



# PORTFOLIO ADVISORY BOARD

RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENTS

*Making a difference in the global community*

Ⓜ ADRIAN DOMINICAN SISTERS

July 2007 • Volume 5, Issue 3

## Appalachian People's Action Coalition

The Portfolio Advisory Board's Community Investment Committee invests in community-based enterprises that show a commitment to social justice through alternative economic endeavors. One such enterprise is a co-op in southern Ohio called the Appalachian People's Action Coalition (APAC), an organization with a deep commitment to social justice.

APAC is a grassroots organization founded in 1987 by low-income citizens striving to improve their lives. The current membership of 400 aims to "help people like themselves gain a better life through unity."

The cooperative came to life in Plains, Ohio (Athens County) where the poverty rate is 28.7% and the per capita income is \$15,133. Unemployment is very low, but the poverty level is very high. There are jobs, but most are part-time without benefits. Many APAC clients have difficulty obtaining and/or retaining jobs.

APAC offers a variety of programs such as Work Net and Job Coach where clients learn woodworking, sales, marketing, life skills, basic computer skills, and literacy. APAC also works with local courts to supervise people who need to complete their community service hours.

Members work tirelessly to educate the southern Ohio community about the blight of poverty and its debilitating effects. They demand quality and

accountability from public social services systems, creating pathways for those seeking to become self-reliant.

In 1990, APAC opened a bargain furniture store. By 1992, the store had become a work-site for the Work Experience Program (WEP), a job-training and life-skills enterprise that has had a powerful,

positive impact. Plans are in place to add a community woodshop, which will expand APAC resources and provide opportunities to community members.

Prior to the establishment of APAC, people in the Athens area had little access to gainful employment. APAC's bargain furniture store has provided quality jobs in a safe and caring environ-

ment. At the same time, APAC remains the only source in the county for high-quality, affordable used furniture for low-income people. APAC is a cooperative known for its community support and advocacy for persons struggling with poverty-related problems.

For more information on cooperatives please visit these websites: International Cooperative Alliance <http://www.ica.coop> and National Cooperative Business Association <http://www.ncba.coop>.

– Patricia Leonard, OP  
Chair, Community Investment Committee



*"We walk in solidarity with people who are poor and challenge structures that impoverish them."*

– General Chapter '04

**We want to hear your thoughts about our newsletters.**

**Please e-mail comments and suggestions to [pabnews@adriandominicans.org](mailto:pabnews@adriandominicans.org)**

PORTFOLIO ADVISORY BOARD

Ⓜ Adrian Dominican Sisters • 1257 East Siena Heights Dr. • Adrian, MI 49221-1793  
517-266-3523 • Fax: 517-266-3524 • [PMcLaughlin@adriandominicans.org](mailto:PMcLaughlin@adriandominicans.org) • [www.adriandominicans.org](http://www.adriandominicans.org)