

The Melbourne Community Foundation's

Social Justice Fund

(formerly known as the Morawetz Social Justice Fund)

Social Justice Fund Grants 2007/8

Introductory remarks from:

MARION WEBSTER, OAM, Chair, Melbourne Community Foundation.

(The Social Justice Fund is a sub-fund of the Melbourne Community Foundation).

It is with pleasure that I introduce the annual "Report of Grants" of the Social Justice Fund for 2007/8.

Noted philanthropist Dame Elizabeth Murdoch, 99 y.o., said recently:

"I used to give my money and time anonymously, but then I decided to let it be known, because I hope it might encourage others to give too."

David Morawetz says that it is precisely for the same reason that he is happy to let people know about the work of the Social Justice Fund. He hopes that it may encourage others to support some of the magnificent work that is being done in Australia and in developing countries by so many dedicated and capable people and organizations. This support would of course be offered according to each person's preferences, and each person's availability of time and/or money. David says:

"There are so many wonderful people out there doing superb work on behalf of those less well-off; it is a privilege for me to be able to support some of them in a small way."

David says that he uses five criteria in deciding whether to support a project:

- 1. Does the money get there?*
- 2. Does it make a significant difference to people's lives?*
- 3. Is it cost-effective – do you get significant benefits for small amounts of money? (For example, \$10 provides a lifetime's supply of safe drinking water to an Ethiopian villager).*
- 4. Is the project sustainable in the long term?*
- 5. Does the NGO consult with the local people before deciding what to do?*

All of the projects summarised briefly in this Report of Grants meet all five criteria.

I commend to you this year's Report of Grants by the Social Justice Fund.

Marion Webster, OAM, Chair, Melbourne Community Foundation

“Report of Grants 2007/8”

by the MCF’s

Social Justice Fund.

The Social Justice Fund (formerly known as the Morawetz Social Justice Fund) was set up to contribute in a small way to making the world a fairer place. In case you have not already seen it, some brief information on the Social Justice Fund, its reason for being, and the criteria for grants, is enclosed in attachment 2, which is a brief paper that I presented at Princeton University in May 2005 at a Conference on “Philanthropy, Ethics, and International Aid” that was organised by Professor Peter Singer.

-- Dr David Morawetz, Founder and Director, Social Justice Fund.

SOCIAL JUSTICE GRANTS in 2007/8 were as follows:

A. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

***Afghanistan: Help for widows and orphan girls:* \$10,000**

This grant benefits widows, orphan girls and other girls at Hope House, a vibrant Community Centre just north of Kabul, Afghanistan. The grant covers half the cost of installing a sloping roof above the current flat roof of the building, thereby creating a usable, protected space with shelter from the sun in the hot summer, snow in the winter, and the wind year-round. This space will be used: (a) to set up a vocational training program and sheltered workshop for 40 widows learning quilting with two teachers; (b) to provide a safe and private recreation area for approximately 80 orphan girls and other girls from the community who are otherwise culturally very restricted when they play; (c) to provide a waiting and socialising area for very poor outreach widows who wait for many hours on provision day. It is estimated that approximately 520 widows, girls and orphans will use the space each month. (Cost: \$38 per widow, orphan or other girl). *Through Mahboba’s Promise.*

***African Women Food Farmer Initiative:* \$30,000**

The African Women Food Farmer Initiative (AWFFI) is the first microfinance program in Africa that targets women food producers, and the first to result in officially recognised rural banks owned and operated by rural women. This grant will provide micro-loans to women food farmers across eight countries in Africa. The average loan is about \$77, and assists women to make the journey from dependence to self-reliance. Also provided are training and support, including in literacy and numeracy, which are essential to help these women and their communities to succeed in ending hunger. The grant also goes in part towards the employment of program officers, who set up and ensure the success of the women partners and the program. It also provides training for village women in understanding how credit

works, and in how to add value to their businesses. The grant will benefit at least 375 women farmers. (Cost: \$80 per woman farmer). *Through The Hunger Project.*

Ethiopia: Safe Drinking Water for Somali Refugees: \$11,000

Raaso is located in the Somali region of Ethiopia, and is home to approximately 295,000 Somali refugees who have fled the civil war in Somalia. Raaso is an extremely hot, dusty area, with little vegetation. There is no school, no hospital, and no readily accessible water. The Melbourne-based Raaso Rehabilitation Relief and Development Organisation has begun the massive task of building and establishing a hospital in Raaso, with plans for a school to follow.

