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BEGIN TRANSCRIPTION

[00:00 - 01:46] Kim Skylander: And our students. All right I think we're going to go ahead and get started. Thank you for coming to the Center for Collaborative Conservations seminar series. I'm Kim Skylander. I'm the associate director of CCC. Speaker Today is David Bartek. So I will introduce David for you. David received his MA in cultural anthropology from Colorado State University and serves as executive director of Village Earth, another profit community development organization located here in Fort Collins. Is anyone familiar with Village Earth? Well, it's a great place. Just go check it out. He has extensive practical experience in community development, working with grassroots groups and indigenous groups both here in the US and around the world. Quite a bit of work done with that. He served as a trainer for the International Institute for Sustainable Development at CSU since 1998 and currently teaches several courses in community capacity building and dealing with community development. He also, has been an instrumental part of research, projects with the CSU's Department of Anthropology, including a six year long longitudinal study of informal economy of the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. He also has worked with a survey of farmers and ranchers participating in the National Conservation Reserve Program and has done community based consensus on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. David will be speaking today about global affiliate model, an approach to supporting grassroots organizations around the world that he developed through his fellowship with the Center for Global Conservation. So, David.

[01:52 - 02:05] David Bartek: Yeah, I want to thank the CCC for organizing this talk today and especially for helping fund the development of this model in the last year.

[02:06 - 02:08] Kim Skylander: David, you may have to speak up a little bit.

[02:08 - 02:26] David Bartek: Oh, yeah. Maybe we could, since there's such a small group here, maybe just go around really quick and maybe just say your name and your department or doing some research or something. You say a little bit about yourself. Is there build here in education.

[02:27 - 02:29] Kim Skylander: Gallery Catalog, staff quarter.

[02:31 - 02:37] Speaker 1: [inaudible] year students studying the whole forest.

[02:39 - 03:05] Speaker 2: [inaudible] research associate in. Societal systems which [inaudible] natural resources and practice.

[03:09 - 03:09] Speaker 3: [inaudible] Management.

[03:13 - 03:16] Speaker 4: [inaudible] PhD student [inaudible]

[03:24 - 03:56] Speaker 5: [inaudible] a master student working in the library and also master student specialization [inaudible] practices.

[03:56 - 06:01] David Bartek: And so we have all of these systems. Cameras must always. Well, So I'm going to talk about the project I did for my fellowship with the DCC was to develop a model that we had actually been kind of developing for a number of years now that we finally got. In fact, I officially got approval from the board of directors to formally move forward. So, I needed some structure to the whole program. So the fellowship was over the last year was developing the model that I'm going to talk about here, we're really putting the final touches on it to where we can launch it. But just some background first, where this came from. I started working on on the Pine Ridge Reservation around 1998, well around ninety nine officially. And, the so I was also working with villagers at the time. I was first a volunteer there and then went back to get to go to grad school at CSU and was working with Dr. Pickering, which I'm assuming you're working with. And so I started doing research on the Pine Ridge Reservation. At the same time, I was working with Village Earth and getting involved in trainings that really hadn't done much practical work on the ground, but had a lot of background in these trainings that the Villager was doing. And so around 2001, while we were on the reservation, we put a call out.

[06:01 - 08:54] She, Kathy Pickering, got a five year grant from the NSF to do a longitudinal household survey of Pine Ridge. And, so we were going to be up there for a number of years. And so we put out a call and said, if any organizations can utilize this while we're here, we'll help with grant writing or organizational help or whatever we can do. And one group responded and they were called the they were organized by the tribe's housing authority and they were organized to assist. There's cluster housing projects all across the reservation that the US government built. And so they wanted help creating organizations in each of these cluster housing groups. And so I initially started working with these organizations and through that we did a lot of planning and sort of visioning on where they wanted the reservation to look like and where they want their communities to look like. And at that time, I didn't really know much about Pine Ridge, and so, I learned a lot through that process. And from that, from that experience, we found out that people don't even want to be in those housing projects. They had no intention of wanting to improve them because if they could, they would just move out and move on their own way. And that's so around 2003, once that program's funding ran out, I was just working with them as a volunteer. But the program kind of dissolved. And that's when we I got approval from Village Earth to work on that effort of helping families get out there on land and utilize them. And so, we didn't have any funding for this initiative. We basically just from the researcher interviewing all these households and I was talking to people all across the reservation, and we started to hear about people who are doing this, who have gotten control of their allotted lands. Most of the people on Pine Ridge have in that they were they inherited, you know, somewhere around two hundre acres or so. And people wanted to utilize that thing. A lot of people were living in foster housing while their land was being leased out by non-tribal members and used for farming and ranching. So other people were making money on their land, while they were living in housing projects, so they wanted to get color. And so, we identified a few families that were doing that and just informally approached them and said, We want to we want to work with you on this effort and just kind of help you along the way and wherever we can.

