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THE POWER OF SISTAH-HOOD

Something You Can't Get from a Grant

© Juanita Williams, SisterSong Management Circle
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As an original member of SisterSong, I have seen our Collective go through the birthing pains of creating a collective, to joys, successes, as well as welcoming new life and coping with death. As a woman, mother, grandmother and activist who is HIV+ I know it's a lot to deal with. When you are blessed to be surrounded by a beautifully-quilted fabric of women of all ages, colors, and experiences you've got something special. It's "The Power of Sistah-hood." There's power when you have sistahs banded together on the same accord. Whether we're in communion on our work together or dealing with our own personal issues, we're there for each other.

We are very sincere and dedicated to our work. Not only do we work with our heads, we also work with our hearts. We also respect each other by honoring our feelings. The love and respect I receive gives me the strength to carry on. It's about RESPECT! News flash Sistahs, that's something we are not getting in most grants.

Having a voice with a Collective of sistahs is more rewarding than anything you can get from a grant. The camaraderie and knowledge we gain from each other after business is conducted is more enriching and valuable. Spending time after hours together gives us a chance to shed the numbers and statistics. We connect in a way that saves each other's lives and the lives of our mothers, daughters, sisters and our friends. These things don't come in a grant. Grants are so uniform and generic with their list of criteria and demands that have to be fulfilled in order to get monies. It doesn't consider two real needs that are essential in order to be effective in our work: love and respect.

Grant monies are drying up and are more difficult to obtain than ever. Maybe we need to go back to the way things were when there wasn't any money. Remember the times of grassroots organizing? This was a time when women relied on each other. They financed their own causes and moved mountains by banding together and sharing talents and sistahs did it without writing grants. This is the power of Sistah-hood! Don't get me wrong; I give "Thanks" for grants and grant writers. But with all of the restrictions placed on funding, we need to start collaborating with each other again.

SisterSong is filled with so many beautifully talented experienced sistahs. We are mothers, daughters, sisters, cousins, best friends, homemakers and so much more. Being a part of SisterSong has been a very enriching experience for me. For most of us, I'm sure being a part of SisterSong has been an experience that I would have never gotten from a grant. Keep up the good work sistahs!!!!