

5 December, 2005

Dear Friends and Family-

Last October, I was chosen as an intern with the Grassroots Institute for Fundraising Training (GIFT). Through trainings, technical assistance, and individual consultation I have been given resources to develop transferable skills and articulate a political framework around fundraising and social justice. Before GIFT I didn't think about fundraising much, and defiantly not as a political activity. Today, I am excited about pursuing development and fundraising work as a career and thankful for the focus this internship has given me in creating that goal. That is why I am asking you to make a contribution to the GIFT internship program.

The GIFT internship entails two major training sessions, raising funds for GIFT, and being placed at a nonprofit organization to work in their fundraising program for six months. Since the beginning of the internship in September, I have organized a fundraising house party, overseen a direct mail fundraising appeal, coordinated several meetings to plan an annual dinner, and conducted individual donor asks. As you can imagine, I am gaining valuable experience and skills that will assist me for the rest of my career. I have lots of plans for the rest of my time with GIFT and am excited to carry them out. I am truly lucky to have been chosen for this position!

In addition to the work I am doing in my internship, I have used my recently acquired expertise to support other projects and programs I am involved in with their funding efforts. I organized two benefit events last month; one for a community film project and another for local organizations that support the needs of the Denver Indigenous Community. I am also working with other GIFT interns on raising funds for a high school mariachi group to attend a convention next summer, working with a community bicycle program, and assisting a local filmmaker with researching and writing grant proposals. I am proud of my ability to volunteer in this capacity and give back to my community!

I hope that we can keep in touch and stay updated with each others' affairs. I can be reached by phone at 303.830.2401 and my mailing address is P.O. Box 181204, Denver, CO 80218. I am also enclosing a copy of GIFT's latest newsletter for your information. Thank you in advance for your tax-deductible donation.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ceema Samimi

P.S. As the holidays approach, our society is pressured to consume and spend money on material goods. This year, I am asking that you consider adding a donation to GIFT to your shopping list. Any amount that is significant to you is appreciated.