

TALKING POINTS

Introduce self as a member of the newly formed Transylvania Presbytery Committee on the Self Development of People.

Inquiry if audience is familiar with the Committee on the Self Development of People.

Let me tell you a little bit about it, perhaps you are in contact with or aware of a group of people that might be eligible for funding.

The Self-Development of People was established in 1970. Its purpose is to assist the Presbyterian Church in carrying out its commitment to work toward the self-development of economically poor, oppressed and disadvantaged people.

It does this by entering into partnerships with groups of people who:

- 1) want to take charge of their own lives;
- 2) who have organized or are organizing, to do something about their own conditions; and
- 3) whose project will produce long term change for their group, their families, or their communities directly.

Because it is owned and controlled by the people who will benefit directly from it neither churches nor social services agencies are eligible to receive these funds.

Let me give you an example of a project funded by the SDOP through Transylvania Presbytery's committee: Morris Fork Crafts in Breathitt County received a grant of \$3,000 to up-date their computer system in order for them to continue with an inventory/accounting system that had reached its maximum input.

An example of a project here in Kentucky that was funded through the National SDOP committee is Morris Fork Crafts. Organization was formed in 1978 to afford local crafters a means of selling their crafts, proceeds from which they would use to meet their living expenses and/or improve their quality of life. They received a \$20,000 grant in 1979 as "seed money" to start their program. Appalachian crafts are sold locally and at shows in eastern United States, primarily hosted by Presbyterian church groups. Over sixty crafters still benefit from this program.

So what we are looking for is a

Project that is owned and controlled by the group of people who will benefit directly from it and that addresses a condition that has kept that group of people bound by poverty and oppression.

There is a formal application process which is available upon request. A member of our committee is also available to meet with your group for additional explanation and to answer questions.

Transylvania Presbytery SDOP has \$ 5,980 available this year for distribution. The deadline for applications is November 1, 2008. Funds will be distributed based on review of applications submitted.