

FEX Creates Rapid Response Fund

When pro-union activists took over the Wisconsin state capitol in February, Funding Exchange received calls from several longstanding donor activists who wanted to support the protesters, but weren't sure where to turn. We immediately reached out to our network of progressive, grassroots activists who just as quickly responded with a list of the most effective groups organizing in Madison.

Next, the earthquake and tsunami hit Japan.

And the same question arose. Now we have established a Rapid Response Fund that will collect funds and be ready for emergency needs, whether it's a political crisis, emergency organizing need or natural disaster.

New Staff

The Funding Exchange has hired Lucretia John to be its new program officer and Nancy Solomon as its new director of strategic communications.

Lucretia is a community organizer who has been involved in several grassroots organizations working to ending racial, social and economic injustice. Nancy is a journalist who has worked in public radio for 15 years. Stay tuned for news about more new staff we'll be hiring soon.

New Grant Program: Collaborative. Bold. Innovative.

Funding Exchange has re-visioned its grant making! In 2011, grants will go to organizations that meet one of three new strategic priorities: working across issues and geography, building a national movement and expanding into parts of the country where progressive funding is very limited yet support for grassroots is critical.

Check out **FEX.ORG** for more information.

FEX.ORG Gets a New Look

Same address. Different look. More content. We will soon be unveiling a new website with more resources, more storytelling and a clean, contemporary look. Come visit us in May! And don't forget to look for Funding Exchange on Facebook and Twitter

Skills Conference

Save the Date: Our annual Skills Conference will be held Sept 14-16 in Tucson, Arizona. Practitioners, activists and donors will meet in our annual meetup to share skills and tools for building-effective community based organizations. Stay tuned for more details.