microenterprise program to take administrative action (or develop proposed legislation) to effect the recommended changes. Meanwhile, the IWG coordinator could engage in ongoing discussions with Congressional staff to provide general education as well as explanations of the objectives of any proposed legislation.

## Micro-Enterprise Initiative

The Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund has broad authority to promote the development of financial institutions, including micro-enterprise lenders, that are dedicated to community development.

The CDFI Fund's work can make an important contribution toward micro-enterprise lending in the United States. As part of the current CDFI program, the Fund will take the following steps:

- The CDFI Fund will enhance the capital base and lending capacity of domestic micro-enterprise lenders through its CDFI Capital program.

- The CDFI Fund will support expansion of the existing network of domestic micro-enterprise lenders throught its training and technical assistance activities. Such activities will enhance the financial capacity, management skills, and community impact of these institutions.

Each of these steps should be highighted at the Beijing Women's Conference. In addition, it is proposed that the CDFI Fund undertake two additional programs to be announced at the Beijing Conference:

- The CDFI Fund will operate a Presidential Awards program that recognizes outstanding micro-enterprise lenders.

A national award would recognize the important work of micro-enterprise lenders here in the United States, and would give awardees greater credibility in obtaining private sector resources.

The Awards program could utilize information collected through the CDFI Capital program and other outreach activities to identify outstanding micro-enterprise lenders for Presidential Awards. The Fund could also publish a list of micro-enterprise lenders that are certified as CDFIs. Appearing on such a list would demonstrate that an institutions achieved minimum standards.

All awardees would be required to be certified by the CDFI Fund as CDFIs and meet the minimum financial viability standards required of all assisted CDFIs. All or some of the selection criteria used in the CDFI Capital Program could be used to identify outstanding micro-enterprise lenders.

- The CDFI Fund can facilitate coordination among the Federal agencies that support micro-enterprise programs. Currently, there are at least 8-10 such Federal programs.

The CDFI Fund could coordinate development of program requirements and standardization of data collection and reporting requirements, work towards harmonization of regulations where appropriate, help define complementary roles for the programs, and explore the feasibility of developing a one-stop shop for micro-enterprise lenders to obtain information on products and services offered by all Federal micro-enterprise programs.

Program requirements and Funding

A Presidential memorandum will need to be signed directing the Secretary of the Treasury to run the Presidential Awards program and to coordinate among the Federal agencies. The Presidential memorandum will also need to direct OMB and the relevant agencies to provide the CDFI Fund will adequate resources beyond current Treasury and CDFI Fund FTE and budgetary allocations to conduct these activities.

# RESULTS

***Generating Political Will to End Hunger***



March 8, 1995

Hillary Rodham Clinton
Attn: Jennifer Klein
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington DC 20500

Dear Ms. Clinton,

RESULTS will celebrate its 15th anniversary at the RESULTS/RESULTS Educational Fund International Conference banquet, Monday evening, June 26, 1995, at 8:00 p.m. at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. On behalf of all of RESULTS I invite you join Muhammad Yunus, who has already accepted our invitation to be with us, and speak to the more than 300 volunteers from 40 states and seven countries who will be gathered in Washington.

I know you are familiar with our work, but I thought I'd share the words of a few of our friends:

> I thank you in my mind at least weekly, if not more often, for what you and your colleagues are accomplishing--but I thought I should do it at least once this year in writing.
>
> James P. Grant, UNICEF

> I have worked closely with [Sam Harris] and his colleagues on five continents [since 1987]. Their effectiveness in helping governmental leaders and the media see that poor women are creditworthy has been unequalled.
>
> Muhammad Yunus, Grameen Bank

> [RESULTS] provides a road map for global involvement in planning a better future.
>
> former President Jimmy Carter.

We would be honored if you would join us.

Sincerely,
Sam
Sam Harris

I hope you will join us!

P.S. Muhammad Yunus' 55th birthday is two days after our banquet. We are planning a surprise celebration at the banquet.