[08:54 - 10:55] And and a few families we started out with, one of those was the Red Cloud family. That was the first group. And of course, we didn't have any funding to say like, okay, we're going to fund you to do this project. We just started out as partners and, eventually, we created a plan together and they wanted to get they got their land out, out of the government leasing system. They had started putting a fence up with some funding they got from some Europeans, but they wanted to they needed to finish the fencing and they needed to get animals out there and develop the water resources for the buffalo. And so we developed a plan together to do fundraising. And at that point, we said, Well, you know, Villager, We decided, well, let's start adopt the Buffalo program. That was an idea that Henry Red Cloud had to. He had heard about the Heifer Project where they might go for a family or a cow. And so we thought we could do that for Buffalo and we helped them create it.

Actually, this is where she first came into the pictures. We put together a brochure and you know, this this was a joint fundraising effort. And villagers said, well, you could use our non-profit status in any money that you raise for this project. Go into our account and we'll be used just for this project. And then it came down to a point where people really got excited about this project. We're getting a lot of you know, as soon as we partnered with this family, all these people from Europe started calling, as they were saying, Yeah, we've been watching this project for years. We've been wanting to fund them, but they really didn't have any they weren't getting they weren't communicating. They didn't know there wasn't really any controls on funding.

[10:55 - 13:04] They couldn't get any kind of reports back. And it was just difficult. People wanted to support it, but they didn't have the real financial structure to do that. And so once we partnered with the family, they were able to to solicit donations on their own. It just opened up a whole structure for them to receive donations. And it got. Because you had a five hundre. Yeah, because there's A51C3. Also because we could communicate with email at that time, you really have a risk. And so we could I could send photos to them, videos that they could then use to do fundraising. We helped them set up a website and it just at that point I realized just the fact of having that partnership opened up all these opportunities for them to get resources. So that was a valuable service in itself, just providing them. That's called in the nonprofit world is biscuit sponsorship or an NGO partners with a non incorporated organization, or it could be operated and provides and sort of provides an umbrella. So basically they use your nonprofit status to do fundraising. And then it got to the point where I was doing so much work, you know, communicating with donors and processing donations and said thank you checks, thank you notes that I approached the family and I said, hey, you know, villagers could really I could devote more of my time to this work if we're able to get paid from some of these donations. And that's when we agreed that Villager can keep a percentage of any of the donations. And they were totally excited about that because I can devote more time to fundraising. And, but that really became the foundation for the whole affiliate model. And we can and that became the model of how we work with other groups across fundraisers that we partner with them.

[13:04 - 15:49] We wouldn't provide any guarantee of funding or would provide any like grants. We would just say, you can use our nonprofit status, will help you sort of develop your organization, develop your identity as an organization, and then connect you with donors and it was really the more especially in the last year I realized like how much how an organized that really was and actually, we did open us up to some liability in some cases that, this the work that I've done with the CC has helped clean us that. That's the background of what is so the origins of this really go back to about 2002 and that worked for Pine Ridge. But we what we want to do is create a model that we could bring other organizations and use that same approach to supporting grassroots organizations

around the world and not have it be such a slow personal process where I have to go and get to know the group and and we can have a hard procedure process and what this tries to address. In the international context, especially in the NGO world. Is that is this paradox of the traditional funding of grassroots organizations, generally around the world? You know, NGOs often partner with local organizations, whether, you know, oftentimes we don't know. That's a big problem. But with that partnership, those are usually short term on average about three to five years. And that's that's usually how the funding cycles go. So an NGO will provide funding to a grassroots group or a community organization for somewhere around three to five years. The nature of that project is generally directed to the strategic priorities of the donors versus that of the local group. So a local, so international NGO. And I'm thinking like Care International or Mercy Corps or IRC, these are huge aid organizations or learning or conservation organizations. They all have priorities like we want to protect or we want to promote HIV AIDS awareness, or we want to create access to water, or we want to enhance food sovereignty.

