



# The Pangaea Passport

THE PANGAEA PROJECT

Issue Four: Spring 2007

## LETTER FROM THE FOUNDERS

Writing the "Letter from the Founders" each fall and spring offers us a chance to reflect on the progress we have made since our last "Pangaea Passport." In the four years since our inception, The Pangaea Project has evolved from a vision into a viable program that is earning a reputation in Portland for giving at-risk, low-income students the chance to become valued leaders of their communities. Last year's students were so deeply impacted by the ten month program (please see the article written by Sarah Wilhelm) that the Portland Schools Foundation gave a grant to The Pangaea Project and our partnering school, Portland YouthBuilders, to establish a model of partnership that can be replicated in schools across Portland. Our original dream of offering a global perspective and the inspiration to take a leadership role around local issues of social justice to as many low-income students as possible is now taking shape, and we are thrilled, to say the least.

Through the following articles, you will learn more about this year's program. You will meet the new group of ten incredible students who began the 2007 program in March. You'll read quotes about why they joined the program, hear from one of our 2006 graduates about the impact that participation in The Pangaea Project has had on her life, learn about an eight year old who convinced

her girl scout troop to support Pangaea, find out how two of our students were invited to a private lunch with Nobel Peace Prize laureate Betty Williams, and more.

As always, we thank you for the support you have shown us over the past four years. We hope that you will continue to follow the journey of the growth of the organization, the transformation of the current participants, and the life path of our graduates in the years to come. We hope that this spring season brings to life new dreams and journeys for everyone. And we hope that all of those across the world and in our own neighborhoods that live without adequate shelter will become visible to all of us who go home each night to a warm bed.

– Stephanie and Deb.



Pangaea students at their first day of training!

## 2007 PANGAEA PARTICIPANTS

We are proud to introduce our second group of Pangaea participants to our supporters. For the 2007 program, we have a fantastic group of students who have committed to ten months of learning about and working on both local and international housing and homelessness issues. Welcome to **Elijah, Liz, Kim, Jessica, Mario, Sam, Ben, Mary, Kevin and Chris.**

"I think what The Pangaea Project is doing is extremely important, and one of the more important things in my life. I don't think people can fully appreciate their life and what's in it until they see a whole other side of it."

– Jessica Crompton

"I think Pangaea will not only help educate me about issues with homelessness abroad, but also help provide me with ways to educate others and use my experience to actively create positive change."

– Sam Theobald

## 2007 ECUADOR

Deb Delman and Laura Jawitz traveled to South Africa in February on a scouting mission to assess the feasibility of setting up a program on Housing and Homelessness. Although they were extremely successful in locating inspiring people and projects focused on Housing and Homelessness issues, their primary purpose was to make sure that the country was safe enough to bring our students. They researched the issue extensively, talked with many people, including government officials, directors of other student travel programs, youth educators and travel experts, and came to the conclusion that the country is not safe enough at this time for our standards.

This decision did not come easily as they found South African people to be extremely friendly, open, generous and kind, but the unfortunate legacy of

apartheid (institutional racism from 1948-1994) has cast a shadow on the hopes of many of the people, and crime has become a daily reality.

The number one priority of The Pangaea Project is the safety of the students. The goal of the program is to build young leaders, and offer students from low-income families the opportunity to gain a global perspective on important social issues, such as Housing and Homelessness. Pangaea is excited to announce that the 2007 group will be traveling to Ecuador this year, where the organization has lasting relationships with many people. Pangaea's In-country Coordinator works for the Ecuadorian government, and has an extensive network of people and projects with which we will collaborate. The staff is thrilled to be going back to Ecuador, and eager to build upon the friendships that already exist.

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

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## GRADUATES MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

The 2006 participants finished the year as consciousness-raising community leaders who presented to over 600 people in Oregon on the issue of Environmental Justice. The students had such a significant impact (*read example below*) that to this day, Pangaea continues to receive requests for more presentations. Stay tuned for further information as our graduates continue to take leadership roles as community change-makers.

In November 2006 my daughters and I attended PeaceSlam at Oregon State University and the keynote speakers were students from The Pangaea Project. The students had spent a year studying environmental justice in the Pacific Northwest and in Ecuador and had traveled to sites of concern in both places. The students gave a presentation, showing photos and telling us the significance of what we were viewing.

