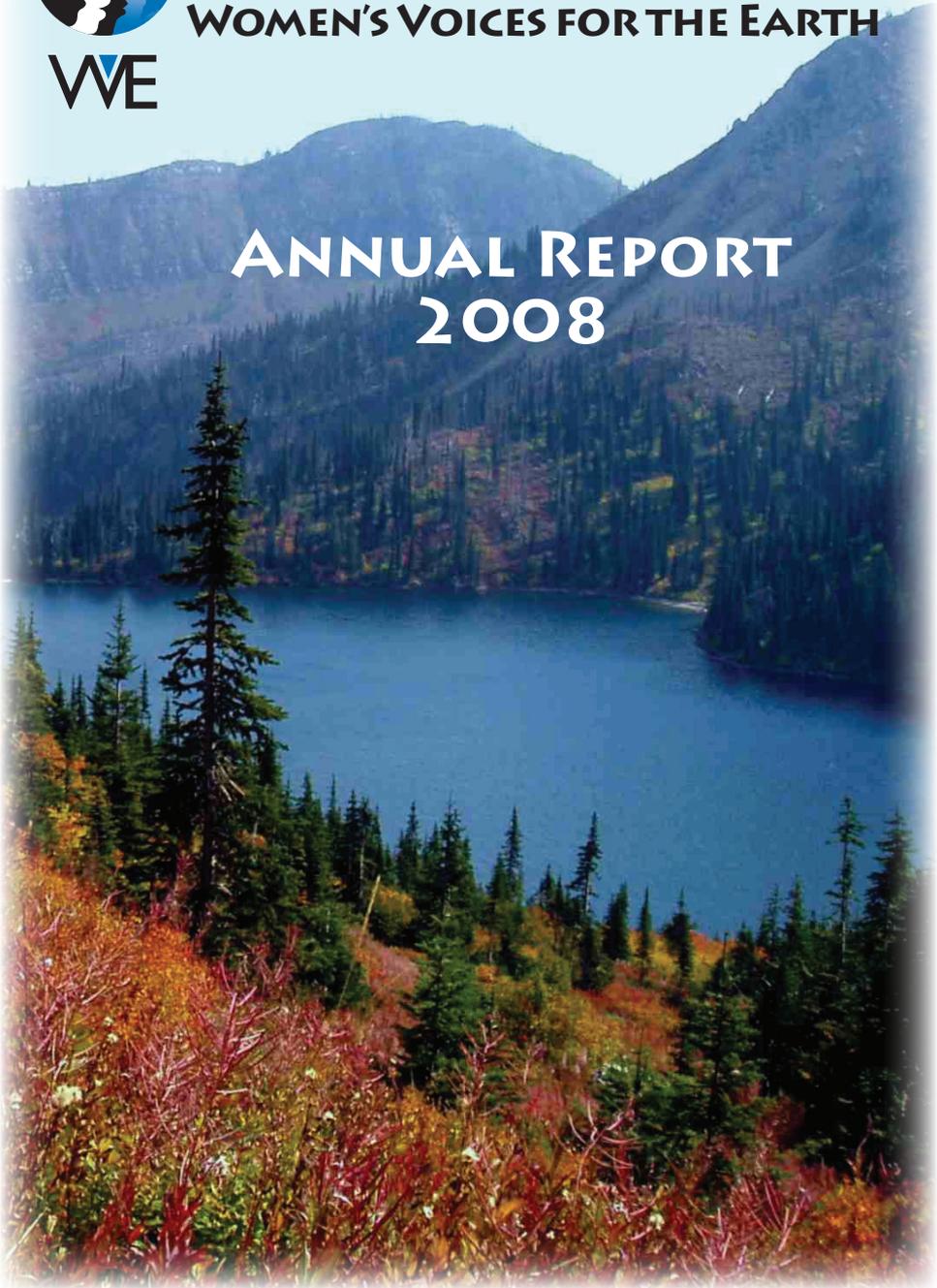




WOMEN'S VOICES FOR THE EARTH

WVE

ANNUAL REPORT 2008





WVE

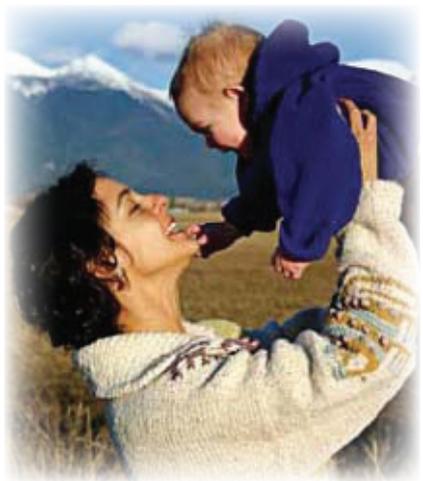
WOMEN'S VOICES FOR THE EARTH

Women's Voices for the Earth is a national organization that engages women to advocate for the right to live in a healthy environment.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In 2008 Women's Voices for the Earth (WVE) helped shine a national spotlight on the health hazards of toxic chemicals found in products that women use on a daily basis. Using scientific reports, advocacy tools, media strategies, and the powerful voices of women across the country, WVE moved industry giants towards better disclosure of chemicals in their products. We are proud of our 2008 accomplishments but know that for all we have achieved, there is still much work ahead. We look forward to meeting these challenges and hope to count you among our supporters in this critically important work.

Dori Gilels
Executive Director



2008: YEAR IN REVIEW

SAFE CLEANING PRODUCTS INITIATIVE

Launched in 2007, the Safe Cleaning Products Initiative aims to reduce women's exposure to toxic chemicals in cleaning products through market-based and regulatory initiatives designed to eliminate hazardous ingredients. WVE seeks to educate women about the long-term reproductive and environmental health impacts of toxic chemicals in cleaning products and to engage women as advocates to support policies that will regulate and ultimately eliminate the use of unnecessary harmful chemicals in consumer products.

GREEN CLEANING PARTIES SWEEP THE NATION

In March, WVE released the **Green Cleaning Party Kit**, an advocacy tool that launched a wave of green cleaning parties across the nation and caught the attention of the international media and the cleaning product industry. The kit, which was written in English and Spanish, teaches people to make their own safe and effective cleaners from non-toxic pantry staples like baking soda and vinegar. It