Safe drinking water is an immediate and desperate need in Raaso. There is not a single well in the area. This grant provides for the purchase of a well-drilling machine and some piping. As the machine will be portable, many wells may be drilled in the area, eventually providing safe drinking water for the entire extended community of Raaso. (Cost: less than \$10 per beneficiary). *Through the Raaso Rehabilitation Relief and Development Organisation and the Banyule Community Health Service.*

Ethiopia: Safe Drinking Water in Tigray Villages: \$11,000

Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries in the world, and Tigray is one of the poorest regions within Ethiopia. This grant finances two hand-dug wells in villages in Tigray, providing safe drinking water to up to 1,250 villagers. In addition, this grant triggers two extra wells in matching donations from an anonymous donor. (Cost: \$9 per villager). *Through Anglicord, Norwegian Church Aid and the Relief Society of Tigray (REST).*

Guatemala: Women's Leadership and Empowerment: \$5,000

Voces de Cambio ("Voices of Change") trains young women in Guatemala in leadership and empowerment. Girls who graduate from Voces de Cambio's core 15-week writing and photography program are invited to participate in the Young Women's Network, which was formed in early 2007. As part of this group, the girls use the skills they learned in the core program to support other local women's organizations, and to take on greater leadership roles.

For example, in the spring of 2007, the Young Women's Network was invited to collaborate with a weaving cooperative. The Network visited four Indigenous communities to record the weavers' stories in a series of interviews, and to take photographs of the women. This report is now being used to promote the cooperative's work. Over the summer, members of the Network were invited by another organization to lead a four-part series of photography workshops for Indigenous women, in which the graduates themselves were the workshop facilitators. *Through Voces de Cambio and Good Shepherd.*

Indonesia: Micro-Enterprise Development for the Poor: \$10,000

This project provides basic business training and micro-credit (average loan \$220) to poor people to help them to develop small businesses that will generate sufficient income to meet their basic family needs. The project will also strengthen the organizational capacity of TLM, the Indonesian NGO which is in charge of delivering the project at the grass roots level. This grant triggers a grant of \$24,000 from AusAID, making it worth \$34,000 to the project. (Cost: about \$188 per beneficiary). *Through Opportunity International and TLM.*

Kenya: Refugee Camp Youth Centre: \$10,000

The vast majority of young people in Kenyan refugee camps are not enrolled in secondary school. This poses risks, such as crime, general insecurity, and the abuse of drugs. This grant funds about a third of the construction costs of a youth centre in the Ifo refugee camp in Kenya. This youth centre, part of a larger plan by the UN High Commission for Refugees to create a number of such centres, aims to stimulate the social engagement of young men and women, encouraging them to take an active role in community development. The centres will assist youth to learn to use information and communications technologies, promote employment by training dynamic young entrepreneurs, and provide those who attend with new skills, including gender-based violence awareness and responses. The Ifo Youth Centre will benefit 60 learners each 6 months, with equal representation of young men and women aged 15 to 24 years. (If construction costs are spread over 5 years, the cost is about \$50 per young refugee). *Through the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).*

Nepal: Women's Education and Income Earning Opportunities: \$10,000

Women in rural Nepal live very restricted and difficult lives. Many live on less than \$1 a day, and their lives are dominated by a daily round of collecting firewood and water, tending to animals and subsistence crops, preparing food, and caring for children and the elderly. Most have never had the chance to attend school, or if they have, they have rarely had more than a few years of primary education. Helping women to organise into microfinance groups to save and provide loans has proven a valuable tool in enabling them to find ways to improve their lives and the lives of their families.

