Letter from the Executive Director

I spend much of my time at National Priorities Project (NPP) buried in a pile of numbers, working with a remarkable team. I surface to forge collaborations with our partners and listen to members of our community. As you might imagine, we get a great deal of feedback from constituents. Many people write to tell us how they’ve used our materials. Others write to tell us their budget story.

One early morning, I received the following email from a high school classmate who found me through Facebook.

“…I hope you can make a difference in this country. I used to write to congress about things, nothing ever changes. If we all write and tell congress and the pres. that this country is a mess, they won’t believe us. My husband has been out of work for 2 1/2 yrs. No one is hiring cause of his age. They tell him that too. Good luck, Jo, from old classmate.”

To this day, I cannot stop thinking about this note. Repeated national polls remind me that most people in our nation don’t realize the impact the federal budget has on their daily lives. They feel like they no longer have a voice; that nothing they do will ever change the social or political tide in our country.

At NPP we hold a vision of an informed and engaged democracy where all people affected by federal spending priorities have the ability and opportunity to participate in shaping our nation’s budget. It’s a vision kindled by our founder, Greg Speeter, who retired in 2010, and whose passion and spirit still keeps us going.

On behalf of NPP’s board and team, I invite you to take a moment to read this annual report and reflect with us on NPP’s impact.

Join us in 2011 for an unprecedented year of growth at a time when all eyes are on our nation’s budget. Look for:

- Rigorous analysis and engaging federal budget tools
- Targeted education and capacity building
- Innovative communication focused on helping NPP reach a greater number and diversity of people

We are optimistic about our continued momentum. With you, we will continue to work for federal budget that reflects the values of our nation’s people.

All best wishes,

Jo Comerford
Executive Director

P.S. Save the date for NPP’s Fall Party Gala
—Sunday, October 2, 2011. Our keynote speaker will be Ellen Miller, founder and Executive Director of the Sunlight Foundation, a national catalyst for government transparency and an ally in NPP’s work to hold our nation’s government accountable.

National Organization Connections

In 2010 NPP more than doubled our number of national organizational connections. In addition to the national organizations listed below (many of which represent networks of organizations), NPP also has strong state and local connections.

- Afghanistan Working Group
- Alliance for Nuclear Accountability
- American Friends Service Committee
- Backbone Campaign (The)
- Brave New Foundation
- Bread for the World
- Budget Priorities Working Group
- Campaign for America’s Future
- Center for American Progress
- Center for Arms Control and Non-proliferation
- Center for Community Change
- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
- Center for Economic Policy Research
- Citizen Engagement Lab
- Citizens for Global Solutions
- Coalition on Human Needs
- Coffee Party (The)

Data Center
- Economic Policy Institute
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Friends Committee on National Legislation
- Grassroots Global Justice Institute for Policy Studies
- Jobs with Justice
- Media Education Foundation
- MoveOn.org
- NAACP
- National Association of Social Workers
- National Council of Churches (The)
- National Council of Women’s Organizations
- National Employment Law Project
- National People’s Action
- National Women’s Law Center
- Network
- Partnership for Working Families
- Peace Action
- Physicians for Social Responsibility
- PICO
- Political Economy Research Institute
- Presbyterian Church (USA)
- Progressive Caucus (The)
- Progressive Democrats of America
- Project on Government Oversight
- Right to the City
- Rock the Vote
- Roosevelt Institute
- Sunlight Labs
- Taxpayers for Common Sense
- True Majority
- U.S. Action
- U.S. Student Association
- Veterans for Peace
- Women’s Action for New Directions
- Women’s Legislative Lobby

Data for Democracy Project Advisors

- Rosa Alicia Clemente, Grassroots organizer, hip-hop activist, and journalist; Bronx, NY
- Anna Galland, MoveOn.org, National Field Director; Madison, WI
- Kazu Haga, Peace Development Fund, Program Coordinator; Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice, Board President; Oakland, CA
- Bakari Kitwana, Journalist and political activist; Cleveland, OH
- Zachary Kolodin, Roosevelt Institute, Director of the Future Preparedness Initiative; Washington, D.C.
- Lindsay McCluskey, United States Student Association, President; Washington, D.C.
- Liz Ryan Murray, National People’s Action, Senior Policy Analyst; Chicago, IL
- Saba Waheed, DataCenter, Research Director; Oakland, CA

NPP offered a workshop with staff from the DataCenter at the U.S. Social Forum in Detroit, MI in April 2010. The workshop was the culmination of a collaboration focused on popularizing NPP’s materials to increase their accessibility, improve our engagement strategies and make NPP’s information more relevant to a greater diversity of people.
NPP Who We Are

NPP Board List
Dennis Bidwell
Bill Breitbart*
Eve Brown-Waite
Peter Greenwald
Doug Hall*
Jim Harper*
Jen Kern
Michael Klare
Paul Kawika Martin
Roz Lemieux*
Miriam Pemberton
Lorna Peterson
Vijay Prashad
Lawrence Wittner
Cate Woolner

NPP gratefully acknowledges the service of board members that rotated off the Board in 2010: Rosa Alicia Clemente, Bakari Kitwana, Stephanie Luce, Bill Strickland, Sue Thrasher and Leah Wise.

NPP Team
Jo Comerford
Samantha Dana**
Kristine Elinevsky
Anders Fremstad**
Chris Hellman
Sara Lockard Silvia
Becky Sweger**
Brendan Smith
Ann Werboff**

NPP gratefully acknowledges the service of staff members that departed the organization in 2010: Juan Carlos Aguilar, Barb Chalfonte, Mary Orisich and Greg Speeter.