[15:50 - 16:45] David Bartek: So these are priorities that come from the donors on the top. But right now what's really fashionable is climate change, responses to climate change or whatever. But that doesn't necessarily mean that that meshes with the priorities of those communities. And so often times that those local community groups have their own priorities, but an NGO will purchase them and say, hey, we've got funding for climate change or for HIV AIDS awareness, and they'll partner with these local organizations to implement those projects. But if given the choice, those local organizations oftentimes would like to do something very different, more responsive to the needs of their communities. And the sort of core philosophy here is that we believe local NGOs are going to be most responsive to local issues and local needs and local priorities, not international NGOs.

[16:46 - 16:59] Speaker 3: So David does that mean we have [inaudible] with donors interested in what they're doing because their priorities are so far from the organisations, we have limited number of donors [inaudible]

[17:02 - 17:47] David Bartek: When I say donors here, donors in terms of those NGOs, because those NGOs become donors or what's happening more and more but increasingly, governments, these NGOs are increasingly becoming contractors for governments. So, you know, the majority of official development assistance out there, funding from USAID aid isn't necessarily doing projects on their own, they are subcontracting with international NGOs like Care and Mercy Corps and International Rescue Committee. And I know that because we do training organizations and we partner with some large projects like that.

[17:49 - 17:58] Speaker 3: But again I'm asking are you swimming upstream against the donor world because their priorities are top down and your approaches.

[17:59 - 20:42] David Bartek: Well, I think it's about we showing donors that this is the truth. These are on the ground versus what NGOs are saying, what the issues are. So that's the case we need to make is that through this model that they're better able to connect with the grassroots and grassroots issues rather than what these large NGOs are concerned [inaudible] or what's fashionable. The funding role is very fashion based, very trend based. So also people have noticed, I just read a book on how increasingly concentrated international funding is becoming in a few hotspots. So just as certain things like microcredit or climate change become these trend areas, so do certain geographic areas. And so especially when as governments are becoming more the funders of NGO, NGOs are responding to the strategic priorities of the governments and not where the need is. And so what people are finding is that NGOs are becoming increasingly concentrated in a few key hotspots in our world, like for the United States, the Horn of Africa is a big focus area because they're concerned about terrorism. And so they're pumping all this money into A, but if you also look at the other hotspots, it's generally where oil is concentrated. So we did some consulting and observation. And when I started that out, I was thinking like there are all these NGOs just swarming all around us, inviting them. What's going on here? And it's the Black Sea. The main priority there is trying to stabilize the region to, you know, facilitate the extraction of oil in opposition of the Russians trying to be safe. So the traditional model often requires that local organizations comply with Western organizational models. So complying with Western law frames and reporting standards and organizational boards of directors and this sort of thing, in order to interface with these international NGOs or international government funders, they often frame the beneficiaries as the objects and the NGO as the subject.

[20:42 - 23:22] The NGO is doing the work. The NGOs are the ones making the change and doing the impact and so they are the ones who are being affected by that, when in actuality, the reality is that a lot of local organizations are [inaudible] the local leadership. But the NGO, the way funding models work is that you have to mask that. You have to, you know, the NGO has to emphasize what they're doing on the ground to ensure that they're getting the funding and people are redirecting that directly to those grassroots groups. So NGOs are appropriating machines, the appropriate and all the good things that are going on on the ground and try to justify that by saying this is how we have to fund. We have to show that we have to promote our organization in order to ensure that we can continue funding grassroots groups. Organizational liability increases with greater size and decentralization. So even though there's a greater call for decentralization among NGOs around the world, the main paradox is the liability increase. So as an NGO pushes more of that on local

communities, their liability increases and that's why, as their tentacles extend around the world, liability increases. So they need to maintain greater and greater control. And the determinants and structural issue within NGOs. I'll talk about that in a little bit. Build resource networks around the NGO and not the indigenous or local organization. That's what I was saying about the appropriating machines. Even though they may espouse that they want to build the capacity of local organizations, how is that possible if they are directing all the donations and grants and recognition to their organization and not the local organisation? Any questions you'd like to ask before I go on? And so some of the typical models of NGO expansion is, has anybody read that book, *The Spider and the Starfish*? It's just that it's a contrasting between different organizational models.

