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## NGO Update

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## NGO UPDATE

*To foster communication among human rights organizations around the world, each issue of the Human Rights Brief features an "NGO Update." This space was created to aid non-governmental organizations (NGOs) by informing others about their programs, successes, and challenges.*

### THE INSTITUTE FOR ONEWORLD HEALTH

[www.oneworldhealth.org](http://www.oneworldhealth.org)

The Institute for OneWorld Health is a nonprofit pharmaceutical company whose mission is to develop safe, effective, and affordable new medicines for people with infectious diseases in the developing world. Access to doctors and medicine and the right to affordable health care have been evolving principles of human rights since the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. With the recent explosion of the pharmaceutical industry in the developed world, the prevailing model of medicine is a business model driven by profit. OneWorld Health is challenging this by establishing a nonprofit model of drug development driven by the neglected health needs of people in the developing world.

Dr. Victoria G. Hale founded OneWorld Health in July 2000 in San Francisco, California in an effort to address the gap in human need, scientific effort, and the marketplace. OneWorld Health has five general roles: identifying potential new medicines for diseases affecting developing countries; assessing the safety and effectiveness of investigational medicines; honoring international ethical standards for research; establishing collaborations with partners to manufacture and distribute new medicines; and ensuring that medicines will be affordable and available for distribution.

OneWorld Health is the first nonprofit pharmaceutical company in the United States. The NGO tests the prevailing business model of pharmaceutical research and development by partnering with the industry sector and researchers. In an effort to decrease costs of production, OneWorld secures donated intellectual property and utilizes the scientific and manufacturing capacity of the

developing world in order to deliver affordable and effective medicine where these resources are needed most.

On September 19, 2006, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation named Dr. Hale a 2006 MacArthur Fellow. MacArthur Fellowships are awarded to individuals who have developed original and creative ideas through which they can potentially make significant contributions to the world. The MacArthur Foundation through an unsolicited, meticulous review process chooses 20 to 25 Fellows each year. Each Fellow receives an unrestricted grant of \$500,000 distributed over the course of five years. The MacArthur Foundation recognized Dr. Hale as a Pharmaceutical Entrepreneur for her creation of OneWorld Health and her significant contribution to medicine in developing countries. In addition to being named a MacArthur Fellow, Dr. Hale has also been selected as a 2006 Ashoka Senior Fellow for leading work in social innovation, as well as being selected Esquire Magazine's Executive of the Year in 2005. The MacArthur Fellowship came only days after OneWorld Health achieved international attention for the approval of one of its most recent research projects. On September 8, 2006 the Drug Controller General of India approved Paromomycin Intramuscular Injection for the treatment of Visceral Leishmaniasis (VL). VL is the second most deadly parasitic disease in the world following malaria. The treatment for VL was approved less than three months after OneWorld Health submitted the drug's application.

In the last decade the relationship between the pharmaceutical industry and the developing world has gained significant international attention, most of which has been negative. Dr. Hale and OneWorld Health illustrate a significant shift in the way people view the pharmaceutical industry. If a nonprofit business model can successfully deliver current and future medicine and medical technology to the developing world, the potential impact is immense. As scientists continue to develop new medicines, OneWorld Health represents a possible future that is hopeful for human rights and the millions of people in need in the developing world.

### THE AMY BIEHL FOUNDATION

[www.amybiehl.org](http://www.amybiehl.org)

Unlike many human rights NGOs, the Amy Biehl Foundation grew out of a personal tragedy. In 1993, Amy Biehl, a dynamic, intelligent, and compassionate human rights advocate and student was working in South Africa when she was viciously murdered by an angry mob in the Guguletu Township. Amy's parents, Linda and Peter Biehl, faced the challenge of addressing the tragedy of Amy's death. Linda remembers that she and her husband wanted to respond positively and express their love and support for their daughter and her work. In the wake of Amy's death, the Biehls were invited to South Africa and ultimately asked to be part of Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). What started as love and support for their daughter quickly grew into love and support for South Africa.

A major theme of Amy Biehl's work, and that behind the TRC, was restorative justice. Restorative justice focuses on repairing the harm done by crime and rebuilding the impacted communities. In consideration of this, The Biehls supported the granting of amnesty for the men that murdered Amy. Two of the young men granted amnesty later worked as employees of the Amy Biehl Foundation Trust, helping deliver loaves of "Amy's Bread: The Bread of Hope and Peace."

In 1997, in support of South Africa's post-apartheid advances, the Biehls founded the Amy Biehl Foundation Trust (ABFT), a nonprofit organization in South Africa, and the Amy Biehl Foundation (ABF), a nonprofit organization in the United States. The ABFT is a grassroots, community based organization in South Africa that provides students with the preparation to pursue higher education or to acquire marketable skills. The ABFT leads and supports community-based programs that cover a wide variety of social issues, including education, micro enterprise development, health and safety, and the environment. A sampling of ABFT programs includes: teaching first-aid classes in South African prisons; educating the public about HIV and AIDS; supporting music and theatre outreach projects; and developing a series of after-school care programs.

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The ABF is an American NGO that was created primarily to serve as a fundraising mechanism for the ABFT. However, the ABF has also become an active restorative justice program. Each year Linda Biehl and colleagues travel the United States, sharing stories and teaching youth about restorative justice. The ABF also supports interns both in the United States and in South Africa. Linda Biehl views ABF's work as facilitating restorative justice and educating America's youth. The ABF works to teach American students

the value of other cultures and listening skills. Through the ABF and the ABFT, Amy Biehl's legacy continues. As South Africa continues to emerge as a new democracy, the NGOs create a setting for students in the U.S. and South Africa to learn about restorative justice and appreciate the lessons of other cultures. *HRB*

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