

For Immediate Release

Contact: Terry Lowe

The Shalan Foundation

415/433-2527

Anne Fitzgerald

Anne Fitzgerald Associates

707/575-4706

*The Shalan Foundation Farewell Awards:
\$120,000 in Recognition of Seven Individuals
Who Made A Difference*

For twenty years, The Shalan Foundation has made grants to organizations that have transformed the policy and practice of key societal issues. In three categories, grants have supported exploration of new ideas and their implementation, including:

- Economic and industrial policy around planning and growth, including policy issues related to employment and investment;
- Resource Management, especially agriculture, parks, and taxes;
- Citizen participation, including coalition-building, campaign finance reform (in California) and economic education.

After two decades of operations, The Shalan Foundation is closing its doors. From November 4-7, 1993, the foundation called former grantees together to celebrate and consider the successes and lessons of organized activism. Six Shalan Foundation Farewell Awards recognized the dedication, vision, and commitment of individuals to successfully negotiate economic and societal issues. All winners of the awards worked at an organization supported by The Shalan Foundation during its years of grant making.

The seven individuals honored for their work were nominated by peers who work in the interest areas of the foundation. The nominees were considered for their work and its ability to link community organizing with public policy development in communities of people frequently left out of the conventional political process. Despite years of service, none of the winners had ever been recognized with awards of this type.

Six awards of \$20,000 each are divided between a \$10,000 award to the individual--and \$10,000 toward the organization of the choice.

over over over

The Shalan Foundation Farewell Awards recognize:

- Luis Magaña and Don Villarejo of the California Institute for Rural Studies, (CIRS) which organizes communities of farm workers in California's San Joaquin Valley neglected by other organizing groups. Villarejo is the founder and Executive Director of CIRS, and is known for developing research guidelines for community organizers and making links between the research community and farmworker organizers. Magaña worked as a field laborer for sixteen years before becoming an organizer for farmworker rights. Currently, he is the director of CIRS' project, the Organización de Trabajadores Agrícolas de California (OTAC), shaped and organized by workers to improve worker conditions and to answer the immediate legal, educational, and social needs of agricultural employees.
- Amanda Hawes of the Santa Clara Center for Occupational Safety and Health (SCCH) which fights against deadly chemical hazards faced by a workforce largely comprised of young immigrant women with limited English skills from the high tech electronic industries of Silicon Valley in Mexican border communities. Hawes trains workers to protect themselves from harmful chemicals and from abuses by employers.
- Frank Sanchez of the Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project. A long-time organizer in the Southwest, Sanchez was the lead plaintiff in a landmark Voting Rights Act lawsuit that ended racial gerrymandering in New Mexico voting districts and changed the face of political representation from local school boards to the state legislature.
- Eric Mann of the Labor/Community Strategy Center developed new organizing and advocacy strategies that successfully challenged the compromise of Southern California air quality laws and a potentially harmful proposal in the California legislature which would have gutted state environmental laws governing the petrochemical industry.
- Ellen Terinty of the Center for Ethics and Economic Policy which trains a multicultural force of trainers who train organizers. Terinty is known for her organizing in communities where plant closures have devastated the local economy. She founded the Center for Ethics and Economic Policy in 1991, where she established training sessions based on a concept of economic education as an empowering method to perfect effective negotiating skills for organizers.
- Pat Sweeney of the Western Organization of Resource Councils which organizes western rural communities for the protection of their natural resources and the promotion of social justice. Sweeney has directed successful campaigns which have reversed the disastrous U.S. synthetic fuels program, reformed federal coal management and strip-mine policies, and won new rights for family farm borrowers in several states.

and*and*and