

# The Grassroots Leader

Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter Date

## A Letter from our Director



Hello GLC graduates, workers, and friends!

Welcome to the new "Grassroots Leader!" I am really excited about having a new online newsletter to keep in touch with all of you.

There is a lot going on at the Grassroots Leadership College. This spring we launched our community forums. Community forums which will be held quarterly are at the center of the idea "everyone a learner, everyone a teacher, everyone a leader." You can read more about this new program inside. We've also become a part of creating CORE (Consultants for Organizational Reflection and Effectiveness) a coalition of consultants, organizations, and funders that is working to help organizations access the consulting that works for them and helping consultants improve their skills. This summer will also bring about a new, more interactive website. The fall will bring at least three new workshops too.

Recently we got a great challenge from an anonymous donor that I hope you'll help us meet. A donor has promised us \$4,000 if we are able to raise \$16,000 by the end of August. That \$20,000 would be enough for the GLC to operate until near the end of the year. Donations can be made online at [www.grassrootsleadershipcollege.org](http://www.grassrootsleadershipcollege.org) or via mail to Grassroots Leadership College 1321 E. Mifflin St. Suite 201 Madison, WI 53703.

It's pretty amazing to me what we are able to do on a very small budget (approximately \$60,000 annually) thanks to the help of many very committed volunteers. In 2010 we'll provide training to more than 200 people. Next year that number will be even larger if we get the financial support we need from people like you.

I hope you'll enjoy this first issue of the new "Grassroots Leader" and show your support of our ongoing work!

Peace,

Amy S. Mondloch, Executive Director

### Mission:

The Grassroots Leadership College supports the development of grassroots leaders by building skills and relationships in a supportive and challenging environment.

### Vision:

We believe that everyone is a learner, everyone is a teacher, and everyone is a leader.



## Get Involved: GLC CORE

By Rebecca Krantz

Consulting for Organizational Reflection and Effectiveness, or CORE, is a new collaborative project that the GLC is helping start. CORE is working to increase the capacity of consultants and organizations to work well together on building organizational and leadership capacity.

"Increasing the capacity to increase capacity" may sound like Greek (or worse, like calculus) to some of us, but what we're about is really quite simple. We figure that the work people are doing to make the world a better place deserves

support -- the best support we can muster.

By organizing consultants and trainers, and working collaboratively with organizations and funders, we plan to make it easier to 1) ask for help; 2) get the kind of help you actually need, and 3) pay for that help. By help, we mean many different things involved in working for social change, including organizing, leadership development, meeting facilitation, non-profit management and accounting, information technology, legal issues, etc.

We are working towards these goals initially by building relationships among consultants and trainers and providing opportunities for peer learning and

collaboration. We are also exploring shared evaluation practices and how to improve the fit between a consultant and a client. We envision creating an Internet portal that would allow organizations to provide and share feedback about their experiences working with consultants, and we hope to create a stream of matching funds to help organizations pay for consulting and training.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Rebecca Krantz, [krantz@manystonesconsulting.com](mailto:krantz@manystonesconsulting.com) or 608-213-7207.

## GLC Graduate Linda Hansen: Empowering Madison's Homeless

*Linda uses her experience with homelessness to empower others in the Madison area.*

My name is Linda Hansen and I am a graduate of the GLC's fall 2006 semester-long class. I heard about the program from a friend, and a group of my friends and I joined the program with much anticipation. My experience with the program was very positive.

GLC's motto is, 'Everyone a learner, everyone a teacher, and everyone a leader' and workshop participants are called 'developing leaders.' Each developing leader has a coach who supports them and helps them develop their projects. The program

also brings in speakers who introduce relevant topics to help participants develop their projects. Dinner and child care are provided each week of the program. There is also a Spanish language version of the program.

One purpose of the GLC course is to help participants come up with projects that benefit the people of Madison. The project I worked on was a resource guide for people experiencing homelessness. The guide includes information about free meal sites, shelters, clothing sources, and anything else relating to the needs of the homeless.

The GLC experience helped me learn how to reach out to the homeless population and how to educate the public about their unique situation. I am grateful for the experience of participating in the Grassroots Leadership College and am giving back by volunteering in the GLC office. I am also currently working with the Madison Homeless Initiative and the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army helped me get through the experience of being homeless, so I wanted to give back by volunteering with them as well.

## Grassroots Leadership College: From Volunteer to Believer

By Merle Iris Margolis

**Board Member, Grassroots Leadership College**

At the time the Grassroots Leadership College (GLC) e-mailed me about volunteer work in 2005, I did not know much about it. All I knew was that it was close to my apartment and that it paid in Timebank hours.

As I worked with Amy Mondloch, GLC's executive director, I learned about its mission to nurture grassroots leaders, particularly the under-represented people of society. The vision statement – "everyone a learner, everyone a teacher, and everyone a leader" – was especially eye-opening for me since I was getting out of academia, where my experience was that "education" was one person in authority standing in front of a lot of other people telling them what to think. If lucky, one out of a hundred might become a "leader," which really means just another "authority figure."

