

1980s, CTWO graduated 230 people from its summer-long MAAP program, and turned them into committed organizers and activists.

Conteh Davis is a graduate of MAAP. He read about the program in a newspaper in Colorado while working as an apprentice in the construction trades. MAAP not only gave him intensive hands-on training and experience in community organizing, but opened up his world to new possibilities and opportunities in working for social change. He is now a full time organizer at DARE (Direct Action for Rights and Equality) in Providence, Rhode Island, and feels privileged to get paid for work that he loves.

We at CTWO believe that leadership already exists in most communities. We don't send in outside "experts", but help people to learn new skills, and provide an opportunity for people to get together around common problems. In this way, local leadership is strengthened, and becomes more effective in fighting for the rights of the community.

Kalon Wofford and Anthony Willis are African-Americans who fish in the San Francisco Bay, and like many other fisherpeople in the Bay Area, eat what they catch. Becoming increasingly concerned about the health hazards of eating fish from the bay because of toxic dumping, they joined a fledgling organization, Southbay Anglers for Environmental Rights (SAFER). They were active in SAFER's first campaign - to get the Health Department to investigate the risks of eating fish from the bay, and to post multi-lingual warning signs on the piers so that the fisherpeople, the majority of whom are immigrants and people of color, can understand the dangers. They recently attended a CTWO organizers training program where they learned new skills and strategies to build their organization.

Women are 70% of the leadership of community organizations. But this has not always meant that community organizations are responsive to the needs of women. The multiple demands on women's lives - from working full-time, underpaid jobs to take care of children and/or aging parents to running a household - are not adequately addressed by most organizations.

CTWO recognized the need for women organizers to get together, talk about common concerns and develop a community agenda that keeps women's needs and issues central to the discussion of social change. Every other year, we hold a national gathering for women organizers. At our most recent conference in 1993, Young Shin of Asian Immigrant Women Advocates inspired everyone to join in an action to further their campaign, Justice for Garment Workers, which is fighting a major fashion manufacturer for back wages and decent work conditions.