[23:22 - 25:57] A starfish is a decentralized model that is more resistant and more resilient to change or a spider is sort of the traditional model of NGO growth, where an NGO extends its tentacles around the world and has branch offices, and those branch offices are accountable to a national office and then to, you know, the office in DC or in London or wherever it's at. Another popular model has been the chapter model and then there's semi-autonomous, but they share it in organizational identity. So it does prevent some limitations on local groups from forming their own identity separate from the national or the international NGO. Well, a hybrid between the spider and the chapter has been what most NGOs, when they talk about decentralization when doing [inaudible] and that they've been often creating local boards of directors that can take on some of that accountability, but they still share the organizational identity of the central organization. And then the affiliate. And this is the model that we've been trying to develop. And that's where you have autonomous affiliates, autonomous organizations with their own organizational identity but partnering with you in a partnership model and it's not an exclusive relationship. So some of the features that this model that we've been working on, so it's based around long term fiscal sponsorship. So building a long term relationship with organizations. So you really understand what's going on on the ground, building trust with people. Not about control, but about having trust where you can relinquish [inaudible] have faith in, that you're both operating at the same sort of guiding philosophies. Built on relationship and trust, respect and reciprocity.

[25:59 - 27:24] Recognizing local indigenous forms of organization. So the beauty of the affiliate model is that we can partner with organizations, especially indigenous organizations, that may have completely different organizational structures than what we're used to in the West. In fact, on the [inaudible] Reservation, the first family started working with their model was, we're all going to be a collection of brothers and sisters and their families, and they have the grandmother as the sort of the chair. They would decide by consensus and then she ultimately [inaudible] find a group. But another group we work on, they have there are also working with Irish. They're working off a traditional model

of organization where they're basing it around the distinct Lakota roles of the male and the female and elders. So progressively the oldest male, has sort of the final say then they progressively go down, but they also consult with, you know, the ceremony for decision making. So, I mean, this is completely, you know, does not comply with the Western model of organization.

[27:24 - 27:32] Speaker 3: You heard the problems that we were defined as the [inaudible] in Africans in [inaudible]

[27:34 - 30:02] David Bartek: Yeah, you know the fact that we have the situation that was working on [inaudible] We're providing short term projects of hydration and that didn't happen [inaudible] damage. And we had a lot of talks early on how funds would be managed and they said, We want to do this. We want to have control of the funds. We would receive the grant disperse it in a lump sum to them versus paying for directly for the vendors. And that happens, the funds get mismanaged. But in the end, they wrote a letter to the foundation that gave the grant and explained the whole situation and how us allowing them that freedom allowed them to figure out their organizations and figure out where things are working. And then the Bush Foundation wrote us back and we're like, We're applying for that [inaudible]. They were more concerned about developing this organization actually regarding the project [inaudible]. So allowing that autonomy is important. And they acknowledge that investment [inaudible] So encourages the autonomy of organization and builds identity and support network around the grassroots organization. So in this model, we're trying to de-emphasize the role of the [inaudible] and put the grassroots organization in the forefront. So we're serving as sort of a fiscal supporter, but not in the forefront. We're not trying to appropriate the good work that they're doing on the ground. We're trying to put them in the front and say, look at what the [inaudible] has done, not like the [inaudible] defense funds, that's organization and put them in the front and connect the donors directly to them. Because of the fiscal relationship, the funding goes through us and then to them but the donor sees that organization as the one that's implemented as the subject as and partly the object because they're from the community.