The 'Tin Khamba' project ('Three Pillars' of microfinance, livelihoods and literacy) provides poor, low-caste and minority women in four of the poorest regions of Nepal with an opportunity to participate in: (a) basic literacy classes; (b) financial literacy classes (including numeracy and budgets); (c) livelihood workshops to gain skills to start or expand their businesses; and (d) starting and running savings and loan groups. The increased productivity and incomes enable the women to better feed and educate themselves and their families, improve health care, and lift themselves out of poverty. This is the second grant to this project. (Cost: \$186 per direct beneficiary, \$37 per indirect beneficiary). *Through World Education Australia, World Education Nepal, and four Nepali NGOs: Utpreana Nepal, GMSS, TCDF and JSSN.*

Nepal: Shipment of two computers to an orphanage: \$300

An Australian volunteer and her husband have built two computers for a children's home/orphanage in Kathmandu, Nepal. The computers have learning and office software loaded onto them. The computers should give the orphans, many of whom are girls, a chance to develop skills that they would otherwise be unable to learn. This grant covers the cost of shipping the computers by air from Adelaide to the orphanage. After the computers arrived, one of the children wrote: "In this age, the man without the knowledge of computers is thought to be incomplete and illiterate, but I have got a golden opportunity to get out of this category." *Through Volunteering SA.*

Solomon Islands: Water, Sanitation and Livelihoods: \$10,000

In April 2007, a series of major earthquakes triggered a massive tsunami that swamped coastlines of the Western Province islands in the Solomon Islands. Oxfam Australia responded immediately, providing emergency shelter and restoring water and sanitation facilities. This project makes the transition from the immediate emergency response to a longer-term rehabilitation and development project. It aims: (a) to improve water and

sanitation facilities, with a focus on their ongoing management, and on ensuring equitable access; (b) to restore and expand sustainable livelihoods in affected rural communities; and (c) to strengthen the capacity of women's and youth groups to influence the recovery and rehabilitation process, so that it meets their specific needs. Communities themselves will be involved in all aspects of the project: design, implementation, and evaluation. (Cost: \$67 per beneficiary). *Through Oxfam Australia.*

Students Partnership Worldwide Australia: Coordinator of Overseas Volunteers: \$30,000

Students Partnership Worldwide (SPW) has existed for decades in the UK and in developing countries. However, it is relatively new in Australia. This grant pays part of the costs for SPW Australia to employ a coordinator of overseas volunteers, thereby helping SPW Australia to assist increasing numbers of people in developing countries. This coordinator will have three main tasks: (a) recruitment and training of Australian youth who want to volunteer abroad; (b) further development of strategic partnerships with Australian Volunteers International (AVI) and its New Zealand equivalent; and (c) further development of a partnership with RMIT University which will enable young Australians who volunteer with SPW to gain academic qualifications for their service. (Cost per person in developing countries who will have weekly structured contact with SPW volunteers: about \$10). *Through Students Partnership Worldwide (SPW) Australia.*

Timor Lesté: Water and Sanitation: \$10,000

This project, to be undertaken in two districts of East Timor (Oecusse and Covalima) has the following key objectives: (a) to assess and plan for the development of sustainable water supply and sanitation infrastructure; (b) to rehabilitate and repair existing water supply systems and wells; (c) to build sanitation infrastructure; (d) to increase awareness and capacity in local communities and NGO's regarding the maintenance of these systems; (e) to improve community hygiene awareness and practices; and (f) to do all of this in close consultation with the local communities themselves. (Cost per beneficiary: \$41). *Through Oxfam Australia, FINA, and the East Timor Department of Water and Sanitation (DNAS).*

Timor Lesté: Participation in Stockholm Challenge Finals: \$1,000

Info Timor is the first not-for-profit enterprise in East Timor, focusing on using technology to deliver skills development, education and employment. It was set up by the wonderfully innovative Infoxchange Australia. The plan is to establish an Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Resource Centre in each district of East Timor (one has already been set up). People will be skilled to be employed as qualified technicians, certified trainers and administration staff.

