

“Building Grassroots Democracy in Minority Communities”

Fall 2013 U.S. Mentors Delegation in Europe

August 29 - September 21, 2013

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of the Educational and Cultural Affairs,
Office of Citizen Exchanges, Professional Fellows Division

*Final
September 2013*



PROFESSIONAL
FELLOWS

GREAT LAKES CONSORTIUM for International Training and Development (GLC) —

GLC is a collaborative effort of the Bowling Green State University, Lourdes University, The University of Toledo, and WSOS Community Action Commission, Inc - Contract Agent and Manager. Established in 1999.

Dr. Elizabeth Balint
Project Manager

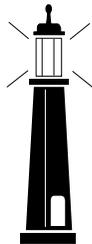
**Juli Bertalan,
Barbara Dennis,
Viktoriya Maryamova**
Program Coordinators

GLC Toledo Office

P.O. Box 352424
Toledo, OH 43635
Phone: 419-973-8007

Email:
GLC_teachdemocracy2@hotmail.com
Website:
www.GLC-Teachdemocracy2.org
www.gl-consortium.org

Find us on



The Great Lakes Consortium – through WSOS Community Action Commission, Inc. – as Contract Agent and Manager – received a grant for a two-way exchange between September 2012 and August 2014 from the U.S. Department of State for the “Building Grassroots Democracy in Minority Communities” with at least 32 participants from four countries of Europe and for 18 U.S. mentors.

The overall goal of this exchange is to provide a professional development opportunity for up-and-coming and mid-level professionals to gain knowledge of the U.S. practices in citizen participation and advocacy, engaging minorities, and marginalized populations in civil society and politics, collaborating with community leaders to inform changes in legislation that make a difference in minority communities (incl. Roma, disabled, homeless) and building grassroots democracy.

European participants will be exposed to diverse community organizing methods for citizens in solving problems in their own communities and gain hands-on experience at both public and civil society institutions in the U.S. and a deeper understanding of U.S. society, culture and people. They will examine the relationship between civil society and government and learn U.S. practices on transparency and accountability. Through internship placements at national, state or local organizations across the U.S. they will gain knowledge and experience as well as adaptable approaches that they can implement after their return.

U.S. mentors will travel for a reciprocal visit to Europe. They will have an opportunity to share professional expertise and gain a deeper understanding of the societies, cultures and people of other countries. This citizen civic exchange will promote mutual understanding, create long-term professional ties, enhance the collaboration between GLC and its partners.

The first delegation with a total of 19 fellows from Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia visited the U.S. from April 1 – May 11,

2013 and participated in group seminars, round-table discussions, site visits, and had have interactions with United States leaders. A *tailored 3-week internship* with mentoring, multicultural events, and participation in volunteer activities as well as in the Professional Fellows Congress in Washington, D.C. was also included in the 6-week professional fellows program. Participants prepared 6-9 month individual and group Action Plans for follow on activities. They had have various opportunities to experience the American family life and the diversity in the U.S. through staying with American host families during their internship in nine states across the United States. *The second European delegation is expected* in the U.S. from September 29 through November 9, 2013.

The 1st Outbound delegation with a total of 8 U.S. Mentors traveled to Europe from June 19 through July 17, 2013, and was hosted, trained and worked with the European participants of the 1st In-Bound Spring 2013 delegation. Americans worked with the European alumni in providing workshops, assist with consulting and mentoring. They were involved in field experience and learned about minority issues and gain cultural experience in Europe.

The 2nd Outbound delegation of two American Mentors travel to Europe from August 29 through September 21. They will spend 2 weeks in Hungary and one week in Slovakia. Americans work with the European alumni and participants of 1st and 2nd In-Bound delegations, and provided joint workshops on-site consultation and fieldwork, and conduct wider outreach programs.

This program is a collaboration between GLC and its overseas partners: CECA in Bulgaria, Civil College Foundation in Hungary, CeRe in Romania and Center for Community Organizing in Slovakia as well as the European Community Organizing Network (ECON) and many U.S. partner organizations involved in the joint program and the tailored internship, and follow up mentoring activities.

Cathy Woodson

Charlottesville, Virginia

E-mail:

cwoodson@virginia-organizing.org

Cathy Woodson is native of Virginia and her professional career has been in the not-for-profit sector. She has worked in several capacities, Executive Director, Program Director, Program Coordinator and Administrator, with more than 20 years working in direct service programs. Seeking to focus more on social justice work, she began her community organizing career with Virginia Organizing.