contains recipes for safe cleaners, product label stickers, an educational DVD and information on how to advocate for the removal of toxic ingredients from store-bought cleaners. The green cleaning party model also provides a forum for initiating dialogue between women about chemicals in their favorite products, a crucial step in building the movement for safer products.

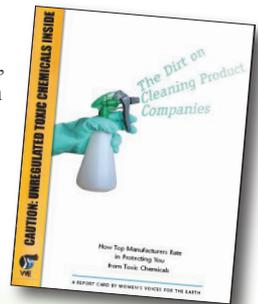


This year, more than 800 women signed up to host green cleaning parties in all 50 states and 5 countries, representing some 6,400 participants nationwide. Using WVE's kit, these women leveraged their social, economic, and political power to begin to change the policies of a global industry.

REPORT INSPIRES INDUSTRY IMPROVEMENT

In September, WVE released **The Dirt on Cleaning Product Companies**, a report card that rated five leading cleaning product manufacturers on their use and labeling of toxic chemicals in products. The report card evaluated SC Johnson & Son, Inc., Procter & Gamble, Sunshine Makers, Inc. (makers of Simple Green), Reckitt Benckiser and The Clorox Company. It revealed those companies could and should be doing much more to protect the health of consumers.

Not only did *The Dirt on Cleaning Product Companies* serve to open crucial lines of communication between WVE and cleaning products manufacturers, it also directly influenced the industry trade groups representing those companies to create a new policy. The Consumer Specialty Products Association and the Soap and Detergent Association released a voluntary disclosure policy in December 2008 on the heels of the report card's publication.



The policy states that manufacturers of cleaning products, air care products, and automotive care products will begin to voluntarily disclose some of their ingredients to consumers in 2010. While the voluntary policy falls short in several areas, it's an essential step toward requiring cleaning product manufacturers to remove toxic chemicals from their products.