236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20002, U.S.A. Tel: (202) 543-9340 Fax: (202) 546-3228
Australia · Canada · Germany · Japan · Mexico · United Kingdom · United States
Affiliates: El Salvador · Lesotho · Russia · Ukraine

# RESULTS Educational Fund



March 23, 1995

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Attn: Jennifer Klein
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington DC 20500

Via Facsimile
Number of Pages:

Dear Ms. Verveer,

I returned from Bangladesh on Monday. Forty-five of us visited the Grameen Bank and it was very inspiring.

While speaking with Muhammad Yunus last week we discussed the idea of inviting Hillary Rodham Clinton to be Honorary Co-Chair of the People's Summit for Micro Credit. The goal of the meeting is to develop a plan of action for ensuring that 100 million of the world's poorest families, especially the women of those families, are receiving micro credit loans for self employment by 2005.

Muhammad Yunus loved the idea and said he would discuss it with Mrs. Clinton in Bangladesh. Yunus asked me to draft the letter for him.

I wanted to make sure you saw the letter before Yunus hands it to Mrs. Clinton. Susan Shure, a friend of mine, will also give a copy of the letter to Jan Piercy. I hope you have a wonderful journey.

Sincerely,

Sam Harris

Sam Harris
Executive Director

P.S. I read Jennifer Klein the response of a Grameen borrower to the question, "Would you rather have received your loan in the form of a gift?" The borrower's response is below and in an op-ed I've attached.

> If I am given a gift, it is not for development, it is just to enjoy. If it is a gift, I think I get it for free so I have no tension. I can use it any way [I want]. If I get a loan, I have pressure to pay back and will work hard. A gift makes a person lazy, inactive, and destroys a community.

# Draft--Sample Text

April 22, 1995

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

I wanted to put into writing my invitation for you to serve either as Co-Chair or, if necessary, as Honorary Co-Chair of the People's Summit for Micro Credit. The People's Summit for Micro Credit is the first step of the Where Credit Is Due 2005 project which is a decade-long campaign whose goal is to ensure that 100 million of the world's poorest families, especially the women of those families, will be receiving micro credit loans for self-employment by 2005.

The project is under the auspices of the RESULTS Educational Fund which, along with its sister organization RESULTS, has been a leading advocate for credit for the poorest women for nearly a decade. George Stephanopoulos is very familiar with their work and with their Executive Director Sam Harris.

The first phase of the Where Credit Is Due 2005 project is the development of a plan of action for reaching 100 million of the world's poorest families by 2005. A paper is being circulated for comment to more than 100 individuals around the world who are either practitioners or supporters of this work. The paper will be redrafted and recirculated and then discussed at a People's Summit for Micro Credit preparatory meeting to be held October 7-8, 1995 in Washington DC. The paper will be rewritten again and circulated for a final round of comment leading to the People's Summit for Micro Credit which is tentatively scheduled for May 8-9, 1996. As (Honorary) Co-Chair we would ask that you:

1. Allow us to list you as Co-Chair of the People's Summit for Micro Credit.
2. Work to see that the goal of reaching 100 million of the world's poorest families, especially the women, with micro credit loans for self-employment by 2005 is brought by the U.S. delegation to the Conference on Women in Beijing.
3. Co-sign, with me and the other Co-Chair(s), the letter of invitation to the People's Summit for Micro-Credit preparatory meeting in October. If necessary, you might instead send your own letter of invitation.
4. Speak at the October 1995 preparatory meeting.
5. Co-sign, with me and the other Co-Chair(s), the letter of invitation to the People's Summit for Micro-Credit tentatively scheduled for May 8-9, 1996. We want to invite both practitioners and leaders from the business and banking sectors to the Summit.
6. Encourage the President to speak at the People's Summit for Micro Credit in 1996.

These are the basic ideas and we're open to discussing other options with you. Once the global and U.S. plans of action have been developed, there will be a campaign to enlist business leaders, government officials, and the public in implementing the plans.

I have been moved by the commitment Queen Sofia of Spain has shown for micro credit and plan to extend an invitation for her to serve as a Co-Chair. Sam Harris suggests that we also invite a Republican leader in the U.S. to serve as a third Co-Chair.

I am sure you will have seen from your visit with Grameen borrowers how a tiny amount of credit helps women change their lives and the lives of their families. We must see to it that credit for self-employment is extended to the poorest people in the U.S. and around the world, and that the rate of expansion of such programs increases dramatically. Your involvement as Co-Chair (or Honorary Co-Chair) would make a tremendous difference.