We all were riveted by the presentation, but I was surprised to learn how much my eight-year-old daughter had absorbed. Several months later, her Girl Scout troop was deciding how to spend the 10% of their cookie sale profits which they give to charity. Most of the girls wanted to give the money to a popular charity benefiting animals, but when it was Caroline's turn to suggest an idea, she gave such a passionate presentation about what she had heard at the Pangaea presentation that she convinced a majority to vote to donate to The Pangaea Project.

As it had been several months, I was surprised The Pangaea Project was so vivid in her mind and that she even understood it was a program which could use community support. As most parents observe, younger children often light up and are enthralled by what an older child or teenager has to say. I think they identify with older young people in a very powerful way because they perceive they are fellow travelers a little further down the road

then themselves, opening up a wider world for them. When someone like my daughter sees young adults giving not-quite-professional but informative presentations, she can readily imagine herself involved and taking action in our community and the larger world in the way that they are.

Thank you for your inspiration Pangaea Project students and teachers!

Sincerely,  
Angela van Patten

## BIKE TO REUNITE 2007!

Join The Pangaea Project's 2007 Bike Scavenger Hunt, **Bike to Reunite!** On Saturday, June 16th, 2007, people from all over Portland will come together to raise money for Pangaea by participating in this fun-filled event. Riders follow clues which lead them to locations all over the city relating to the 2007 program theme of Housing and Homelessness in Portland and Ecuador. At each location, cyclists learn about the theme and the inspiring people and organizations that are working on the solutions, the country that Pangaea students will visit, and the Pangaea program. Riders also have the chance to meet the students themselves. After the ride, participants have the chance to win fabulous prizes in a raffle and join one another at an after-party. Riders are encouraged to raise pledges amounting to \$100, and can receive more information or register at [www.thepangaeaproject.org](http://www.thepangaeaproject.org).

## SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT: LAURA JAWITZ

Laura Jawitz and The Pangaea Project came together quite serendipitously. While shopping at Whole Foods, Laura saw a sign about Pangaea which, at the time, was participating in the store's Change for Change program. Through this program, shoppers who decline a shopping bag get a 5 cent token to put into a box in support of a local non-profit. Many Portlanders learn about Pangaea through programs like this, and Laura picked up the phone and offered to volunteer with us. Upon graduating from a high school in Connecticut, Laura participated in an international volunteer program in Salvador, Brazil. It was her first experience with international travel, and she found herself instantly attracted to it. Her subsequent thoughts about the inaccessibility of international exchange programs to all people, regardless of income-level, caused her to think of beginning a program like Pangaea one day, so she was thrilled when she discovered that one already existed. Since September 2006, Laura has been volunteering at The Pangaea Project office about 20 hours a week as a critical staff person filling a multitude of roles. Laura has revamped the website, organized the student fundraising activities, written countless letters, and updated the database, to name a few of her accomplishments. Perhaps more importantly, Laura has been a pleasure to have in the office due to her humor, her insights, her dedication, and her enthusiasm. We wish her a wonderful vacation in Eastern Europe and look forward to working with her well into the future.



## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

\* Pangaea participants will have a blog this year! Follow them as they journey from **Portland**, to **Gulfport, Mississippi, Atlanta**, on to **Ecuador** and back home as they learn about local, national, and international Housing and Homelessness issues. Visit our website and watch the transformation. [www.thepangaeaproject.org](http://www.thepangaeaproject.org).

\* Pangaea participants have been asked to write a regular column for *Street Roots*, Portland's homeless newspaper, from May throughout the fall. If you live in the Portland area, please pick up copies for only \$1 from the vendors throughout town, and you will not only be learning more about Pangaea, you will be supporting *Street Roots*, a wonderful organization that gives people experiencing homelessness both employment and the chance to have a voice in the community.

\* In the late summer, The Pangaea Project will be selling **2008 calendars** with gorgeous photos taken by last year's students in Ecuador. The calendars will have at least 30 valuable coupons usable at local businesses all over town. Be on the lookout for our beautiful 2008 calendars!

\* **The Fourth Annual Pangaea Project Benefit** featuring the **Everyone Orchestra** is in the works for fall 2007. Stay informed of the lineup and special events at our website ([www.thepangaeaproject.org](http://www.thepangaeaproject.org)).

