Supporters Speak About Bread and Roses

There is a broad base of donors and supporters who continue to give time and money over the years to insure the effectiveness of Bread and Roses in its efforts to fund social change in the Philadelphia area. We contacted several Bread and Roses donors who talked about the reasons for their support.

"I am a donor to Bread and Roses for many reasons; one being the critical need for support for peace and justice work in the U.S. Of the billions of dollars given away by foundations and corporations, only a small fraction of these monies are available to the kinds of organizations funded by Bread and Roses."

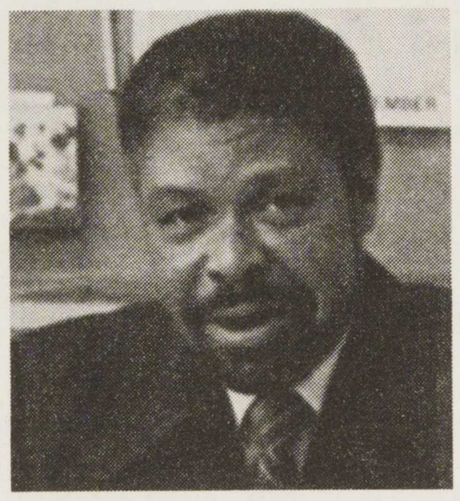
Zoharah Simmons, fundraiser American Friends Service Committee

"By pooling monies received, Bread and Roses is able to reach a broad spectrum of social change groups. These groups need the funds to survive. Bread and Roses helps them to do so."

Miriam Crawford, librarian and archivist, Temple University

"These groups are working to achieve a more just society. Without these funds, many of these organizations could not survive." *Benjamin Axelroad, Chaplin, Episcopal Hospital*

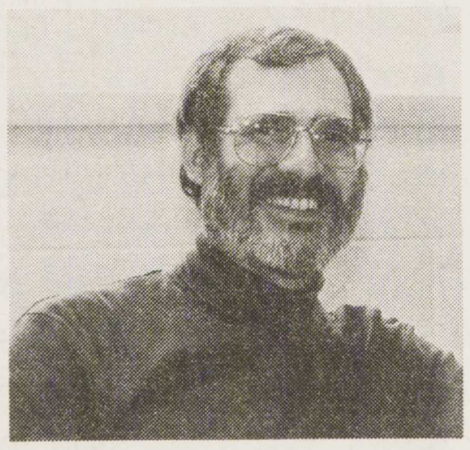
"The grantees Bread and Roses supports are much like you and I. They are people who care enough and who take the time to be concerned about the world around them." *Christie Clarke, registered nurse and student at the University of Pennsylvania*



Photos by Terry Foss, and Ron Ardron

"Bread and Roses Community Fund has been extremely sensitive to the needs of community organizations. In August, 1983, the Fund provided a grant to assist the efforts of the 20th Anniversary Mobilization of the March on Washington when help was desperately needed. I think Bread and Roses is an excellent organization."

Kelley E. Miller, Social Services Program Analyst Dept. of Human Services, City of Philadelphia



"Bread and Roses funds groups that address injustices at a more structural level in our society."

Evan Seymour, teacher Community College of Philadelphia

"I have nothing but the greatest respect for the creativity and wisdom of Bread and Roses." *Mamie Nichols, President Point Breeze Federation*

Bread and Roses' supporters are special people who in many ways give much to the community. Their confidence in Bread and Roses is encouraging.

**Workplaces and organizations are listed for identification only.*

I Gave at the Office

Richard Baron has been a consultant in the human services field for 15 years, specializing in the design of community programs for the disabled and disadvantaged. He has served on the Board of Directors of Bread and Roses for six years.

Each year I ask myself how I might make the best use of my time and energies — I have asked myself whether I really ought to keep giving to Bread and Roses. The issue is whether the little bit of time and money I am able to contribute wouldn't be better spent on myself, or my career, or family, or my own favorite cause. Once again this year I've discovered that Bread and Roses is my favorite cause, and I have renewed my commitment to give again.

The aspects of Bread and Roses that command my allegiance vary from year to year. Initially, I think I gave to avoid the difficulty of making hard choices among the many groups I wanted to support, groups focusing on inequalities of race and sex, groups concerned with our nation's policies abroad and at home. The following year, particularly as Bread and Roses sought to improve its review and evaluation of the organizations it funds setting higher standards and giving larger grants to more effective groups, I decided that what made Bread and Roses so vital was its commitment to keep alive a tradition of struggle of which I wanted to be apart. It was one of those times when, struggling to keep my own ideals alive, I found support from Bread and Roses, rather than the other way around.

Last year, I decided that what kept me coming back was the knowledge that Bread and Roses' grantees would find a way to address those very issues that human service professionals, like myself, face daily in their work. As the nation began to beat a hasty retreat from its halting support of equality and opportunity, those in the social services were asked to essentially determine who among the deprived were truly desperate — and to serve only them, and to serve them only in limited ways. I felt that it was Bread and Roses' grantees that again and again raised the more fundamental questions of misplaced national priorities.

Musing about the recent turn of events, I stumbled over the thought that I feel like a "dissident". Dictionary definitions aside, I feel for the moment as though the tide may be turning against me, and I know precious little except that I believe I must struggle against that tide.

Bread and Roses is, for me, a central part of that struggle. It is a way to act, to do something in support of the people and issues that are important to me. I continue to give time and money to Bread and Roses because its speaks so eloquently to my concerns — doing so in a manner of daring and compassion. ■

Photos by Paul Choitz