



When and Where I Enter, Inc.

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FALL 2012

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Welcome to When and Where I Enter, Inc.'s (WWIE) first edition of our newsletter. We will be sending our newsletter out periodically to let you know about upcoming events, activities of our grantee organizations and volunteer opportunities. In this issue we have included information about two of our three grantees. The third grantee will be featured in our next issue. We are also featuring a new program called Friends of WWIE. This program was created to fund a grant for economic development and education. Lastly, you'll find an article about our upcoming annual fundraiser "Salsa Under the Stars: A Fifth Anniversary Celebration" on Friday, October 19th, 2012. This will be an unforgettable evening at The Alden Hotel, a semi-outdoor oasis in the heart of downtown Houston.

WWIE was created to empower Afro-Latina women and girls to improve the quality of their lives and to become self-sufficient contributing members of the community through meaningful socio-economic participation. Over the past four years, we have had the privilege of awarding **\$44,000 to ten organizations** in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. Our work and our grants are only made possible because of you, our supporters. We truly appreciate your support and we look forward to many more opportunities to share more about our work in the months to come.

Enjoy!
Sincerely,
Veta Byrd-Perez
Veta Byrd-Perez
Founder and Executive Director

SALSA UNDER THE STARS: A FIFTH YEAR CELEBRATION

Please join When and Where I Enter, Inc. for a spectacular evening of salsa dancing, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres from award-winning *17 Restaurant at our annual fundraiser "Salsa under the Stars: A Fifth Year Celebration." This milestone event will be held on Friday, October 19th from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. in the Veranda at the Alden Hotel, a semi-outdoor oasis in the heart of downtown. The fundraiser will feature a live band and special guest, Yvette Modestin, a prominent native Panamanian social entrepreneur, author and current North American representative for the Afro-Latina and Afro-Caribbean Women and Women of the Diaspora Commission. A minimum donation of \$50 will include a glass of sparkling wine to toast this momentous occasion and secure your place at what is sure to be an amazing fiesta. Individual sponsorships are available for a \$100 donation and include preferred seating and two cocktail tickets. All sponsors are also invited to a very special cocktail reception and book signing on Saturday, October 20th with our featured guest, Yvette Modestin. At the reception, Ms. Modestin will read a few excerpts from her new books and lead a short question and answer session.

For any questions about Salsa Under the Stars, please contact Event Chair, Tanya Easter, at 832-202-7380.

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BLACK ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEFENSE AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (ASONEDH)

For the first time in its history, WWIE has awarded a former grantee organization with a second grant. Asociación Negra de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (Black Association for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights or ASONEDH) is a nonprofit organization in Lima, Peru. ASONEDH is receiving a \$5,000 award this grant cycle to continue a leadership development project for young Afro-Peruvian women.

The goal of ASONEDH's leadership development program is to prepare a new generation of young Black women to effectively participate in all levels of society as equal citizens, gain understanding of the nation's laws and constitution, and influence politicians and social entities for the benefit of the Afro-Peruvian community. ASONEDH will host workshops that train Afro-Peruvian young women, who are members of various Black organizations and have already demonstrated a commitment to their community, in the province of Chincha. In addition to being taught to be advocates and citizen activists themselves, they will learn to train others in their home communities and organizations.

Fifteen young women will be selected to participate. They will be expected to gain the skills and confidence to become decision-makers, contribute to economic development and promote gender and racial equality in their communities. It is expected that approximately 10 organizations in Chincha will directly benefit from the participation of youth in this program. The Afro-Peruvian Young Women's Network will be formed through this process.

ASONEDH was formed two decades ago by Dr. Jorge Ramirez Reyna, its current president, to fight against racism and the social and political exclusion of Peruvians of African descent. It empowers Afro-Peruvians nationally by educating them about their individual and collective civil and human rights. Among its many recent initiatives was a program for the development of Afro-Peruvian women which offered a series of activities such as workshops, conferences and seminars on identity, self-esteem, family violence, health and other topics, and which promoted women's leadership.