In recognition of this project, which has been part-supported by the Social Justice Fund, Info Timor was selected as a finalist in the prestigious Stockholm Challenge Award. This Award is organised by the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm to help counteract social and economic disadvantage by promoting the use of ICT for development. This grant contributes towards the cost of travel to Stockholm for two Timorese Info Timor workers, where they will participate in a week of workshops and events. At the end of the week, the winner of the award will be announced at a dinner that is held in the same place as the Nobel Prize dinner. *Through Infoxchange Australia and Info Timor.*

B. AUSTRALIA

Documentary on Early Childhood Development: \$15,000

The aim of this project is to produce a documentary demonstrating to the general public and policy-makers the economic and social benefits of investment in early childhood development. The aim is to do for the Early Childhood Development debate just a little bit of what Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" did so successfully for the climate change debate.

This initial seed grant will fund development of a project plan for the making of the documentary. This plan will not only include creative concepts, but will also consider likely public and private sources of support for such a documentary, as well as considering the market for distribution through broadcast and subscription television and on-line, in Australia and overseas. (Approximately two million Australians seven years and under would benefit directly from expanded investment in early childhood development, and the wider public benefits of such investment are very high). *Through Per Capita, a progressive Australian think-tank, which has been supported in part by the Social Justice Fund, and the Brotherhood of St. Laurence.*

Indigenous Business Management Development: \$10,000

The Miwatj Management Development Program is a pilot program that aims to enhance the capacity of managers of Australian Indigenous organisations in the Miwatj region of North East Arnhem Land. The aim is to develop sustainable business activities through the provision of managerial competencies relevant to managing projects, organisations and communities in the area. Planned outcomes of the program are: (a) to improve the sustainability of local Indigenous organizations; (b) to identify commercial opportunities within participants' communities; (c) to assist local Indigenous organisations to develop networks with government and non-government organizations; and (d) to develop financial and management skills. Places have been offered to 30 applicants from the Miwatj region.

In the long-term, it is hoped that this will evolve into a broader program, offering top quality business management training for Indigenous managers across Australia. This grant contributes to the costs of designing and delivering the program, including faculty fees, materials, and travel for faculty, coaches and program staff (the program is to be delivered on-site in Nhulunbuy). *Through the Aurora Project, which is working with the Australian Graduate School of Management, and has support from Rio Tinto and two Commonwealth Government Departments.*

Indigenous Community "Digital" Storytelling: \$10,000

This project encourages and enables Indigenous youth to record traditional and contemporary stories, songs and dances, using technical devices and processes which engage them. The specific aims are: (a) to enable Indigenous youth to explore creatively important cultural and social issues in their lives and communities; (b) to provide a platform for their writing and recording traditional and contemporary Indigenous life in a positive light; (c) to enable students to have pride and a sense of value in what they have to say; and (d) to support a process of intergenerational exchange between youth and elders, which has been lacking in recent years. The digital stories, songs and dances will be uploaded onto a website, which students will be taught to build and maintain; and they will then be submitted for possible broadcast on radio and TV, thereby promoting appreciation of Indigenous culture in the wider Australian community. A superbly qualified film-maker, radio producer and author, with extensive experience in working with Indigenous communities, will lead the project. This

grant funds the purchase of two broadcast-quality digital video cameras, which will become the property of the two participating communities for continued usage in recording and archiving stories. The direct beneficiaries are 120 students from the remote communities of Jilkminggan and Urapunga to the east of Katherine, NT. (Cost: \$83 per direct beneficiary, much less per indirect beneficiary). *Through Ian Thorpe's Fountain for Youth Trust and Katherine Group Schools.*