## STUDENTS TACKLING SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES: HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

In 2007, The Pangaea Project is delving into the critical social justice issue of Housing and Homelessness. A staggering 95 million people nation-wide, or one third of the US population, have significant housing problems (*National Low Income Housing Coalition, 2004.*) The United Nations estimates that there are over 100 million persons homeless world wide and over 1 billion inadequately housed (*Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2001.*) Right here in Portland, Oregon housing rights advocates estimate that between 4-8,000 people are experiencing homelessness. The Pangaea Project serves low-income youth, and a significant number of our young people have, themselves, contended with homelessness or housing insecurity. This situation cries out for the attention of young, energized change-makers, and The Pangaea Project takes great pride in working with this year's group to tackle the issue head-on.

Pangaea students are immersed in the study of Housing and Homelessness, and they have numerous opportunities to serve their community and take leadership on the issue. Through participation in service days during the World Class training phase, students work on construction projects with residents of Dignity Village, for example, an inspiring transitional housing community that is governed and run by the same people it serves: people affected by homelessness. Students team up with homeless vendors to sell *Street Roots*, a non-profit newspaper that provides income opportunities for people experiencing homelessness and an outlet for advocacy and personal expression. Pangaea students will also be writing a column each issue of *Street Roots* through December, 2007. Students work with the Village Building Convergence on building projects, revitalizing low-income apartments shoulder to shoulder with the tenants who live in them. The participants' experience of working in

solidarity with people affected by housing issues is a fundamental building block for their development as community change-makers.



Pangaea participants volunteer with vendors of Street Roots newspapers.

The partnership between The Pangaea Project and Portland YouthBuilders (PYB) provides another entry point for students' understanding of Housing and Homelessness issues. PYB construction students build affordable housing as part of their educational experience. Through the partnership, all students attending PYB (including the core Pangaea group) study the connection between affordable housing and homelessness in a "Leadership Consciousness" class taught by Eric Scott, the Pangaea partner teacher. Over 60 students have learned about and visited community organizations working with homelessness, studied the root causes of homelessness, analyzed and advocated for various solutions to the problem, and written, researched and presented around the theme.

For the core Pangaea crew, the upcoming journey to Ecuador will take their understanding of Housing and Homelessness to a global level. They will travel from the poorest neighborhoods in the cities to the mountains of the Northern Highlands to the Amazon rainforest to meet and work in solidarity with Ecuadorian change-makers addressing Housing and Homelessness issues within a very different reality and with a different set of challenges and solutions. The learning students will experience will be phenomenal! They will be well set to return to their communities, to give presentations to over 1000 people in the fall, and to assume their roles as consciousness-raising change-makers on issues of local and global Housing and Homelessness.



Kim Arnce and Liz Bogue, Pangaea participants, volunteer for a day of service at Dignity Village

## SIX MONTHS LATER...REFLECTIONS FROM A PANGAEA GRAD

My participation in The Pangaea Project has helped shape my life and my goals for the future. I have learned through the experiences of The Pangaea Project to broaden my mind about issues concerning the world. Prior to my participation in The Pangaea Project, it was difficult for me to think in different ways; I was one of those people that believed only one side of the story. Because of The Pangaea Project, I have learned that there are many different sides to an issue, and though they may be right or wrong, I am the one to decide which one I agree or disagree with and I should not just go with the point of view of the first person I talk to.

Because of The Pangaea Project, I feel like a much more complete person. I feel that it is very important for people to be aware of the issues, and because of my participation in the project, I am now aware of global, as well as local issues, and I feel I can now take a stand about those issues.

One of my life's goals is to work with the protection of our

environment. After traveling to Ecuador and seeing the resistance happening there, I now have a greater need to contribute to the welfare of our planet. I was recently talking with a cab driver about his struggles finding a job in the exact same field I am interested in, and he suggested I aim my studies towards Law. I realized that this is exactly what I had already been doing. With the Pangaea crew, we went and studied the issues, worked with people working for those issues, and came back and presented it all to an audience with the intent of making change. I now have a greater understanding of what I am actually capable of. I believe that my goals for helping the environment can be achieved if I study Natural Resource conservation as planned, with the minor of law attached. This way, I can fight for the rights of the people, and their land, as well as have fun giving the people responsible what they deserve. I will use my Pangaea experience to go forward in my life's journey.