[30:07 - 32:32] So we've kind of through this process and broken it out into three distinct relationships that we would have [inaudible] So the local NGO capacity building program. So these are the three sort of models that came out of this research I've been doing with support from the [inaudible]. These are the different actors that you have an autonomous grassroots organization and that can be an incorporated organization incorporated as an association or as a private business even or even as an individual really does matter. It can have an organizational structure based off a Western model [inaudible] what we do ask that the groups identify how they make decisions. I think that's the basic description that we try to look for is how do you make decisions as a group and how

do we know? So that way we know when a decision has been made and it's not just someone calling up and saying, hey, release the funds. We need to know that they have some way of making decisions together and when a decision is made. So the villagers are an NGO affiliate. So a foreign based grassroots support organization with separate legal existence for Villager. In this case, these are the groups we are working with Empowering Cambodia, Village Care Initiative. Sierra Leone, SGDI, India, and hence Columbia. And these are our local NGOs run by nationals in those cases who are supporting local grassroots organizations. And then what we do is Village Earth provides US fiscal sponsorship. And so what that does is it allows that local NGO to receive funding from US donors because US donors can receive a tax deduction for it, and they can also solicit grants and funding.

[32:32 - 34:38] Another important aspect of this model, or I guess an opportunity that we're trying to take advantage of that exists now that didn't exist prior is the Internet, is that now it's possible for an organization in Sierra Leone or Colombia to connect directly with donors through things like Facebook and Twitter email, a group we can now access those donors. So we're trying to build those bridges of access directly to donors versus having this intermediary. But we provide that fiscal sponsorship so donors can have the accountability they need and then also assurance that funds are being used for that purpose and that we're going to that organization and that they get tax deduction. And a lot of foundations have to give to a nonprofit. So if you're designated as a foundation, you have to leave your funding registered [inaudible] if you're an organization. And then through that we help connect to individual donors, grants and then also help connect them to advocacy support and technical support. That may come directly from us or we may help connect them to other third party groups that provide that sort of training. So our role is really becoming not, you know, I think the most distinct part about this from a traditional development organization is that we're no longer operational themed. We're not doing the work on the ground. We're supporting local organizations to do that by providing them access to resources in the United States and within Europe and then connecting them with the resources and also technical training, advocacy support [inaudible] Any questions about that?

[34:42 - 36:15] So the next model, which we're calling the Global Linkages Program, is where we partner with the US based grassroots support organization with several separate legal assistance from Villager Earth, who then is supporting autonomous grassroots organizations. And this could be a US based NGO, could be a US based association or even a couple individuals who are partnering with the grassroots group. And we identify this as an important relationship because in fact, we see this a lot in our work, is that a lot of times you have an individual or two who have a relationship with a group or projects in some other country but don't have a formal way to connect that to resources.

And so we can provide a physical relationship so they can basically operate as if they're in a nonprofit in the US and receive donations and grants which can then go to support that grassroots movement. And I think this model is especially helpful for situations where you have a very unformed grassroots organization. So if you have a few individuals who are partnering with communities or grassroots groups, this allows them to still work in a flexible way with those groups while being able to access resources.

[36:24 - 38:32] And then lastly, the regional mobilization initiatives. So these are projects like Pine Ridge or Urban projects where it's actually a villager and staff who are working with numerous grassroots groups or individuals across the entire region. And this could also be seen as sort of an initial phase where you're just starting to identify groups that exist in the region and helping form some sort of cohesion that can possibly later form an organization. But sometimes an organization is not [inaudible] maybe it's just a response to the short term situation, but this allows those grassroots groups to connect to resources without having to formalize [inaudible] And I think that's a key thing in all of these relationships is in order to access resources, don't have to formalize before it's necessary. Sometimes that formalization process which I mean, you know, identifying a board of directors and coming up with bylaws and all the things you need to get deeply recognized sometimes in that process can destroy an organization because maybe in the initial phases it's still a fluid organization [inaudible] identified leadership and maybe that's not needed. So I think all of these sort of bridge that gap between informality and formality and it provides an intermediate structure to informal groups that still access resources. And often it's informal groups that have the most voluntary energy that actually is most impactful. Where after an organization gets established for several years and funding becomes more reliable, it's easy for that voluntary energy to disappear and become replaced with more of a drive for careers or for money.

