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SisterSong Mentors Worldwide through MentorNet

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In the beginning, when all founding members conceptualized SisterSong, everyone agreed that in addition to sharing work, creating reproductive health agendas for all, as well as individual communities, they also had to incorporate and integrate capacity building concepts and applications.

There are women of color organizations that don't have a 501-C3, computers and equipment or just have one staff member – but they all have a spirit and passion to do the work. It is difficult to sustain an organization without structure, infrastructure and working systems. So while SisterSong originally addressed capacity building with its original members, the collective is quickly growing and is expanding this issue to members across the country and around the world. In short, SisterSong is dedicated to making sure all members have what they need to do their work. Thus, MentorNet was born.

MentorNet is an exciting and innovative internet-based outreach program, which will be used to build capacity for new and veteran organizations and activists. One of its primary duties is to connect seasoned activists and leaders with emerging activists and leaders. Those who have been in the movement for a long time can use fresh voices, ideas, energy and new technology while those who are new in the movement can use the wisdom and experience, and learn about the working systems and programs already in place from women that have been out there in the forefront for a long time.

MentorNet is the most efficient, economic way to build a formal communication system for individual and organization mentorship through SisterSong's website. The program will have face-to-face training so members are learn how to use it, meet each other in person and continue the relationship through the internet. It will also conduct regular meetings and have guest mentor appearances.

There might be a mentoring workshop on the internet with Byllye Avery or with another extraordinary leader, a specific training offered to the entire MentorNet membership or a workshop on how to use the Foundation Center's resources to increase funding. It will allow organizations the opportunity to build a support network through the SisterSong website.

All SisterSong members are eligible for MentorNet benefits, to become a mentor or to be mentored. MentorNet will debut this fall on SisterSong's website managed by SisterLove Inc.

For more information, visit <http://www.sistersong.net/mentorNet.html>