



The Leadership Funds

Claire Nuer, the founder of Learning as Leadership, always dreamed of creating a foundation fostering the principals she lived for, including mutual respect, tolerance, dialogue and personal responsibility. To honor her and her vision, her children, Lara and Noah, her husband, Sam Cohen, her staff and her friends created the Nuer Foundation in 1999.

Our goal with this fund is to help financially disadvantaged leaders, who are committed to making a difference in their community. We want to teach them to recognize and overcome their own barriers, and strengthen their passion to contribute. In the next pages, you will discover several such individuals we have supported.

Your contributions* to the Nuer Foundation will help us continue to support these leaders and create the Nuer Prize. In parallel, Learning as Leadership will match in services the financial donations to the Nuer Foundation**.

* Donations to the Nuer Foundation are tax deductible.

** To limit of the Fund. Donations need to be specifically labeled for a fund.

*“I am determined to continue
opening the door to impossible dialogues,
acting with all my strength for a more humane
context between families, between races, between countries.”*

Claire Nuer, 1994

2002 Summer Fund

During the 2002 Personal Mastery workshop, Bill Hayward, CEO of Hayward Lumber Company, shared his intention of making Learning as Leadership work more accessible. His vision was to support economically disadvantaged people in leadership positions who are trying to make a difference in their communities. Bill - a man of action - initiated a fund-raising effort to sponsor one such leader (or future leader) from a rural or inner-city context, domestic or abroad, through our 4-Mastery One-Year Leadership Development Program. He promised to match up to \$7,500 in donations from his fellow participants. This created a momentum and led dozens of participants to donate over \$18,000. Thus was born the "Summer Fund," under the umbrella of the Nuer Foundation.

The **2002 Summer Fund award** was given to Bobbi Owens for her compassion and relentless dedication to help her community. This allows her to attend the 2003-2004 Learning as Leadership 4-Mastery program.



Bobbi Owens

As the Executive Director of the Mini 12 Step House, Inc., Bobby works to provide critical alcohol and drug rehabilitation services for women and their families suffering from addictive disorders along with a combination of other issues such as: homelessness, mental illness, domestic violence and economic depression. Since 1971, Mini 12 Step House has grown. There are now multiple programs in four locations in urban South Central Los Angeles providing a full continuum of care ranging from assessment to family reunification and economic stability. The agency's mission is to provide a decent, safe and comfortable environment for inner city families in need of quality recovery and treatment services.

Bobbi has been with the agency since 1987 and has been responsible for tripling the budget, turning the agency from high risk to competitive as well as gaining national, statewide and local media attention and credibility. Keeping the organization ahead of the curve has become increasingly difficult. Competition is greater, and all funding streams have become harder to tap into because there are fewer dollars available. Consequently, she feels the need to bring the agency to its next level.

Her interest in obtaining the skills, training and insight available through LaL goes beyond the agency to the many community groups she is involved in. Like Mini 12 Step House, they are struggling to find answers to complex problems involving youth, crime, politics and economic disparity. To this end, Bobbi is especially grateful to be participating in the 4-Mastery program. Bobbi's goals extend beyond improving her life and her agency - she also wants to find ways to spread some of the Learning as Leadership tools into her community. The outcome will impact communities that LaL may not ordinarily have access to.



Contributors to the 2002 Summer Fund

\$7,500

Bill Hayward

\$6,000

Geri Herbert

\$1,000

Hal & Margaret Holmes - John Hiss

\$500 and above

Alexandra Ayer - James Davis - Lynn Duncan - Harold Stowe - Nancy York - Andrew Aberdale

\$200 and above

Janet Wood - Sylvana Stratton - Nancy Mihlon - John Lake - Kate Churchill - Haleh Abbassi

\$100 and above

Elizabeth Holmes - Beth Benjamin - Michael Pearson - Erica Bryant - Charles Harris - Bruce Johnson - Daniel Rueda - Barry Streusand - "The French Contingent"

Under \$100

Sarah Cane - Debbie Hiss - Jo Wollschlaeger - Lisa Hirsh - Anthony Gifford - Larry Foster - Craig Forbes - Carrie Everitt - Theresa Monroe - Julia Marie Rinaldi - Jennifer Rouse - Diana Sanchez

I sraeli-Palestinian Cohabitation



Shireen Najjar gave a guest talk to the participants in the July 2002 Personal Mastery workshop about her experiences growing up and living in the Jewish/Palestinian cooperative village of *Neve Shalom - Wahat al-Salam* (“Oasis of Peace”). For more than twenty years, this village has been a prototype of cohabitation in the middle-east. It is still one of the only communities in Israel where Israeli Jews and Palestinian Muslim citizens have chosen to live, work and educate their children together. Through their shared commitment to teach, share and celebrate both cultures simultaneously, they develop a real understanding of each other as human beings. Consequently, difficult news (like Palestinian suicide bombings or Israeli retaliation actions) may result in tense and painful conversations, but never in a severance of communication, nor in a “demonization” of the other side. Shireen’s talk inspired **LaL participant Lexa Ayer** to sponsor an Israeli and a Palestinian to attend a workshop together.

Lexa’s vision was realized when Shireen was joined by **Kifah Massarwi** in the July 2003 Personal Mastery workshop. Kifa is a Palestinian-Israeli woman and peace builder through education and social outreach in the community of Baqa El Gharbiya. She came to deepen her ability to facilitate intercultural dialogues between Jews and Palestinians. Shireen and Kifa were joined by **Netta Eshel**, who was sponsored by Learning as Leadership. Netta is an Israeli mother, whose son is in the Israeli army. Netta facilitates peace dialogues between Israelis and Palestinians in Israel.

Shireen, Kifah & Netta’s experiences offered an inside perspective on the struggles in the Middle East as well as a ray of hope about the conflict.

Uganda Literacy Project



Ronald Musoke

Ronald met Lara and Claire Nuer at a young leader's conference in Europe. Twenty-three years old at the time, Ronald came from Uganda with a goal to combat illiteracy in his home country. He wanted to participate in a Personal Mastery workshop, and so we set out to support him with a scholarship to the program. After his participation, he stayed on to continue the 4-Mastery Program and to create the Ugandan Literacy Project. With the help of LaL, the Nuer Foundation, and the Associated Students of the College of Marin (ASCOM), he collected more than 26,000 used books, which were shipped to Uganda in exchange for tuition to educate 34 young orphan women, who couldn't afford to pay school fees.



Another LaL client, Fairchild Semiconductor, generously paid the shipping fees for the books to be sent to Africa. Ronald, who lost both his parents to AIDS, leaving him and his 32 brothers and sisters orphans, saw a link between illiteracy and the spread of AIDS. He says, "My goal is to do whatever I can to make a difference, especially for the countless orphans who have lost almost an entire generation to this disease." Ronald also points out the links between illiteracy, poverty and the civil wars that have ravaged his country. Ronald's project garnered attention from CNN, Africa Journal, the San Francisco Chronicle and Marin Independent Journal.

This project is now being run by the Ugandan Children's Fund.

Support our efforts with a donation:

The Nuer Foundation is a 501(c)3. All donations are tax deductible

Last Name:

First Name:

Address:

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Tel: Fax:

E-mail:

Amount: \$

*Checks are payable to the Nuer Foundation.
For any other type of contribution, please contact us.*





Our Mission

To Empower People, Projects and Communities
to Make a Difference for the Future of Humanity

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