[38:39 - 40:54] So through the grant, we were able to get the framework of this setup and in July that was approved by the Board of Directors of Village Earth and quickly, we brought on some new organizations. So we brought on Earth TV, which is a group on Pine Ridge that is working on sustainable housing and permaculture, [inaudible], which we just brought on two weeks ago. They are a group working on indigenous rights issues in Colombia, Living Roots, they're actually a group that came out of CSU and they came out of the GSFC program. So they're working with traditional artisans in [inaudible] is a group that's working with the [inaudible] in Ecuador. And they're helping them with protecting their territory against oil extraction and illegal logging. And Village Care Initiatives in Sierra Leone, they're working a lot with orphans from the conflict that they've had over the years. And so trying to develop self-sufficiency projects with orphans and orphanages. A lot of these like Buffalo Sanctuary, United chief, Caretakers of lands in recovery projects [inaudible]

projects are all things that have come out of that. All projects that have come out of that work over the years, from Pin Ridge. And is sort of how we see is how this can work across the region. We as the sort of external activators, what we call that, working with these various informal and formal organizations to help bridge them, to help them access resources, but not doing that work ourselves. Not being the ones that are going into doing this, helping them form and develop their own identities. Yeah.

[40:55 - 41:00] Speaker 2: Do you generally initiate that after they come to you?

[41:01 - 41:30] David Bartek: Yes. Yeah, they've come to us. Except for Buffalo [inaudible] that's when the [inaudible] project is called. And we initially just met for [inaudible] and then they invited us back to do a planning meeting just to kind of explore how we can partnership. But yeah, generally all of them have been, you know, asked for our support.

[41:30 - 41:30] Speaker 2: [inaudible]

[41:34 - 41:41] David Bartek: Well, we're online. But, you know, a lot of Pine Ridge people just hear about the work we're doing.

[41:41 - 41:46] Speaker 2: And what's your zero like?

[41:46 - 43:31] David Bartek: That's the one example where you just got on the Internet searching for us, you know, searching for training and support. And we started this discussion with following and we have an application process. So that was part of this developing the whole process we're bringing on. See the IRS, the notion of fiscal sponsorship is a gray area with the IRS. They recognize it if there's no formal [inaudible]. But there are certain procedures you have to follow for it to be legitimate. And one of those is that the local organization has to go where the sponsee has to apply to the sponsor, and they ask for you to approve process. It has to be approved by the board of directors. So as the executive director, I can't approve of that relationship. And there's various levels of liability that can take on taking on all the way from it being considered an internal project where you assume organizationally all the liability to be more of how we've structured it, where the organization remains autonomous and they're liable for their own, if through the funding agency for this relationship, they build a bridge and that bridge collapses [inaudible] and that's what that is. It's that feature which allows us to be hands off that we can help them with the support. can help them raise funds. But this, you know, they're responsible for how they use those funds.

[43:32 - 43:46] Speaker 1: [inaudible] to help with information transfer [inaudible]

[43:48 - 44:27] David Bartek: Yeah, the other responsibility we have asked us to sponsor is to ensure that funds were used as the donor intended. So there is that level of control that we need to ensure that if the donor says this is going to go into this project for defensive forest, then it needs to be used for that. And we need to show that we're verifying that that's actually the case. But we're not deciding those priorities ahead of time. We're letting the group identify their priorities and then help them find resources to

[44:31 - 45:09] Speaker 3: As you mentioned, there tend to be in the funding world, these hotspots, dramatic geographic priorities. You obviously have one hotspot which is by region that you have rather eclectic of other areas you're helping around the world. And as you mentioned earlier, a lot of them just come out of your life. But is a relationship purely financial of serving as an umbilical cord of funding or with this array of associates? Are you providing technical assistance and capacity building and institutional [inaudible] support on the ground or either through the actual affiliates of your own [inaudible]?