Volunteers
Gwen Agna
Merri Ansara
Rev. Andrea Ayvazian
Lisa Baskin
Adi Bemak
Mary Bombardier
Lynn Bowmaster

NPP gratefully acknowledges the service of many, many generous individual donors.

Grants 60%
Donations 37.6%
Other 3%
Earned Income 1%
In-Kind 1.1%

NPP Financial Summary

Expenses and Revenue
For the year ended December 31, 2010 with comparative totals for 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010*</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue &amp; Support</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$308,350</td>
<td>$517,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>$193,072</td>
<td>$130,665</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Kind</td>
<td>$5,776</td>
<td>$13,945</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earned Income</td>
<td>$5,066</td>
<td>$1,876</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$1,454</td>
<td>$3,184</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT</strong></td>
<td><strong>$513,718</strong></td>
<td><strong>$667,470</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Expenses       |       |       |
| Program        | $416,818** | $487,629 |
| Administration | $65,329 | $68,729  |
| Development    | $85,516 | $131,278 |
| **TOTAL EXPENSES** | **$567,663** | **$687,636** |

| OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) | **($53,945)** | **($20,166)** |

| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS |       |       |
| Beginning of the Year    | $298,009 | $356,368 |
| End of the Year           | $244,064 | $298,009 |

*Unaudited figures
**Includes expenses attributed to unexpended 2009 grants
National Priorities Project: Data for Democracy

National Priorities Project is a federal budget research organization dedicated to translating the federal budget's raw numbers into clear and accessible information. But we don’t stop there, because we care as much about transparency and the rigorous analysis of data as we do about helping a greater number and diversity of people find meaning and fuel for grassroots efforts.

At NPP, we hold the vision of an informed and engaged democracy where all people affected by federal spending priorities have the ability and opportunity to participate in shaping our nation’s budget.

We believe that unfettered access to information is a cornerstone of responsible governance and the key to effective action. Thus, we serve as a bridge between the policymakers and think tanks of Washington, D.C. and thousands of local communities, organizations and concerned individuals across the United States. People from Wisconsin to Texas use NPP’s materials to hold their elected officials accountable.

NPP provides the following:

- On-line briefs and seminars which offer basic information about the national budget and the budget making process;
- Print and web-based publications and tools that break down and report on federal income and spending at national and local levels;
- A one-of-a-kind database that allows people to assess the personal and societal impact of federal spending; and
- Web-based tools that help people make sense of the federal budget.

Dr. Christine Kelly, Director of the American Democracy Project and a Political Science professor at William Patterson University offered the following in an email,

“Your database is the most powerful tool I know of in putting this critical information in the hands of local school boards, PTAs, Teacher’s Unions, citizen advocates and public school students themselves all of whom are trying to defend and improve our nation’s public education system from the current attacks…I thank you for your devotion and vision to public knowledge and democratic control in the 21st Century.”

Provide Rigorous and Engaging Federal Budget Information

NPP’s one-of-a-kind Federal Priorities Database has been overhauled with the goal of bringing our data to life in ways that maximize emerging technology. With the support of Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Nathan Cummings Foundation, and the Sunlight Foundation and Labs, NPP staff have transformed the back-end of the database and are nearing the completion of its search tool.
Provide Targeted Education and Capacity Building

In 2010 NPP formally launched Data for Democracy, a capacity building initiative which has four primary elements: regular webinars, a comprehensive guide to the federal budget, educational materials and popular education-infused workshops.

“National Priorities Project is providing an opportunity for citizens to understand exactly where their tax dollars go—transforming the mysterious federal budget into something real. Through NPP people can see, without any hype or spin, how decisions in Washington affect their lives. How much of the federal budget is spent on my school district? How many jobs are being created in my district from the defense budget? The answers to these questions are provided by NPP, helping to create a better informed citizenry, and therefore a more robust democracy.”

—Danielle Brian, Executive Director, Project on Government Oversight (POGO)

Provide Innovative Communication to Reach a Greater Number and Diversity of People

In 2010, there were massive protests about cuts in funding to public education in California. Organizers held a day of action on March 4, 2010, including the “Vampire Action” with 19 vampires out in capes and distributing localized budget information from NPP.

NPP WEBSITES

www.nationalpriorities.org • www.costofwar.com

110,000 unique visitors per month

NPP BUDGET MATTERS BLOG

www.nationalpriorities.org/en/blog/

“With college becoming less and less affordable every year, the Pell Grants have become one of the only chances many Americans get to live out the American dream. It is crucial that the Pell Grants be protected from budget cuts if America is to keep its reputation as the ‘land of opportunity.’ Congress must remember its less fortunate constituents and resolve to avoid cutting programs that give aid to those who need it most.”

—Reader comment posted on National Priorities Project’s Budget Matters Blog

NPP ON FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/nationalpriorities

Three month snapshot (October–December 2010):
Likes up 456% • Feedback up 730% • 104,910 post views

NPP IN THE BLOGOSPHERE

NPP writing contributed to: The Nation, TomDispatch, AlterNet, Asia Times, Common Dreams, Huffington Post, Dollars and Sense, Mother Jones, Salon and Truthout.

NPP IN THE MEDIA


Bill Moyers Journal featured National Priorities Project’s website and data on the January 15, 2010 broadcast.
The FY2012 Proposed Discretionary Budget

- Military Spending: 57%
- Environment, Energy & Science: 6%
- Transportation: 2%
- Income Security & Labor: 2%
- International Affairs: 4%
- Health: 5%
- Housing & Community: 5%
- Government: 6%
- Food: 1%
- Education: 4%
- Veterans’ Benefits: 5%