Sincerely,

Muhammad Yunus

## Here's a New Idea: Eradicate Global Poverty for the Profit

While world leaders were gathering at the Social Summit in Copenhagen to discuss poverty alleviation, employment generation and social integration, I joined 44 others and spent five days in the villages of Bangladesh interviewing borrowers of the Grameen (village) Bank. Given what we were learning in speaking with these formerly destitute women, I can't help but think that the 45 of us were at the *real* Social Summit.

Here is what we saw. We saw the eradication of rural poverty in the Third World. We witnessed the unleashing of the human spirit. Perhaps most remarkable of all, we saw this achieved by an institution that is turning a profit. That's right, the Grameen Bank has made a profit over the last two years.

I don't know what the implications of this are for the United States. Transplant the Grameen experience to US soil and maybe we'd only reap the unleashing of the human spirit, the *reduction* of poverty, and no profit. It's too early to be sure. But the global implications of Grameen's successes are unmistakable.

Grameen Bank will lend $500 million this year in loans that average $100 to two million rural people, 94 percent of whom are women, who will use the money for self-employment ventures. Grameen will get 98 percent of these loans paid back in full—with interest.

But that's only part of the story. A recent study of long-term borrowers found that 75 percent had either left poverty or were near to leaving poverty. Recently, Grameen Bank decided to slow its expansion within Bangladesh and committed itself to getting each of its two million borrowers and their families out of poverty by the year 2000.

While visiting a Grameen branch in Natore District in northwest Bangladesh, I got a firsthand glimpse of what this future could look like. I interviewed Nurjahan, a Grameen borrower whose name means "light of the world." Abandoned by her parents at 3 months of age and raised by a neighbor, Nurjahan was married at 12 only to be abandoned by her husband a year later while three months pregnant. She returned to the family who had raised her, cooking for them while raising her son. Before joining Grameen, Nurjahan had never earned more than $37.50 in a year and owned no land. After five years with Grameen her annual income is $250 (nearly twice the national average) and she owns two goats, one pregnant cow, 10 hens, and two-thirds of an acre of land. Seasonally, she employs two farm-hands to assist with her rice crop. In a country where only 46 percent of the children reach grade five, Nurjahan's son is now in 8th grade.

Another of our group asked a borrower if she would rather have received her loan in the form of a gift.

"If I am given a gift," she answered, "it is not for development, it is just to enjoy. If it is a gift, I think I get it for free so I have no tension. I can use it any way [I want]. If I get a loan, I have pressure to pay back and will work hard. A gift makes a person lazy, inactive, and destroys a community."

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**COLLECTION:**

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Jennifer Klein
OA/Box Number: 13524

**FOLDER TITLE:**

Microcredit

2014-0536-S
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## RESTRICTION CODES

**Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]**

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

**Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]**

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

[001]

But while Republican members of Congress may hear this wisdom from rural Bangladesh as testimony in support of their social agenda they should note another axiom from Grameen Bank. Bank founder Muhammad Yunus instructs the Grameen staff to constantly ask themselves if their policies and actions will create more misery and poverty for the borrowers or less. That is a central question that Congress and the American public must face squarely as we continue the vivisection of thirty years of social programs.

In April, Hillary Rodham Clinton will visit a village in Bangladesh and meet the women borrowers of Grameen Bank. I'm sure she will emerge with the same question we had. "How can we more rapidly expand this eradication of poverty and unleashing of the human spirit?"

It's a question that the Social Summit in Copenhagen didn't answer, but the Women's Conference this September in Beijing still could. It is a question that needs to be considered by all of us concerned with a sustainable and humane future for our world.

That's why micro credit leaders around the globe are endorsing the goal of reaching 100 million of the world's poorest families, especially the women of those families, with micro credit loans for self-employment by 2005. Embracing this goal and moving toward it is something we can do for the poor, for the hungry, for the economically and politically disenfranchised. And, as Grameen's financial successes prove, it's also something some of us can pursue for the profit!