[45:09 - 47:39] David Bartek: Yeah. I mean, you know, it's set up as a financial relationship, as a structure, but beyond that, we provide training and provide technical support, helping them to develop the capacity to do fundraising. But like in the case of Pine Ridge, you know, with an example of how that can play out is through that work. I was working with a number of independent Buffalo ranchers, and it came to a point where they wanted to start accessing markets. They wanted to start selling their buffalo. And so our role was helping serve as an intermediary and bring those buffalo caretakers together and they form a cooperative. We help them with developing a label. We help them with the health code inspections and getting all set up to do marketing. We help set up an LLC in Fort Collins that would serve as a distributor for that buffalo meat so it can range, you know, that level of support all the way to just, in the case of Cambodia, the director of that project attended our training, the two week training that we offer. He came to that and then went back to Cambodia and started up this organization. And so he had that initial spark from that training but he's been pretty independent. He's been able to develop that pretty autonomously. Occasionally we provide advice or consulting here and there. Yeah, and then of course the advocacy support too is something. One of the reasons that I was so interested in partnering with us is because they work with a lot of indigenous leaders whose lives are threatened by the fire and, and what they want to do is provide international. So our partnership with them raises the status of these leaders and provides international. So if one of these leaders disappears we can raise a steak in the US [inaudible] the embassy and, you know, make those connections.

[47:41 - 47:42] Kim Skylander: Seamless.

[47:43 - 47:44] David Bartek: That's more of a lot of [inaudible]

[47:45 - 47:48] Kim Skylander: You mentioned, of course that that's a lot of [inaudible]

[47:49 - 49:35] David Bartek: Yeah. I think initially when we were setting up this sort of fiscal model, but our work now is really this is what the gallery's helping us do is develop. We're trying to build like an e-learning network somewhat similar to what the CCS has done where the affiliates can, there can be a lot of cross fertilization going on. So we're trying to build connections between the affiliates so they can learn what each other's doing. We can help them develop, like, for instance, in two weeks, one of the groups out of Pine Ridge is going to do a fundraising training that they're going to present to all the other affiliates just to show how this group has been particularly successful in using the Internet, Facebook to raise funds. And so they're going to do a little webinar that we're going to do online and they're going to train them in this place. So we're trying to use this to build these lateral connections for organizations, not just [inaudible] But then we also offer a certificate program. And through CSU [inaudible] they have about 15 different courses that we offer on their non-credit. Those courses are available to our participants. But also I like our participants when someone develops an innovative strategy they can become trainers to that online program because it's really a practitioner based program. Lots of much focused on students courses.

[49:35 - 50:12] Speaker 4: [inaudible] you have issues about [inaudible] your kind of competition in your affiliates because I think my daughter goes to a website, villager and trying to pick one of these organizations to donate to, but maybe they're [inaudible] some beautiful website and the other ones don't. And people want to have the marketing side of the policies of the other ones. Never get anybody to donate. But do you have like a statement where you say these affiliates need more help than ones or redirect donors because some sanctuaries are getting more funding or slowly affiliates are getting more funding than other ones?

[50:12 - 51:24] David Bartek: Yeah, that's you know, as we bring on more groups, that is becoming more of an issue. And I think especially for Pine Ridge because they're all so clustered in one geographic area and that has happened. Why was we were doing a fundraiser for a youth center this summer and Earth TV put off the start of their fundraising campaign and told the other one because they didn't want to overlap. But, you know, they've been pretty cooperative at this point. But I do recognize that as being a possible source of conflict. But we are trying to coordinate the timing and as Village Earth we're trying to figure out how we sustain ourselves and also affiliates sustain themselves. And so how much work do we put into promoting affiliates versus the builder itself? I think eventually we like it to just be all affiliates [inaudible] and just promoting them and build their totally game in the background. But until we reach that critical mass it's not going to happen very

[51:27 - 51:46] Speaker 4: So you were to kind of compare outcomes from the traditional model and then your model is very different in outcomes. And secondly, do you see public sector aid moving towards these more affiliate based models?

[51:48 - 52:37] David Bartek: Your second question first. I do. In fact, we had a conference call with [inaudible] foundation and that was a big focus of theirs is sort of these new innovative modes of philanthropy, because I think people are recognizing that the big international NGOs are becoming too big and they're not as dynamic and flexible. And at the same time, you have this recognition that there's all these grassroots organizations around the world, and they're especially facilitated by the Internet. They have the ability to connect to donors. You no longer need that. They can connect to donors directly if instructions are there. Your first question.

