



# From the Field

by Jay Keller, National Field Director

## Population Connection's Activist Training

Population Connection activist training sessions include the latest updates from Capitol Hill, tips on improving your presentation and advocacy skills, and question-and-answers. Our largest training event, the annual Capitol Hill Days, is held each March in Washington, D.C., and attracts more than 100 participants.



Seattle area activist Joy Livingstone talks about her experiences tabling on behalf of Population Connection. Photo: Jay Keller

Population Connection also holds regional activist trainings, often with other population and environment groups. We recently worked with National Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club, Georgia Population & Sustainability

Coalition, Planned Parenthood, Population Action International, and Isaac Walton League on activist trainings across the country.

## Some of Our Recent Activities

Alcovy, Georgia. On May 18 Population Connection's Jay Keller and Kathy Buek joined Caron Whitaker from National Wildlife Federation for the 4th Annual Georgia Population and Sustainability Coalition activist training. Twenty-six activists from across the state attended discussions on local, national and international population issues, population education demonstrations, and strategy planning.

Vancouver, Washington. A training on "Population and the Environment: Women, Families, Our Future" drew Population Connection and Sierra Club members from the Greater Portland, Oregon area. Sierra

Club's Annette Souder and Population Connection's Jay Keller updated attendees on UNFPA and the Global Gag Rule and gave tips on effective presentations on population. Local activists Ramona Rex and Bianca Benson provided crucial logistics for the Portland and Vancouver events.

Portland, Oregon. Population Connection President Peter H. Kostmayer spoke to more than 50 local activists at Portland State University on May 21. In a stirring speech, Peter stressed the need for more citizen involvement and support for international family planning in the upcoming elections.

Chicago, Illinois. Population Connection's Kathy Buek led a daylong activist training session for District Activist Network Members. The day focused on how we can

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apply more pressure at the local level in support of population policies. The DAN is a national network of volunteer lobbyists in over 250 congressional districts who represent Population Connection on important issues to their legislators, local media and civic groups on a monthly basis. [For more on the DAN, see Kathy Buek's article on page 16.]

Seattle, Washington. Population Connection Washington State activist Joy Livingstone organized the annual activist training in Seattle. With the help of other chapter members, this event has become an annual occasion, gathering activists from across the state. Joy is also the tabling chair for the chapter and has distributed Population Connection information all across the state at local fairs, bringing enthusiasm and a quick smile to the chapter's work.

### Upcoming Conferences and Activities!

October 25 - 26, 2002, Minneapolis, MN. **Choosing Our Future: Population and Our Ecological Footprint.**

The third in a series of population and environment conferences hosted by the Science Museum of Minnesota, **Choosing Our Future** is an opportunity for participants to understand how our lives impact the environment and that the choices we make today can help move us toward a more sustainable future.

October 20 - 26, 2002. **World Population Awareness Week.** Mark your calendars! This year's theme is **Population and the Next Generation: Youth and Adolescents.**

Population Connection has created a special activist's kit for World Population Awareness Week. It's available at no charge in a .pdf format on our website.

Some ideas for WPAW:

- Arrange to speak to a local civic, church, or school group about population pressures and how individuals can make a positive difference.
- Ask your local library to set up a display.
- Purchase a copy of our award winning World Population Video and donate it to a school, a library or show it to your local community group.

What are you doing for World Population Awareness Week? We'd love to hear your ideas!

For more information contact Jay Keller at [jay@populationconnection.org](mailto:jay@populationconnection.org) or call 1-800-767-1956.



Peter H. Kostmayer presents the Gold Star award to Bronwyn Mayden, Executive Director of Campaign For Our Children in Baltimore. Photo: Tim Cline

## Another Successful Launch!

by Erin Riney, Research Assistant

The scenic Inner Harbor in Baltimore, Maryland, hosted the national release of Population Connection's latest addition to the Kid-Friendly Cities Report Card series: 239 Good Ideas from 239 Cities.

At a press conference covered by several print and television reporters, Population Connection staff and President Peter H. Kostmayer unveiled 239 Good Ideas from 239 Cities, which recognizes homegrown, kid-friendly projects from every city in America with a population of 100,000 or more. Through its extensive website, the report provides easy access to a database of ideas and contacts that communities across the U.S. can consult and replicate in order to tackle local problems that affect children. The report also highlights ten projects as Gold Stars—exceptional examples of committed programs in areas such as Education, Health and Family Life, Community Life, and Environment.

Peter H. Kostmayer presented the first-ever Gold Star Award to the Campaign for Our Children, a Baltimore-based educational media campaign organization, which has played a central role in the dramatic decrease in Maryland's teen pregnancy rates. "Just think of this report as a way of using cyberspace to help you help your city," said Peter. He urged everyone to "Log on. Get inspired. Share ideas. Start a new project. And experience how people are making the connection between kids, population and the quality of life where they live, and changing America one idea at a time."

You can find the full report on Population Connection's website, [www.populationconnection.org](http://www.populationconnection.org). If you'd like a hard copy of the report, please call Publications at 1-800-767-1956.