—Sarah Wilhelm

Jon Fishman  
Joseph Frice  
Julie Cline  
Justin Dardani  
K Siess & A Elman  
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Since our inception, hundreds of other individuals and businesses have contributed to Pangaea, and we continue to acknowledge and thank them for their support and their role in Pangaea's success.

## PANGAEA TAKES ON PEACEJAM

7:00 am, Saturday April 14, our pillows nestled safely in the trunk, we, the ten participants and the three staff of The Pangaea Project, set out on a two day journey to peace. PeaceJam, that is. After stopping for coffee and bagels, we set out into a weekend we would never forget. As we drove the near two hour drive to Corvallis, we passed around a cell phone, giving an interview for *Street Roots*, a paper dedicated to spreading the voice of the homeless and low income community. We expressed our opinions, experiences, and feelings on homelessness to the paper's editor. This would be the first in a series of articles about or by Pangaea students that would appear in *Street Roots*.

After a long drive we arrived in Corvallis, at OSU, the home of the 2007 Northwest PeaceJam. There we met up with hundreds of fellow youth from schools and programs such as ours, brought together for a common reason: to promote and formulate a plan of action for non-violence in the world. It was only fitting that Betty Williams, the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize winner, was the guest for the weekend. Her efforts in leading marches, and leading a stand against violence and hate have changed not only her native Ireland, but have also opened eyes and ears around the world to what war and hate have done to us.

Elijah and I were both lucky enough to be chosen out of about 350 students to share a meal with Betty. It was especially rewarding to have lunch with her. Betty has such an uplifting presence, a vast sea of knowledge, and a kind heart. One of the first things she said was, "I am no hero, I did what I had to do." It was mind-opening to meet

someone so selfless, and loving. I was so into hearing what she had to say I had hardly eaten anything, and she stopped speaking and told me to eat. Thank you, Betty.

After a day of service, activities, and games, we met in the ballroom for dinner, and a dance. We were working together trying to learn this Irish dance, and we kept messing up. It was a great example of working towards accomplishing a goal. It showed that en route to achieving something there are going to be struggles and obstacles, but if you push through them, you'll find that you got where you wanted to. We didn't figure the dance out, but we did get some hilarious pictures out of it.

We slept in dorms on the campus so that we could enjoy a second day of connecting, and sharing ideas of peace. After a day of learning trust, making a well-received presentation, among other activities, and a lot of goodbyes, we left Corvallis having taken a humongous step in becoming change-makers.

-Chris Craig,  
2007 Pangaea Project  
Participant



## WHY GOOGLE WHEN YOU CAN GOODSEARCH?

GoodSearch is a search engine which donates 50% of its revenue to the charities and schools designated by its users. You use GoodSearch exactly as you would any other search engine, and Pangaea earns 1 penny for every search. The money GoodSearch donates to The Pangaea Project comes from its advertisers; the users and the organizations do not spend a dime. And because it's powered by Yahoo!, you get proven search results. How does

it work? First go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com). Under "who do you GoodSearch for?" type in "The Pangaea Project;" then click on "verify." You can keep tabs on what Pangaea has raised and can also add GoodSearch to your toolbar for easy access. It's a quick and simple way to raise money for Pangaea, and if all of our supporters simply made this easy change, Pangaea would raise hundreds of dollars each year. Start GoodSearching today!

## THE PANGAEA PROJECT MISSION

By engaging teenagers from underserved neighborhoods in local and international service-learning projects, The Pangaea Project promotes the development of leadership skills, increases global awareness, and fosters a commitment to work toward social change, profoundly transforming both the participants and their communities.

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#### STAFF

**Deb Delman** - Executive Director  
**Stephanie Tolk** - Executive Director of Operations;  
Board Secretary  
**Eric Scott** - Executive Director of Programs

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Pangaea Project staff welcomes our new Board of Directors who began work at the end of 2006. This committed, engaged group of people has been working hard on the Strategic Planning, Fundraising, and PR/ Marketing Committees and is instrumental in moving Pangaea forward wisely and sustainably. We graciously thank them and our new and returning Advisors for their commitment and dedication to the mission of The Pangaea Project.

**Summer Boslaugh** - Board Treasurer, Oregon Health Policy & Research, Project Manager  
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