[52:38 - 52:38] Speaker 4: Outcomes.

[52:38 - 54:15] David Bartek: The outcomes. I would say this model evolved in conjunction with our trainings and really out of response to our trainings because, you know, we would always have people say, well, this training is great, but how do I do this within my organization? You know, I have a three year timeline. How am I supposed to truly support the community in a long term solidarity if we have a three year timeline, if our funding is going to run out, if I can make promises to that community. So we see the value of having a local organization. Local organizations have a long term commitment. They're not going anywhere. They're directly affected by the issues. So they're much better suited to doing this kind of work than an international NGO staffed by expats, because those expats are going to leave or they're going to be re-stationed or when the funding runs out, they're going to lose [inaudible]. The key ingredient in any of this kind of work is trust. And trust isn't something developed overnight. It's something that takes a long time. And we've learned that for, you know, ten plus years on Pine Ridge. You know, I'm just starting to make contacts with some people that, you know, are like opening up new doors and building the trust that people are willing to take a risk.

[54:16 - 54:48] Speaker 5: You talk a little bit about putting them in their box right now with their [inaudible] and not just that connection between the donors and organization within these organizations markets as private sector and how that works compared to the donor organization relationship. That process is [inaudible]

[54:53 - 55:53] David Bartek: I used to be almost exclusively halted in the work on my region. And so as I've become director, I've had to back off a lot. And I see that as being as a good development that it's forced me to think about how we can create these networks of support without being directly

involved, because that's just not sustainable. You know, after being partners working there for ten years and and now I have a family and, you know, we have other tensions that don't allow us to be there. And so we really need to emphasize on building local capacity. So I think the shift has been trying to de-emphasize our role and and more emphasis on building capacity. [inaudible] your question. Yeah.

[55:57 - 56:25] Speaker 1: I have some more general questions [inaudible] I was wondering kind of how you managed to do your mask work, but also for a research project. You were also volunteering with an NGO and doing something good with your time. So just published your business [inaudible]. I was wondering how you go about balancing your time between those two different things [inaudible] very interesting research question [inaudible]

[56:29 - 57:53] David Bartek: I'll tell you when we, you know, when I look back at that survey, the first year is embarrassing because it's just so out of my field. But what we did is over the years, as I was doing these workshops, that's the community that survey became more and more refined every year in this area. And so we started to get more and more issues to where by the fourth and fifth [inaudible] out of the six years and by the fifth year, it was really starting to get to key issue. So we learned in those workshops that land is a big issue and people want to use land. So we started putting that data into surveys and then I was able to use that for grant writing and to support these projects. So we also took that same data and used it to challenge the federal census. So the Housing authority came to us and said, Hey, our numbers are way low on Census, 2000 census, and could you help us do a challenge? And so we use the data from that census to challenge the federal census. And we won that and that resulted in like a million and a half dollars a year more, every year after that.

[57:53 - 57:53] Kim Skylander: [inaudible]

[58:01 - 58:51] David Bartek: You know, if I would have done it again, I would have spent the whole first year just doing community workshops like we're doing and spend more time in the up front zeroing in on what the core issues were rather than having a lot of questions that are away from black people. This was Kathy's work. We know she is and her survey was looking at time allocation, social networks and informal economy. And she was like, You take the social network site and I pretty much. could develop that whole aspect. But then over that, she was open to modifying it a lot, which is [inaudible]

[58:55 - 58:58] Kim Skylander: One more question. Otherwise, we'll wrap it up here.

[59:02 - 01:00:02] David Bartek: So being flexible, I know we had to consult a lot with different subjects and the National Science Foundation but in the end, it made the data for them really relevant and it's continually being used by programs out there. So people have a place like that where the reservation is almost 90% grant driven. Most of the money that comes on there, 90% comes from federal grants. And so they need data to write grants and to make those, you know, to demonstrate where they need resources. [inaudible] Thank you.

[01:00:03 - 01:00:03] Kim Skylander: Thank you, David.

END TRANSCRIPTION