Indigenous Community Resource Project: \$10,000

This project aims to build strong Aboriginal communities and social capital among the Aboriginal population (approx 6,500 people) in the Illawarra region of NSW. This grant contributes to the salary of an Aboriginal Community Worker who is doing important work in the region. She undertakes community development work, and provides direct services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families with children. The direct services include running culturally appropriate parenting workshops, advocacy, playgroups, and transition to school programs. (Cost: \$100 per direct beneficiary, much less per indirect beneficiary). *Through Barnardos Australia and their South Coast Childrens Family Centre at Warrawong.*

Indigenous Education: Munarra Institute of Sport: \$10,000

The innovative and successful Rumbalara Football and Netball Club has partnered with the Australian Football League and Netball Australia to set up the Munarra Institute of Sport in the Goulburn Valley, Victoria. The Munarra Institute will use Indigenous young people's passion for sports to improve their own and their families' engagement in education and self-development. The aim is to nurture the aspirations, confidence and competencies of Indigenous young people in order to develop their dreams, their success at school, and their careers. The Institute has already hired an excellent leader for the program, with experience in teaching (years 7-9 in two schools at Shepparton), sports science, and sports coaching (he has been a strength and conditioning coach at the Carlton and Melbourne AFL clubs). In the first year, the aim is to work with 75 Indigenous boys and girls aged 10-17 who regularly play sports at the Rumbalara club. The aim is to increase this over three years to 125 students. *Through the Munarra Institute of Sport and Indigenous Enterprise Partnerships.*

Indigenous Education: Tertiary Bursaries: \$20,000

In memory of Sid Spindler, who will be sorely missed by all of us, this grant to the Towards a Just Society (TJS) sub-fund of the Melbourne Community Foundation will be used to provide bursaries to Indigenous tertiary students. TJS employs a strategic "tipping point" model when providing bursaries to students under financial duress, with the intention that intervention at a critical moment can prevent the withdrawal from study of an otherwise successful student. Recipients will be selected mostly by Indigenous tertiary student welfare officers. *Through the Towards a Just Society sub-fund of the Melbourne Community Foundation.*

Indigenous Health Promotion: Eye Health: \$6,200

This grant provides half of the cost of a portable Slit Lamp, which will be used by optometrists working with the International Centre for Eyecare Education (ICEE) to travel to satellite clinics around the Northern Territory, examining the eyes of approx 15 Indigenous patients a day, or several thousand each year. Many of these people have never before had their eyes examined. The Slit Lamp enables the optometrist to examine the health of the eye, looking specifically for cataracts, trachoma and diabetic eye damage. Low-cost spectacles are provided if needed. Improved eye health and eyesight among Indigenous people leads to

increased ability to read and write, improved attitude towards learning, improved ability to play sports, increased self-confidence, and improved quality of life in general. (Cost: less than \$2 per Indigenous patient). *Through the International Centre for Eyecare Education.*

Indigenous Legal Assistance: Pro Bono: \$9,900

The Pro Bono Indigenous Legal Assistance Project aims to improve access to legal assistance for Indigenous individuals who have civil law needs, and Indigenous organisations which need help with governance and organisational issues. This grant will be used to employ a project worker. The worker will undertake research and consultation to identify the legal needs of Indigenous individuals and organisations, and to identify the best way to meet these needs. The worker will also: (a) establish the level of pro bono expertise that is available to support the work of the project in the longer term; and (b) assist the Public Interest Law Clearing House to determine mission, goals, strategies, work plan and service delivery model for the ongoing work of the project. Once all this is finalised, further funding will be sought to implement the Indigenous legal assistance service. *Through the Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH) and the Reichstein Foundation.*

Indigenous Volunteers in India: \$13,420

The aim of this pilot project is to involve Indigenous Australian young people, for the first time, in an international volunteering program. The program is run jointly by Australian Volunteers International (AVI) and Students Partnership Worldwide (SPW). Three groups of people will benefit: (a) Two young Indigenous volunteers will enhance their personal and professional development, and will acquire leadership skills, while working with and for disadvantaged peers in India. (b) Poor rural communities in India will benefit. One pair of volunteers on placement will reach around 1,750 poor people in India. (c) Indigenous communities in Australia will benefit from the return of the skilled-up Indigenous volunteers.