Ms. Woodson currently works with diverse communities on local, state,



and national issues relating to economic justice, civic engagement, and leadership development.

Ms. Woodson coordinates anti-oppression workshops on race, class and sexual orientation. She coordinated the Virginia Organizing leadership in-

stitute and has developed training materials and workshops on community organizing, community lobbying and advocacy.

Ms. Woodson facilitates anti-oppression workshops around the United States with social justice groups and diverse religious communities. She is a member of several organizations and groups working on racial justice.

Ms. Woodson serves on the National Council of Pax Christi USA and recently assisted with the completion of a video project designed for community conversations on the history of the Richmond region.

Ms. Woodson enjoys spending time with her family, reading, meeting new people and visiting garden sites.

www.virginia-organizing.org

Virginia Organizing (VO) started in 1995 as statewide grassroots organization dedicated to challenging injustice by empowering people in local communities to address issues that affect the quality of their lives. For the past 17 years, VO has established a solid community organizing track record in Virginia.

VO has provided assistance in the development of new local organizations addressing social and economic issues in communities across the state and has created a growing network of labor, human rights, faith, housing, environment, education and other non-profit groups to work together to achieve concrete improvements. In the

process, VO has built a solid organizational infrastructure for strategic campaign planning, communications, grassroots leadership development and fundraising.

Virginia Organizing's core approach is to use an intentional method of building one-to-one relationships among people of diverse backgrounds, identifying issues of concern, providing training in research and leadership, and implementing strategies that break down traditional divisions as well as achieve concrete results.

VO committed to helping people who have never been active before join with those who have already tackled community problems and work together regardless of differences in race, gender, class, sexual orientation, age,

occupation, geographic location or ability. VO had refined an organizing model that attracts ordinary people for the long haul through a leadership process that develops democratic skills and builds a sense of ownership and community. Currently with 19 chapters and 10 organizers across the state, the goal is to expand to 20 organizers by the year 2015.

One of Virginia Organizing's greatest accomplishments is the diversity, and as part of this process, VO has developed sound training programs, including programs dealing with building public relationships, economics education, sexual orientation and oppression, dismantling racism, classism and other leadership development skills.



**THANK YOU to David Gustafson,
the U.S. State Department Program Officer**

**THANK YOU to our partners at the U.S. Embassies
in Hungary and Slovakia for your help and support in
organizing the U.S. Mentors visit!**

James (Jim) Field

Chicago, Illinois

E-mail:

jfield@chicagohomeless.org



James (Jim) Field has been a professional Community Organizer for 36 years during which time he has led (E.D.) the award winning Northwest Neighborhood Federation which organization passed numerous city and state laws and won an award from the US Department of Justice for one of the top 9 gang prevention programs in the entire United States.

Previously Mr. Field was director of Civic Action for Community Renewal Society - a faith based organization that focused on issues of race and poverty - where he developed a train-

ing institute that trained over 1,000 organizers and leaders and helped create Target Area Development organization one of Chicago's premiere community organizations; and at the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) Mr. Field co-created the Sweet Home Chicago coalition that redefined how Chicago community groups did

coalitions and which passed the first affordable housing law in Chicago in twenty years.

At the CCH Mr. Field also created his second training institute which has already trained several hundred leaders' organizers and interns. Jim, who has a BA in Psychology from St. Joseph's College in Indiana and studied for his Masters of Divinity from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, lives in Oak Park, Illinois with his wife Carol. His two children Sean and Morgan live nearby.

Additionally, Mr. Field has earned a 1st Degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do, is a Certified Massage Therapist and loves hiking, kayaking, photography and cooking.

www.chicagohomeless.org

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) is a non-profit organization that works with people hurt by homelessness in metropolitan Chicago, Illinois. Founded in 1980, CCH organizes and advocates to prevent and to end homelessness, based on the belief that housing is a human right in a just society. CCH runs outreach at family and adult shelters, street programs, and single-room occupancy (SRO) facilities. Each month, three field organizers visit at least 28 facilities across Chicago.

Community organizers, policy specialists and legal aid attorneys staff CCH. They work for and with those experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including mothers with children, unaccompanied youth, single adults, and ex-offenders. A youth attorney also runs a mobile legal aid clinic that makes three weekly stops at neighborhood programs that serve unaccompanied youth. During these visits, CCH offers practical information. This includes telling parents about a homeless child's right to free transportation to school, or informing low-income

adults of their eligibility to apply for charity care from non-profit hospitals.