WVE BLOCKS WEAK INGREDIENT DISCLOSURE BILL

WVE led a successful effort among advocacy groups to block the passage of California Senate Bill 509. The original language of the bill, sponsored by Senator Joe Simitian, would have required greater disclosure of ingredients in cleaning products; unfortunately, Senate Bill 509 was significantly weakened under pressure from the cleaning products industry. In response, WVE worked proactively to assemble opposition from a wide array of environmental and health groups to block the passage of the weak bill, which would have set a sub-standard precedent for federal regulation of toxic chemicals in cleaning products.

MERCURY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

In 2005, WVE launched a multi-year campaign aimed at reducing pollution from mercury-containing products (i.e. thermometers, thermostats, medical devices, auto switches, dental fillings, etc.) for which there are cost effective, less toxic alternatives. When disposed of improperly, these products contribute to the pollution of water sources, contaminate the fish that inhabit those waters, and ultimately accumulate in the people who consume contaminated fish.

REGIONAL RECYCLING PROGRAM TO SERVE AS NATIONAL MODEL

In May 2008, WVE launched a pilot recycling program for thermostats, compact fluorescent light bulbs, and other fluorescent lighting at 25 Ace Hardware stores in Montana, Utah, and South Dakota. This program, the first of its kind in these rural western states, is a collaborative effort between WVE and the Boston-based Product Stewardship Institute. More than 5,000 fluorescent bulbs were collected during the pilot, which ended on December 31. The pilot

program will serve as a national model for retail-based collection programs.

WVE MOBILIZES DENTISTS TO REDUCE MERCURY WASTE

In an effort to reduce the amount of mercury pollution that is released into the environment from Missoula dental practices, WVE and its partners launched the Waste Amalgam Treatment, Education, and Recycling Program (WATER) program in May. In partnership with the Missoula County Water Quality District, the Missoula wastewater treatment plant, and the Montana Dental Association, WVE encouraged Missoula's dental community to institute the American Dental Association's (ADA) best practices for mercury waste reduction. To date, almost 80% of eligible Missoula dentists are participating in the program. Mercury, an element that is toxic to the brain, can be released into the water system when amalgam fillings are installed



or replaced. By following the ADA's guidelines, up to 96-99% of dental-related mercury can be diverted from entering the environment. The WATER program is currently being replicated in other major cities across Montana.

And, using our role as the founder and facilitator of the Montana Mercury Task Force, WVE continued to mobilize public agencies, health care providers and businesses to support mercury reduction programs and policies in the state.

CAMPAIGN FOR SAFE COSMETICS

The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics is a national coalition of organizations working to eliminate toxic chemicals, including endocrine disruptors, reproductive toxins, and known carcinogens, from personal care products. As a founding member of the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics (CSC) in 2004, WVE continues to serve on the decision-making body of the CSC. WVE works within the campaign to promote market-based and legislative initiatives designed to regulate and eliminate the use of toxic chemicals in personal care products.

SOME COSMETIC COMPANIES GET A LITTLE PRETTIER

In December, WVE edited and promoted the CSC report *A Little Prettier*, a follow-up to the groundbreaking 2003 report *Not Too Pretty*, which exposed the high amounts of phthalates in leading personal care products. Phthalates are linked to reproductive harm, and *A Little Prettier* showed that some companies have indeed reformulated their products to remove the toxic chemical. This is good news for consumers who can now use their same leading brand lotions, deodorants and other products with considerably lower exposures to toxic phthalates. However, some major companies have denied that phthalates are a problem, and are paying little to no attention to consumer concerns.



WVE HELPS DRAFT LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE CONSUMER PROTECTION

Major loopholes in U.S. federal law allow the \$50 billion cosmetics industry to put unlimited amounts of chemicals into personal care products with no required testing, no monitoring of health effects and inadequate labeling requirements. WVE is working within CSC on developing legislation that will strengthen the federal oversight and regulation of the cosmetic industry.