This AVI SPW project is supported in principle by Volunteering South Australia, the Volunteering SA Aboriginal Reference Group, and Aboriginal elder Bob Randall (Mutitjula community). Once the first Indigenous volunteers have returned to Australia, the grant will also support an assessment of the potential for placing volunteers in Australian Indigenous rural communities in the future. (Cost: \$7.67 per beneficiary in India, and even less once the significant benefits to the Indigenous volunteers and their own communities are taken into account). *Through Australian Volunteers International (AVI) and Students Partnership Worldwide (SPW).*

Indigenous Youth Leadership Program: \$10,000

Young Indigenous people in Mildura have identified the need to have their own programs that are culturally specific and age specific. This grant helps to employ two Indigenous young women who are already actively involved in youth activities in Mildura. Their job as project workers will be to resource an existing steering committee of five Indigenous young people in the Mildura area, and to identify other young Indigenous people who might join this committee. The steering committee will work towards establishing an ongoing “Step up” youth leadership program. Once established, “Step up” will develop projects and activities, and it will identify, resource and mentor young Indigenous people to take up leadership roles in the community. *Through the Mildura Aboriginal Corporation and the Reichstein Foundation.*

Poverty in Australia: Research by ACOSS: \$6,500

For the past two years, the Social Justice Fund has supported the Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS) in its drive to put “A fair go for all Australians” onto the current political agenda. This drive has had very significant successes, but one problem has been the paucity of reliable data on poverty and fairness in Australia. This project aims to update poverty research in Australia, producing state-by-state breakdowns of poverty lines, and examining the differences between those living in metropolitan and non-metropolitan Australia. *Through ACOSS and Jobs Australia Limited for the Poverty Measurement Project.*

Social Inclusion: Ethiopians and other Africans in Western Melbourne: \$10,000

The high-rise public housing estates in the inner Melbourne suburbs of Flemington, North Melbourne and Ascot Vale have a large number of African refugees. These people have come to Australia from the refugee camps of the Horn of Africa as humanitarian immigrants, fleeing war. This project extends a community participation project that has already been vital in bringing together the Somali and Eritrean communities. The grant funds the salary of a dynamic African project worker for six months, and enables social inclusion to be spread also to the Oromo, other Ethiopian, and other African communities. (Cost per African beneficiary: less than \$4). *Through Jesuit Social Services.*

Social Inclusion: Sudanese Youth in Greater Dandenong: \$3,000

The South Sudanese Development Agency (SSUDA) works to support Sudanese people resettling in and around Victoria. The organisation is managed by members of the Sudanese community in both the eastern and western Suburbs of Melbourne. In 2006, a program for young people was established by the City of Dandenong, establishing a basketball and soccer club to provide positive activities for young people. Despite its success, funding for the project was cut early in 2007. SSUDA has now established a like project aimed at engaging Sudanese young people in the greater Dandenong area in sport. Alongside these activities, the program will invite agencies such as Centrelink, the local health service, and other youth welfare organisations to attend the sporting activities, ensuring that young people remain linked with these organisations, and are aware of the services that are open to them. (Cost: less than \$20 per Sudanese young person). *Through the New Hope Foundation (formerly the Southern Migrant Resource Centre).*

TOTAL GRANTS THIS YEAR: 2007/8

<i>DEVELOPING COUNTRIES</i>	<i>(53%)</i>	<i>\$148,300</i>
<i>AUSTRALIA</i>	<i>(47%)</i>	<i>\$134,020</i>
<u><i>TOTAL</i></u>	<i>(100%)</i>	<u><i>\$282,320</i></u>

TOTAL GRANTS SO FAR: 2003/4-2007/8

<i>DEVELOPING COUNTRIES</i>	<i>(54%)</i>	<i>\$701,900</i>
<i>AUSTRALIA</i>	<i>(46%)</i>	<i>\$586,820</i>
<u><i>TOTAL</i></u>	<i>(100%)</i>	<u><i>\$1,288,720</i></u>

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