

**SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE****Beth Bolin and Samuel Baraki****January 31, 2009**

The Committee on Self-Development of People was re-certified for two years in December 2008. Wayne Gnatuk, SDOP Associate for Church-Wide Relations in Louisville, conducted the training and re-certification.

In December, the SDOP committee reviewed applications and voted to award two grants:

\$4,000 to “Home Cleaning Professionals—An Immigrant Women’s Cooperative.” This is a worker-owned cooperative that aims to better the quality of life of Latina immigrants and their families through dignifying cleaning jobs with just wages. The program has two components: house cleaning jobs in the Asheville area and training as business women.

\$9,000 “Opportunity Threads.” This is a Hispanic sewing cooperative in the Morganton area. They take the discarded, irregular clothing from an organic company to make a line of organic stuffed animals. Currently, they are making monkeys from multi-colored socks and penguins from irregular pants.

More interest has been expressed among local groups for certification from the National Committee on Self-Development of People. A representative from the local committee has helped make site visits for these groups. An exciting development has been the funding of the Burnsville Land Community and the Women’s Group in Spruce Pine.

We thank you for your support. We urge you to remember us during Self-Development of People Sunday on March 1, 2009. We look forward to a new year under new leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Bolin  
Outgoing Co-Chairperson