In the fall of 2008, I decided to enroll in the general semester program myself as a developing leader. At

the GLC, a student is a "developing leader," recognized as a future guide. Their authority doesn't come from what they do for a living but what their living has taught them.

Under a wonderful coach, who was an originator and organizer for a homelessness initiative, I formed a group called, "STOP and GO" (Stigma is Too Offensive to People and Get Organized). This group puts together artists with mental illness with other artists and art lovers to show that people with such illnesses can benefit the world. The volunteer faculty is talented, experienced in their subjects and definitely not in authority. They include UW professors, consultants, and GLC alumni, among others.

Amy asked me to consider becoming a member of GLC's Board of Directors. After my unanimous election, my words to the Board were, "I want to be a part of the future of GLC." I am also a member of the Program Committee and I have been asked to work on a place-based series with the South Metropolitan Planning Council.

Recently, the Board decided to join with a consulting group called CORE (Consultants for Organizational Reflection and Effectiveness) (*BQ: need something about this decision and CORE if this sentence is to be kept*). It also decided to hold a forum, where members of non-profit organizations can share ideas with each other with the help of facilitators. The first forum was very successful and the GLC has decided to hold four forums per year in addition to workshops. The next forum will focus on fundraising and collaboration, and is scheduled for this September, near the time when city and county budget decisions are made.

Besides being a part of the forums, workshops, and place-based series as both volunteer and student, I have other plans for using my GLC experiences. A year from now I will be attending Northwestern College to work on my Masters in Organizational Leadership. I might move to St. Paul or I might simply attend online. The good thing about attending on-line is that I can still work for Grassroots Leadership College as it achieves the next step in learning, teaching, and leading.





## GLC Starts “Tools for Community Organizing: Building Our Toolbox” Forums

The Grassroots Leadership College has always been committed to the idea “everyone a learner, everyone a teacher, everyone a leader.” This past May we took that idea to the next level with the “Tools for Community Organizing: Building Our Toolbox” our first community forum.

The forum was influenced by many ideas, not the least of which was the World Social Forum an idea that began in Brazil in 2001. They build on the concept the idea that the World Social Forum is “an opened space – plural, diverse, non-governmental and non-partisan – that stimulates the decentralized debate, reflection, proposals building, experiences exchange and alliances among movements and organizations engaged in concrete actions towards a more soli[tary, democratic and fair world....a permanent space and process to build alternatives to neoliberalism.”

More than 60 people from 20+ organizations came together for a day to reflect, discuss, and build ideas. Together they created and carried out sixteen different sessions on a wide range of community organizing topics from taking care of yourself as an activist to fundraising to creating community. Evaluations from the day were consistent. People had a great time and made lots of connections.

The learning and the teaching didn’t end there. Madison Arcatao Sister City Project, Meadowood Neighborhood Association, East Moorland Neighborhood Association, Northside Planning Council, Unidos Against Domestic Violence, and Madison Homelessness Initiative all sent teams of three or more making them eligible for additional, volunteer consulting support from the GLC. That support is happening now and

you’ll be hearing more in weeks and months to come.

This fall we’ll be hosting a second community led forum. Dates are still being set. It will be in September or early October. Keep your eyes open for the date and place. The focus for the forum is “Funding and Collaborations.” With city and county budgets coming up and important decisions being made that will affect the future of the GLC and many other organizations, this forum promises to be really exciting and holds the potential to help influence the process too.

Forums are bilingual (Spanish/English). And as with all GLC programs, childcare is provided, sessions are held in handicapped accessible spaces, Timebank Hours are accepted, and scholarships are available. Registration materials will be available online.

*In this  
Revolution no  
plans have  
been written  
for retreat.*

**-Rev. Martin  
Luther  
King, Jr.**

*If your actions  
inspire others to  
dream more,  
learn more, do  
more and  
become more,  
you are a*

**Check out**  
**[www.grassrootsleadershipcollege.org](http://www.grassrootsleadershipcollege.org) or**  
**call 441-0085 for upcoming workshops**  
**and community forums**

## Grassroots Leadership College

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*Everyone is a Learner. Everyone is a  
Teacher. Everyone is a Leader.*

**Support Grassroots Leadership College!**

[Donate](#)

Grassroots Leadership College is a training program to help the Madison area residents improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods and communities.

We support developing grassroots leaders by providing the opportunity to build skills and relationships in a supportive environment.

## THE GLC HAS BEEN CHALLENGED AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The GLC has been offered a matching gift of \$4,000 if we can raise \$16,000 by the end of August. Help us reach our target. Donate TODAY!

**Thank You to our Funders  
as well as everyone who  
donated this past year!**