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AWAKENING: FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT FOR BLACK AND INDEGENOUS COMMUNITIES OF THE PACIFIC COAST OF NARIÑO

Afro-Colombian women and girls in the city of Tumaco will be a bit more “dignified” as a result of the leadership training project to be held by one of our new grantee organizations, Despertar: Fundación para la Educación y el Deporte de las Comunidades Negras e Indígenas de la Costa Pacífica de Nariño (Awakening: Foundation for Education, Culture and Sport for Black and Indigenous Communities of the Pacific Coast of Nariño). Women of African descent in Colombia are the subject of cultural stereotypes in the media based on their physical appearance and sexuality. These negative images in the media often lead to self-devaluation, low self-esteem, and gender-based violence and discrimination.

Awakening is seeking to change these images through its new leadership development project for Afro-Colombian adolescent girls and young women entitled “Adolescent and Youth Leadership: A Strategy for Recognition and Dignification of Afro-Colombian Women.” The project, which is funded by a \$5,000 grant from WWIE, is designed to analyze the effects of negative images of Black women in Colombian media and dismantle them. During the project, 40 young women and girls will participate in three workshops led by experts in the fields of social justice, democratic leadership and gender awareness. These young women will perform a critical analysis of the effects that negative images of Black women in the media have on the community and prepare a communication piece, which will be presented to 15 journalists from the local media. The young women will also create and circulate two editions of a newsletter to the community of Tumaco to raise awareness about these issues. As a result, at the end of the project it is expected that the leadership skills of adolescents and young Afro-Colombian women of Tumaco will be strengthened, in order to be change advocates in their communities, especially as it relates to the “dignification” of Afro-Colombian women in the media. Awakening states that the success of the project will be ensured because its direct beneficiaries, Afro-Colombian women in Tumaco, will have participated throughout the project’s life-cycle – from problem identification to the execution of the proposal, the voices of views of women in Tumaco will have been taken into account. “This,” declares Awakening, “is an initiative by women for women.”

Since it began its community activities in 2007, Awakening has been led by Elsi Argulo, an Afro-Colombian leader and former Colombian prosecutor. Its mission is to cultivate education for children, adolescents and Afro-Colombian and indigenous women of Tumaco. Awakening uses cultural activities, technology, sports and education to strengthen community processes and to construct the social fabric. Rather than seeking welfare, the organization prides itself on working to empower youth and women to solve their problems and overcome social barriers, the consequences of armed conflict and structural racism. Tumaco is a Colombian port city near the Pacific Ocean with a population of 90% Afro-Colombian and 10% indigenous and mestizo. Every year, Tumaco is listed in the top two municipalities in Colombia (the country has 1,100 municipalities) for the cultivation of coca, the crop used to make cocaine. With high poverty levels, it also has one of the country’s highest murder rates — well over 100 homicides per 100,000 residents — and a strong guerrilla and paramilitary-group presence according to the Washington Office on Latin America. WWIE is excited to be working with Awakening to create future leaders of Tumaco, Colombia. This project falls under WWIE’s Leadership Development grant area to support organizations that recognize the value of Afro-Latina women and girls as assets to their families and communities and that promote leadership skills to empower women and girls to become active social change agents and participate more fully in their communities.

FRIENDS OF WWIE

When and Where I Enter, Inc. is excited to present the new Friends of WWIE Grant, which will further build on the success achieved by our grantee organizations in the creation of sustainable micro-enterprises. The Friends of WWIE Grant is a \$5,000 grant that will be awarded to one organization for education and economic development projects.

You, our wonderful supporters, now have the opportunity to contribute directly to this grant and become a Friend of WWIE. Your donation will be directed to the Friends of WWIE Grant to empower Afro-Latina women and girls to access educational and economic opportunities to transform themselves and their communities. To become a Friend of WWIE, simply make your minimum donation of \$50 at www.whenandwhereienter.org and indicate in the description line “Friends of WWIE.” Once the Friends of WWIE grant has been awarded, you will be able to see exactly how your donation was used and the impact that your donation has made on the lives of Afro-Latina women and girls.

We thank you in advance for your consideration and support!