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Future Search Network 2002: A Report to Our Members

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Dear Colleagues:

This is our first report in two years. Our fiscal year ends June 30. We'll give you a three year detailed report in a fall issue of FutureSearching. Now we want to catch you up on important developments in FSN and highlights of our activity.

In 2001-2002 our operating budget was about \$120,000. We continue among the highest-leveraged social change entities in the world.

Where the Money Comes From

1. Membership averages about 375, providing \$46,000, about 38% of the total.
2. Book royalties and public workshop profits cover about 15% of our budget.
3. The balance (47%) comes from referral fees, gifts and Alliance contributions and foundations. We received two \$25,000 foundation grants in the last two years.
4. There is now a matching grant for \$25,000 available to us for which members have so far contributed about \$7500. **This money disappears at the end of 2002 if we do not match it.**
5. Our funds balance, which got to near zero at the end of Year Five, stood at \$46,000 on March 31, 2002. That amount will be increased several fold as a result of our recent project in Southwestern Michigan. This will assure our financial stability into 2004.

Two years ago we were running on a shoestring. Today the strings are getting longer.

Where the Money Goes

1. **Website** - Our major investment continues to be the web site (www.futuresearch.net). It is been revamped on both the public and member side and is well on the way to being among the best anywhere. The web site is intended, like everything we do, to stimulate more future searches around the world. To this end, Kenoli Oleari has taken on the task of keeping the content fresh with new stories and applications. The new member site is easy to use, enabling direct entry of future searches and ripple data by any member from anywhere in the world. You also can put in your own biography and photograph.

Member Action Needed: Log on and enter your own conferences now. If you forgot or never knew your password to the members' side, email Sally at fsn@futuresearch.net. Check your personal data to make sure it's correct. You can correct or update your personal listing any time. Add your photo. And please update your future searches. Put in everything you have done that has not been entered.

2. *FutureSearching*, under Larry Porter's editorship, continues to be our major means of learning, refining our practice, and raising our sights. Larry puts out three big issues a year, relying entirely on member input. The Newsletter is a chance for members to describe experiences, raise questions, and indeed write whatever we wish to further our mission of making a better world through service, collegueship and learning.

Member Action Needed: Send a news item, article, or other item to the Newsletter now. Since September 11 there has been a drop-off in member writing. More than ever we need to hear from each other,

3. We have greatly increased our workshop financial aid, enabling about 50 people from the non-profit world and from third world countries to attend training in the last three years. All those receiving financial aid are now asked to do a small follow-up project that produces more ripple research data and contributes to their own knowledge of future search.
4. In addition to the website, FSN has created three part-time jobs to further our mission. One is marketing of future searches, training and membership; a second is managing the Ripple Research Project; a third is helping new members with mentoring and following up future searches, past workshop participants and inquiries that will contribute to Network marketing, ripple research, web site and newsletter.

Some 2001-02 Network Highlights from Around the World (a few of hundreds)

Africa

In 2001 we received a second contract from the Packard Foundation of San Jose, CA, to provide consultation and staffing for a major population future search in Ethiopia, managed by Susan Dupre. We will do a training workshop in South Africa when funds become available. The interest in future search there is strong, with John Goss taking the lead in Johannesburg to build support. Several members are working on AIDS-related projects.

Canada

Ottawa-Carleton School District future search was led by Claudia Chowanec and Ray Gordezky included a Toronto superintendent who has since sponsored a training and district-wide future search, a major ripple. One further outcome was another future search in Montreal at the Lester B. Pearson district. Kim Martens and Ray Gordezky managed the latter two.

Sweden

Bengt Lindstrom and Kenneth Ander are sponsoring a workshop this September. They have built a large FSNetwork in Sweden and many more future searches are being run. We also will do our first public facilitation workshop in Sweden in September 2002, organized by Hakan Behrendtz.

Germany

Matthias Zur-Bonsen and Erich Kolenaty collaborated on future search training in Austria and facilitation training in Germany, two workshops we put on in September 2001. AS a result we have several new network members. They are now planning further training for non-profits to build local networks in German-speaking Europe.

Indonesia

In July 2001 with two weeks notice we got together a team of three (Kenoli Oleari, Kim Martens, Rita Schweitz) to go to Jakarta where they trained 40 local facilitators and then accompanied some of them to run local future searches in rural communities.

Ireland

Several future searches have been run in Northern Ireland, some involving Ruth McCambridge and Sandra. We did a training involving people from both sides of the border in future search in March 2001. Sustainable Northern Ireland, one sponsor, has since run several future searches.

Russia

Marina Tyasto and Elena Marchuk, who learned future search in Germany two years ago, have run about a dozen future searches in Siberia, many of them reported on our web site.

Future Search Leads

We are still averaging about one request a week for help in arranging pro bono or low cost future searches. These are referred to local members nearest to the potential sponsor. In 2000-2002 leads went to members in Vermont, New York, California, Washington (D.C.), Washington State, Massachusetts, Ontario, Quebec, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Indiana, New Hampshire, Maine, Utah, Ohio, Colorado, Wisconsin, Oregon, New Brunswick, Minnesota, Paris (France), Florida, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, and Columbia, S.A.

Alliance

About 20 Alliance members met in December 2001. They are working on a series of sector-specific brochures. They also have recommended that the whole Network adapt the Alliance structure for supporting ourselves, a proposal that was put before the membership for the first time in the May 2002 Learning Exchange. We are taking this issue up with the whole membership. One option is to have everyone who earns money doing future searches agree to give FSN 5% as a condition of membership. Another option is to drop the 5% in favor of a voluntary contributions at the discretion of each member. In either case, paid leads (as always) go to those who have demonstrated experience and client references, who agree to mentor others and to return 15% to FSN. If you have thoughts, please let us know.

Southwestern Michigan

In the largest FSN project to date, we put together 8 teams of four (two facilitators, two interns for documentation and logistics) who put on 8 future searches for the Council of World Class Communities in Southwestern Michigan—in health care, faith, education, business, economic development, government, community outreach, and an umbrella fs for the executive leadership. We learned a great deal about collaborating on behalf of the client in a difficult local situation. Stay tuned for many ripples.

Web Site

Kenoli Oleari (kenoli@igc.apc.org) has accepted the part-time job of web content coordinator or chief knowledge officer or vice president for organizational learning or whatever he wishes to call himself. His job is to keep the content fresh, current, and growing so that people will always find new information on our web site, both on the public and members' side. We have the unique position of creating new stories daily.

In Appreciation . . .

As we finish our ninth year, we pause again to appreciate our fellow members whose commitment to service, collegueship, and learning in pursuit of a better world have kept us going so many years, and to the hundreds of future search sponsors, who continue to validate future search with innovative applications in every area of society on every continent. We are grateful to you all for the chance to do such fulfilling work with such inspiring and inspired colleagues and friends around the world.

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