NATIONAL HEALTHY NAIL SALON ALLIANCE

Three years ago, WVE co-founded the National Healthy Nail Salon Alliance (the Alliance) with the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum and Asian Health Services. The Alliance is a network of some 40 organizations, scientific researchers, advocates and government agencies that are working to protect and improve the health and welfare of women working in the nation's nail salons.

WVE EXPANDS OUTREACH OF HEALTHY NAIL SALON RESOURCES

To raise awareness of the health concerns of nail salon workers, WVE led the development of the movement's first online information clearinghouse on nail salon/nail worker issues. The resources are available on the Women's Health and Environment



Initiative website (www.womenshealthandenvironment.org). WVE also led two Alliance-wide conference calls to allow participating groups to network and share news and resources regarding nail salon issues.

ALLIANCE SURVEYS MANUFACTURERS ON USE OF TOXICS

WVE and the Alliance surveyed major nail polish manufacturers to discover whether they've removed the "toxic trio" (toluene, formaldehyde and dibutyl phthalate) from their products. WVE will release

the survey results in English and Vietnamese in Spring 2009. The survey is a follow up to our 2007 report *Glossed Over*, which exposed the health impacts linked to toxic chemicals in nail products.

CROSS-MOVEMENT BUILDING

WVE plays an integral role in cross-movement collaboration by expanding the audience for environmental health issues nationally, particularly within the reproductive health and justice communities. A guiding principle in our work is to build alliances with and provide support to groups that are disproportionately impacted by environmental contamination, but under-represented in government and the mainstream environmental movement. We seek to strengthen the environmental movement by increasing its gender, racial, ethnic, and class diversity.

WVE CHOSEN FOR NEW COLLABORATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH GROUPS

WVE is one of five leading environmental health organizations working to integrate environmental health issues in the reproductive health community. WVE is working with Planned Parenthood Federation of America; the Association for Reproductive Health Professionals; University of California at San Francisco Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Services Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment (UCSF PRHE); and UCSF's Center of Excellence in Women's Health on a new collaborative effort to add environmental health issues to the commitment to protect and preserve all reproductive options for women.

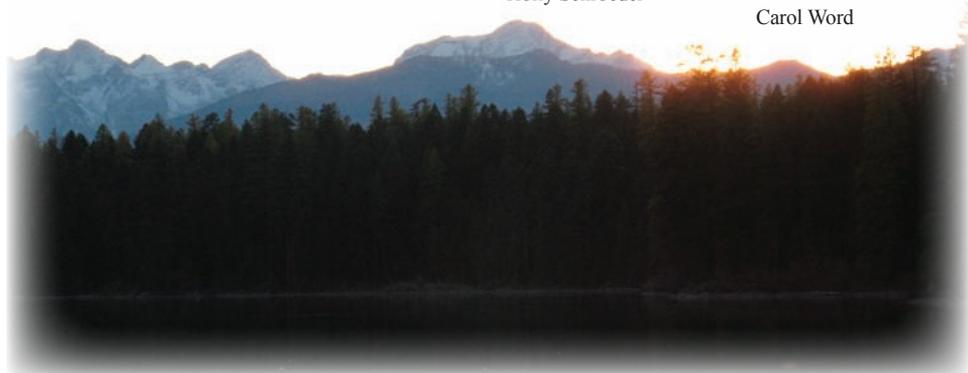
SISTERSONG TO DEVELOP ENVIRONMENTAL/REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE TRAINING MODULE

WVE was recently invited by SisterSong, the largest women-of-color-led network in the U.S. working on reproductive justice, to assist with the development of a Reproductive Justice/Environmental Justice Training Module. WVE staff attended the first of several meetings on this project in Atlanta in August 2008 and will continue to help guide the development of the module in 2009.

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WVE THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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REVENUES AND EXPENSES

FISCAL YEAR JANUARY 1, 2008—DECEMBER 31, 2008

REVENUE

Donations	34,578	6.97%
Grants	435,342	87.80%
Events, Sales	6,724	1.36%
Other	19,211	3.87%
Total Revenue	\$ 495,856	100%

EXPENSES

Program	422,818	85.27%
Administration	44,168	8.91%
Fundraising	28,870	5.82%
Total Expenses	\$ 495,856	100%





WVE

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