

# Susan Bax Fund Update

Reprinted from *Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas newsletter*

**D**URING THE PAST YEAR, ten women from the Americas received assistance for travel in the ministry from Friends World Committee for Consultation's Susan Bax Fund.

Projects included planning women's spirituality conferences, leading workshops in Bolivia, and researching the feasibility of a women's quilting ministry in Burundi.

after David's visit, the idea of providing the same kind of spiritual strength and comfort to trauma victims in Burundi developed. "Just as the making of the quilts has blessed and enriched the lives of quilt makers here, perhaps the making of quilts could offer the same blessing and enriching of the lives of quilt makers in Burundi—a double blessing" says Patty. After further prayer, discernment and consultation with David Niyonzima, Patty and Carolann decided to pursue this leading, and applied to the Susan Bax Fund.

In early January of this year, the two women arrived in Burundi. They met with local Friends and learned that there is great interest in starting a similar project there, utilizing locally available materials and resources. They also visited Congo and Kenya. Patty envisions the quilting groups this way: "The members of the women's support group work together to produce a quilt which would be given to a new coming member of the group. As the new members are integrated into the group, they learn to quilt also, and work on quilts to be given to the next women to join." As a result of this leading, Patty Federighi has been released from her duties as staff at North Seattle Friends Church to pursue funding to facilitate the next step of the Burundi quilting project: training sessions for the first group of Burundian women. 🐾

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## handmade quilts as a source of spiritual strength and healing for bone marrow transplant patients

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The award to Patty Federighi and Carolann Palmer of Northwest YM of Friends Church exemplifies the kind of work the Susan Bax Fund supports. Patty is the director of the Stone Soup Quilting Ministry in Seattle, WA, which provides handmade quilts as a source of spiritual strength and healing for bone marrow transplant patients. At an FWCC Northwest Regional Gathering in 2005, they heard David Niyonzima of Burundi YM speak of efforts to work towards healing and forgiveness in his country. Part of the work includes providing safe houses and women's support groups for victims of rape.

While gathered for prayer not long

**The Susan Bax Fund** provides travel funds to support women in the Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas, who are led to travel in the ministry.

A portion of the fund also enables women who are representatives from their yearly meetings to travel to the Section's annual meeting, with particular attention to helping women under the age of forty. The fund was established from a legacy gift to Friends World Committee for Consultation by Susan Bax, a member of Canadian Yearly Meeting.

For the application guidelines, please go to [www.fwccamericas.org/about\\_us/schol\\_grants.shtml](http://www.fwccamericas.org/about_us/schol_grants.shtml) or contact the FWCC office.

*Editor's note: Susan Bax was a beloved member of Toronto Monthly Meeting. Her fund also helped to pay for Margaret Slavin's recent travels in the ministry across Canadian Yearly Meeting.*