



ATD FOURTH WORLD

2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

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YEAR IN REVIEW

Dear Friends,

The many aspects of our lives and communities can be complex and challenging, but can also bring us opportunities and fulfillment. For families and individuals faced with poverty, though, the countless challenges overtake the few opportunities that come along. Life becomes a struggle to get by, a struggle for dignity, and a struggle for a better life. In our Multidimensional Aspects of Poverty (MAP) report, one part of this struggle is described as being “determined not to give up on what you’re striving towards.”

Every day, we see this determination to not give up: families working to stay together in situations that separate them; parents finding ways to enhance their children’s learning when schools don’t have the resources to reach all; young people and adults, who have been

stigmatized their whole lives because of poverty, daring to speak to others about their challenges and ideas; and communities rallying together to ensure that resources reach where they are most needed and that everyone’s dignity is recognized.

ATD Fourth World Movement is part of these efforts to overcome poverty. Through projects that advocate for changes in policies and practices, and that build the skills and capacity of people to do that advocacy and be change makers, we engage people from all walks of life to make their community inclusive and dignified for all people. This work to end poverty doesn’t happen through isolated efforts or one single program; it’s as complex as our lives can be. When these efforts to overcome poverty interact in coherent ways to impact the whole picture of poverty in our communities, outcomes also bring great richness.

We are grateful for the involvement of so many of you this past year in these efforts with us and invite you to look at highlights from 2019 in the following pages.



Guillaume Charvon Virginie Charvon
Maria Sandvik Karen Stornelli
ATD Fourth World National Team



COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

ADVOCACY

CAPACITY
BUILDING

ADVOCACY TO INFLUENCE POLICY AND PRACTICE



POLICY RESOLUTION IN CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE

As follow up to participating in the MAP research, California activists drafted a resolution calling on legislators to take into account the findings of the research on the multidimensional aspects of poverty in designing policies that affect people living in poverty. The draft resolution can be adapted and proposed in other local, state, and national policy venues.



EARLY CHILDHOOD COALITION RESOURCE DAY IN NEW MEXICO

ATD Fourth World is part of the McKinley County Early Childhood Coalition, working to foster child well-being and strengthen families. In May, many partners came together around ATD Fourth World's Story Garden at the Gallup Flea Market to learn from the community and to learn how Story Garden reaches marginalized families in an "outside of the box" kind of way.



MEETING WITH ECOSOC AMBASSADOR AT THE UNITED NATIONS

In July, an ATD Fourth World delegation with people from Bolivia and France met with Ambassador Inga Rhonda King, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and this year's Chair of the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF). Together they discussed the importance of the participation of people with experience of poverty in policy work. We knew our message was well delivered when Ambassador King later quoted an ATD Fourth World activist at the opening panel of the HLPF!



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION IN NEW ORLEANS

ATD Fourth World builds bridges between neighbors and local groups to beautify the 7th Ward in New Orleans. This year the organization United Saints, Tulane University, and residents partnered with ATD Fourth World on a house painting project, porch rehab, and cleaning a vacant lot. The owner of the house that was painted later helped with his neighbor's project to clean up the overgrown lot next to her house.



DICKENSON COUNTY, VA MARKS THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY

With the dynamic participation of young people, Appalachians continued the tradition of bringing people together on October 17. The gathering renewed efforts to overcome poverty, engaging residents there to make sure people with an experience of poverty are at the table and recognized as experts in developing action plans for inclusion.



EXPANDING COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH STORY GARDEN IN NEW MEXICO AND NEW YORK CITY

We have made big strides in building relationships with adults and children through Story Garden in Brownsville, Brooklyn, and in Gamarco, New Mexico. A partnership in New Mexico with GallupArts is bringing a series of collective art projects to Gamarco, furthering our mission and theirs. In Brownsville, a new partnership has grown with the school that Story Garden children attend. Teachers and Story Garden facilitators helped children prepare and deliver a powerful speech at the United Nations in October.

CAPACITY BUILDING

FOURTH WORLD PEOPLE'S UNIVERSITY IN NEW YORK

The Fourth World People's University preparation team is learning to design discussion formats that allow essential dialogues for change between people experiencing poverty and various city agencies and leaders.



ATD FOURTH WORLD MOVEMENT'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS RETREAT

From different backgrounds and parts of the country our board supplemented its monthly conference call meetings with a retreat enabling members to further explore their role, fund-raising ideas and national priorities, a pleasure to do in person. Building unity that cannot easily be built by telephone, the board now feels more solid as a team.

NEW WAYS TO UNDERSTAND POVERTY: A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH TO SOCIAL WORK TRAINING

Following the experience using the Merging of Knowledge Approach for the MAP research, we are developing an innovative social work training curriculum with people living in poverty, social workers and university professors of social work. A goal is to enhance the ability of social workers to understand the hardships endured by people in poverty and remove the misconceptions and stereotypes that undermine people in their dealings with social services in the United States today.



“PUSHED TO THE BOTTOM”

MULTIDIMENSIONAL ASPECTS OF POVERTY REPORT RELEASED

The research on the multidimensionality of poverty should deeply impact poverty-related policy in years to come. With the MAP report "Pushed to the Bottom: the Experience of Poverty in the U.S." in hand we organized presentations with university and community groups in many parts of the country and met with elected officials from the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Activists in California submitted a resolution to their state legislature to consider the MAP findings in designing poverty policy and calling on the State of California to enroll national and state elected officials to do the same.



New Orleans community groups who participated in the MAP Research invited university professors to the presentation of the report. One professor followed up by incorporating the findings into his coursework.



Maryann Broxton (second from the left), co-coordinator of the US MAP Research Team, meeting with US Senate staff.



Dave Meyer introducing The MAP Report at the launch event at The New School for Social Research in New York.

GREETINGS & WISHES FOR 2020

From Street Libraries to People's Universities to community engagement and advocacy, 2020 promises to be an ambitious year full of growth for ATD Fourth World Movement.

All of this takes place at a moment in our country's history where informed actions and expertise are needed more than ever. Let's move forward in 2020 ensuring that, as we meet the many challenges of our time, the dignity of all is recognized and valued.

With the momentum we've created this past year, let's get together on #EndPovertyDay on October 17, 2020, to put innovative solutions in motion, with the support of new and ongoing partners.

And in all of our home communities, let's make 2020 a year where being "all together in dignity" becomes a compass, not just for us, but for many.