

PRESS RELEASE

Through the PLAN Fund, Grameen Foundation program reaches Dallas - PLAN Fund Congratulates Dr Yunus 2006 Nobel Peace Prize

Dallas, TX, October 13, 2006 —The staff and board of the Dallas based PLAN Fund, one of only two Grameen based programs in the US, applaud Dr. Muhammad Yunus on this extraordinary accomplishment, honoring a life dedicated to empowering the world's poorest people through microfinance.

It was Dr. Mohammed Yunus principals and the Grameen Foundation, based in the US, that led to the founding of the PLAN Fund in 1998. Since its inception, the Dallas-based PLAN Fund program has trained over 2,500 people and disbursed some 451 business loans worth a total \$658K. The PLAN Fund program provides a robust combination of business training, business development services and financing that have helped hundreds of low income entrepreneurs start or expand their businesses. The PLAN Fund small business loans, range from \$500 to \$4,000, and the average loan size is \$1,450.

Grameen Foundation remains highly involved in the PLAN Fund's work, by providing various levels of technical assistance and a small percentage of the funding necessary to run its program and loan pool. PLAN Fund board member, Alex Counts, head of Grameen Foundation, commented "I am overjoyed and exhilarated that Dr. Muhammad Yunus and the Grameen Foundation Bank have won the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize. This is a proud moment for the microfinance movement and a powerful affirmation for the millions of poor people around the world."

Our organization is extremely proud to be associated with the exceptional work of Dr. Yunus, states Anthony Pace PLAN Fund Executive Director .

PLAN Fund customers average household is \$28,100 which is 59% of the median USA income level. Seventy one percent of the PLAN Fund's clients are African American, twenty seven percent are Hispanic and seventy two percent are women.

For information on the PLAN Fund contact Anthony Pace at 214-942-6698 or apace@planfund.org. www.planfund.org

Earning Their Way: Nobel laureate helps poor help themselves

Grameen's work reaches Dallas low income entrepreneurs

Sincerest thanks to DMN for your Oct. 17th lead editorial that celebrates the extraordinary accomplishments of 2006 Nobel Peace winner Dr. Muhammad Yunus and his Grameen Bank, who has dedicated his life to empowering the world's poorest people through microfinance.

As one of only two Grameen inspired microfinance programs in the US, the Dallas based PLAN Fund is both extremely proud and at same time humbled to be associated with the exceptional work of Dr. Yunus. Although there are differences in how our programs operate abroad vs locally, all Grameen based programs share a common core principal belief that we do more good for our client entrepreneurs by providing a hand up over a hand out. While the PLAN Fund results may be more modest compared to many of the international microfinance programs, none the less since our inception in 1999 we have helped hundreds of Dallas' low income entrepreneurs start or expand their businesses by training over 2,500 people in entrepreneurship and have disbursed some 451 business loans worth more than \$658,000.

In an era of media obsession for corporate CEO's, global entertainers and budding billionaires, the attention on Dr. Yunus's lifetime work is most welcome as it focuses our attention for even a little bit of time on the successes of those at the lowest rungs of capitalism who too are working their hardest to achieve their American dream of owning ones' business.

Anthony Pace PLAN Fund Executive Director