[789 words]

*Sam Harris is Executive Director of RESULTS, a citizen's lobby dedicated to ending hunger and poverty, and Coordinator of the Where Credit is Due 2005 project.*

Sam Harris, Executive Director
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*RESULTS Educational Fund*

COVER SHEET: FAX TRANSMISSION

TO: Jennifer Klein

FROM: SAM HARRIS

DATE: 4/24/95

NO. OF PAGES: 3
(INCLUDING COVER SHEET)

Jennifer
Thank you!
Sam
This has been faxed to Melanne!

236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E. Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20002, USA Tel: (202)-546-1900 Fax: (202)-546-3228

# *RESULTS Educational Fund*



April 24, 1995

Ms. Melanne Verveer
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington DC 20500

Via Facsimile
Number of Pages: 2

Dear Ms. Verveer,

I spoke with Jennifer Klein this afternoon about Muhammad Yunus' invitation to Mrs. Clinton to be an Honorary Co-Chair of the People's Summit for Micro Credit. Jennifer told me that there was a little confusion as to the timing and location of this event. Let me give you a little background.

The People's Summit for Micro Credit is the first step of the Where Credit Is Due 2005 project—a decade-long campaign which seeks to ensure that 100 million of the world's poorest families, especially the women of those families, will be receiving micro credit loans for self-employment by 2005. A parallel goal for the U.S. is being developed. The Summit is tentatively scheduled for May 8-9, 1996 in Washington, D.C. with a preparatory meeting November 18 and 19, 1995 in Washington D.C. It is not directly related to the Beijing conference.

The project is under the auspices of the RESULTS Educational Fund which, along with its sister organization RESULTS, has been a leading advocate for credit for the poorest women for nearly a decade. George Stephanopoulos is very familiar with our work.

The first phase of the Where Credit Is Due 2005 project is the development of a plan of action for reaching 100 million of the world's poorest families by 2005. A paper is being circulated for comment to more than 100 individuals around the world who are either practitioners or supporters of microenterprise lending. The paper will be redrafted and recirculated and then discussed at the November preparatory meeting. The paper will be rewritten once again and circulated for a final round of comment leading to the People's Summit for Micro Credit in 1996. As Honorary Co-Chair of the People's Summit for Micro Credit we would ask that Mrs. Clinton:

1. Allow us to list her as Honorary Co-Chair of the People's Summit for Micro Credit.
2. Work to see that the goal of reaching 100 million of the world's poorest families, especially the women, with micro credit loans for self-employment by 2005 is brought by the U.S. delegation to the Conference on Women in Beijing. (This could have been the point of

confusion.)

3. Co-sign, with Muhammad Yunus and the other Co-Chair(s), the letter of invitation to the People's Summit for Micro-Credit preparatory meeting in November. If necessary, she might instead send her own letter of invitation.
4. Speak at the November 1995 preparatory meeting.
5. Co-sign, with Muhammad Yunus and the other Co-Chair(s), the letter of invitation to the People's Summit for Micro-Credit tentatively scheduled for May 8-9, 1996. We want to invite both practitioners, government officials, and leaders from the business and banking sectors to the Summit.
6. Encourage the President to speak at the People's Summit for Micro Credit in 1996.

These are the basic ideas and we're open to discussing other options with Mrs. Clinton. Once the global and U.S. plans of action have been developed, there will be an expanded decade-long campaign to enlist business leaders, government officials, and the public in implementing the plans.

Muhammad Yunus has been moved by the commitment Queen Sofia of Spain has shown for micro credit and will likely extend an invitation for her to serve as another Honorary Co-Chair. I think we should also invite a Republican leader in the U.S. to serve as a third Co-Chair.

I am sure you have seen from your visit with Grameen borrowers how a tiny amount of credit helps women change their lives and the lives of their families. There were 45 of us on RESULTS Educational Fund's March trip to Grameen and a total of 95 have gone on the three trips we have hosted since 1990. We must see to it that credit for self-employment is extended to the poorest people in the U.S. and around the world, and that the rate of expansion of such programs increases dramatically. Mrs. Clinton's involvement as Honorary Co-Chair would make a tremendous difference.

Sincerely,

Sam Harris

Sam Harris
Executive Director

cc: Jennifer Klein