



# United Students for Fair Trade

empowering alternatives

1225 Connecticut Ave NW Suite 401

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## United Students for Fair Trade 2006 Annual Report

### Introduction

2006 has been an incredible year of growth, learning, and organizing for USFT. As movement leaders, we have been involved in incredible actions, from campus conversion campaigns at the grassroots to paradigm shattering exchange programs with cooperative communities. As a campaign, we have seen tremendous growth of Fair Trade initiatives on campuses and in communities, with at least 12 major conversion campaign wins across the country. As a national organization, we have developed plan, systems, and structures that will enable us to be more successful in the future, we have hired staff, and we have reaffirmed our commitment to building a grassroots movement.

As an organization committed to reflection, learning, and celebration, we want to share an overview of our 2006 campaigns and projects. This is by no means an exhaustive list, and pales in comparison to the extensive list of victories our affiliates continue to win. It is a sampling of who we are and what we do, and should provide insight into our vision for a global economy that empowers communities everywhere through human relationships that are just and based on respect and dignity

### Year in Review

#### Campus Conversions

Our biggest wins this year came in the form of Campus Conversions. Hundreds of students joined together to demand Fair Trade products in their dining halls and cafes! University of Florida, Rutgers, University of Maryland and many other campuses successfully campaigned to get Fair Trade coffee on their campuses.

#### Convergence

The 3rd Annual USFT International Convergence was a fantastic success! From February 17th – 19th, over 300 youth organizers, students, allies and producers converged on Denver, CO for a profound weekend of collaboration, critical thinking, and relationship building. Braving the cold, participants attended workshops, keynote speeches, and breakouts. The Convergence used popular education to explore the link between anti-oppression and Fair Trade, build the base of student activists, launch a national campaign, and build momentum around our Strategic Action Plan. Hundreds left Denver empowered and inspired to move the Fair Trade movement into the future and to carry on their fair trade activism in a powerful way.

#### South-North Internships

To foster genuine relationships with cooperative allies, the current model of exchange dominated by one-directional programs must be expanded to a multi-directional paradigm in which all players learn from one another in several different environments. As students and activists from the North have the privilege to travel and actively learn through trips to origin, so too must cooperative

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members and youth have the opportunity to experience various levels of the Fair Trade model. Thus, USFT hosted two cooperative youth in Denver and Washington, DC in 2006. These interns partnered with coffee companies and youth activists to experience the other side of the Fair Trade movement, build relationships, and foster solidarity across borders.

### Interfaith Delegation to Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda

In June and July, sixteen USFT student activists joined coffee and craft cooperative allies in Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda. The intentionally interfaith group sought to understand the way Fair Trade works on the ground and explore the ways that faith and social justice activism intersect. The participants were responsible for organizing the trip, taking complete ownership over the journey through a democratic, non-hierarchical planning process. In their pursuit of global understanding and social justice, USFT students laid the ground work to grow the relationship with the cooperatives. Their journey across East Africa proved profoundly challenging, intellectually and emotionally, and will absolutely influence each of the student activists' lives for years to come.

Additionally, we

- Hired a full-time National Coordinator
- Brought a delegation of students to the Specialty Coffee Convention
- Held the Transitions Summit in Nicaragua
- Joined the Alliance for Fair Food
- Endorsed Oxfam America's campaign against Starbucks

### Financials

2006 Income	
Grants	\$130,000
Corporate Sponsorship	\$13,500
Fundraising and Individual Donors	\$17,787
Earned Income	\$39,983
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$201,270</b>
2006 Expenses	
Operating Costs	\$51,754
Fiscal Sponsorship	\$14,089
Programmatic Costs	\$113,615
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$179,458</b>

USFT would like to thank all of our donors for making our work possible, including Oxfam America, the Shimkin Foundation, Samuel Rubin Foundation, Lutheran World Relief, Green Mountain Foundation, Catholic Relief Services, Peace Coffee, and many other generous supporters!

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### Looking to the Future

As USFT looks to the coming year, we are excited about the potential of the student Fair Trade movement. In the next year, we are looking forward to

- 350 students, producers, and allies converging on Boston February 14-18 for the 2007 International Convergence!
- Hundreds of campuses will continue their struggle to convert their campuses to 100% Fair Trade products with the Full Monty Campaign!
- 3 interns from allied cooperatives will spend 3 months working with student activists, coffee companies, and local communities as part of the South-North Exchange Program.
- Fair Trade Bananas will make a huge splash on campuses throughout the Northeast, Midatlantic, and Heartland!
- Joining Global Justice. Find out more at [www.globaljusticenow.org](http://www.globaljusticenow.org)

### Opportunities to Support USFT

In order to continue doing this work and doing it better, we need your support. USFT works with hundreds of grassroots organizations on campuses and in producing communities, and this takes serious resources. Your donation of \$25, \$50, \$100, or whatever you can afford will allow USFT to support our grassroots, grow our programs, and invest in student and producer empowerment. With your financial support we will be able to strengthen, deepen, and expand the Fair Trade movement in the coming year! Please send donations to USFT at 1301 Clifton St NW Suite 100, Washington, DC 20009. We could not do this without you and are deeply appreciative of your support!

*USFT is a national network of student organizations advocating around Fair Trade principles, policies, and products. We have three main functions. First, we organize—we work to consolidate and coordinate the power of the over 200 active student Fair Trade organizations in the US. Second, we do leadership development and capacity building. Last, we serve as a resource group for student-based affiliates looking for anything from a phone number to research materials to strategic advice to internship opportunities.*

*The core objective of USFT is to empower students and cooperative communities. We work to raise the awareness of and expand the demand for Fair Trade alternatives, both on campuses and in communities. Through this process, we redefine relationships between producer and consumer and engage in the ongoing struggle to build people's power in the face of corporate-driven globalization.*

*For more information about United Students for Fair Trade and our programs, please contact Joe Curnon, National Coordinator at 202.296.6727 ext 231 or by email at [joe.curnon@gmail.com](mailto:joe.curnon@gmail.com)*