Through outreach, CCH involves homeless youth, parents and single adults in developing advocacy campaigns that work to create more access and economic opportunities for people living in extreme poverty. Together, they advocate to curb, and one day, end homelessness, pushing for access to a shelter safety net, affordable housing, living wage jobs, and quality public schools.

CCH is committed to fighting until every person has a place to call home.

**THANK YOU TO OUR COUNTRY DIRECTORS:
Mate Varga and Veronika Strelcova**

**AND OUR ALUMMNI & PARTNERS IN EUROPE:
Hajnalka Kiss, Anita Vodál, Kriszta Molnár, Marton Gosztonyi,
Miroslav Ragac, Daniela Batova and Zuzana Bargerova, and all
others Alumni and friends of GLC**



*for organizing the 2nd U.S. Mentor delegation's visit to Hungary
and Slovakia on August-September 2013*

FINAL ITINERARY

Thursday, August 29

Travel day

Departure from the United States

Friday, August 30

Travel day

Arrival in Budapest, Hungary

Evening: Orientation and welcome dinner with professional fellows alumni

Saturday, August 31

Budapest, Hungary

Sightseeing in Budapest & time to rest

Sunday, September 1

Budapest, Hungary

Sightseeing in Budapest & time to rest

Monday, September 2

Budapest, Hungary

Morning: Preparation to workshop

Afternoon: Sightseeing (Legenda Budapest boat)

Tuesday, September 3

Miskolc, Hungary

Travel to Miskolc and visit the thermal bath of Miskolc-Tapolca

Wednesday, September 4

Miskolc, Hungary

Participate in community event in Bodvalenke

Thursday, September 5

Sajokaza, Hungary

Community organizing training

Friday, September 6

Kunbabony, Hungary

Travel to Kunbabony

Evening: Gathering with trainees

Saturday, September 7

Kunbabony, Hungary

Community Organizing Training Day 1

Sunday, September 8

Kunbabony, Hungary

Community Organizing Training Day 2

Monday, September 9

Budapest, Hungary

Morning: Travel back to Budapest

Afternoon: Program assessment and workshop preparation

Tuesday, September 10

Budapest, Hungary

Meeting with Hungarian NGO leaders and discussion on community organizing

Wednesday, September 11

Miskolc, Hungary

Morning: Travel to Miskolc

Afternoon: Lecture on community organizing at the University of Miskolc

Evening: Driving back to Budapest

Thursday, September 12

Budapest, Hungary

Morning: Meeting with Anita Vodal, alumni

Meeting with at Hungarian Civil Liberties Union leaders on community organizing

Sightseeing with Hosszulepes Sightseeing Group

Evening: Lecture at Eötvös Lorand University on community organizing

Friday, September 13

Kunbabony Hungary

Morning: Community organizing training with the City for All

Travel to Kunbabony

Evening: Social program with trainees

Saturday, September 14

Kunbabony, Hungary

Community Organizing Training Day 3

Sunday, September 15

Kunbabony, Hungary

Community Organizing Training Day 4;

Evaluation of the two weeks in Hungary

Monday, September 16

Budapest, Hungary /

Bratislava, Slovakia

Morning: Travel to Budapest from Kunbabony;

Travel with train to Bratislava, Slovakia

Evening: Dinner with alumni – Miroslav Ragac, Daniela Batova and Zuzana Bargerova

Tuesday, September 17

Bratislava, Slovakia

Morning: Meeting with alumni – Zuzana Bargerova – sightseeing and preparation for the evening round table meeting and training on storytelling in migrant leaders.

1:00PM: Visit the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava, and meet with the Ambassador

Afternoon: Consulting and meeting with alumni – Zuzana Bargerova and Veronica Strelcova – and leaders working with immigrants in Bratislava

Wednesday, September 18

Auschwitz, Poland /

Banska Bystrica, Slovakia

Morning: Travel to Auschwitz, Poland, visit the Holocaust memorials

Afternoon: Travel to Banska Bystrica

Thursday, September 19

Banska Bystrica, Slovakia

Morning: Site visit to Kotva, a government shelter for Roma homeless families

Afternoon: Workshop on community organizing in Roma communities with community leaders involved in Roma activities in Central Slovakia

Friday, September 20

Banska Bystrica, Slovakia /

Budapest, Hungary

Morning: Meeting and consulting with community organizers in Banska Bystrica, Zvolen area

Evaluation of activities in Slovakia

Afternoon: Travel to Budapest and check-in to hotel for the last night

Saturday, September 21

Travel day

Departure from Budapest airport

Return to the United States

Special thank you to the U.S. Mentors and their organizations for sharing their time and experiences to make this program a success!