



December 20, 2011

DONATE ON LINE

Dear Friends and Allies,

The time has never been more ripe for individuals like you, acting together with Southern Partners Fund and our allies, to tip the scales of history in the South.

In the past thirteen years, SPF has awarded over \$8,000,000 in grants and provided capacity building programs to more than 400 rural grassroots community organizations across 12 southern states. Our grantees tell us that unprecedented and consistent support from SPF as a foundation “truly on their side”, has left them stronger and smarter.

To respond, in 2012, we will launch a four year campaign focusing 60% of our grantmaking on three issues grantees tell us will strongly impact the future of human rights in our region:

- (1) *Immigrant rights* – advancing the rights of new and long time immigrants;
- (2) *Protection of voting rights and year round citizenship engagement*;
- (3) *Education reform* and a major increase in quality education in the region.

From 2012-2016 we will supply grantees and allies with analyses and skills, with a particular focus in 2012 on encouraging year-round voter participation and policy work. *

Recent articles in the New Yorker and New York Times remind us the South is in a struggle with powerful right wing financial moguls. The anti-environment billionaire Koch brothers recently bought International Paper in Brunswick GA. Ultra-conservative Art Pope, according to The New Yorker, may in fact own North Carolina. Through strategic use of his billion dollar family foundations he’s elected extreme right wing Republican state legislators in a majority of state districts. Their legislative councils like Americans for Prosperity and American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) (with chairs in most of SPF’s 12 states) present “model” bills to Republican controlled legislatures that incarcerate immigrants and break up their families for the crime of wanting a better life for their children. They have enacted bills that restrict voting rights for students, the disabled, and people of color; weaken school equity; protect corporate environmental abuses and attack the very civil rights our members and allies fight so hard to defend.

Thousands of successful battles in rural communities have enabled SPF and our partners to acquire plenty of savvy. Just last week a rural GA grantee, upon learning Art Pope owned local discount stores, began boycotting his stores. Won’t you join their fight for vital human rights and a new progressive South?

2012 will be crucial in the struggle for the soul of democracy. Many of you have been loyal to SPF over the years. Doubling your donation will kick start our new regional campaign based on shared community organizing and effective get out the vote strategies.* With your moral and financial support, we know we can win. Our grantees are counting on you. Help us transform the South into a place of equity with a generous contribution today. To join us on the front lines of history, now is the time to support SPF’s dramatic new efforts by doubling your gift.

In Solidarity,

Gardenia White, Board Chair

Joyce Parker, Vice Chair

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* Interested in more detail on SPF’s new Southern Organizing Strategy and the forces opposing progress in the South? Click Here: [Southern Organizing Strategy Working Document](#)