



The Million Connections Campaign

Creating One Million InterPlay Connections in 3 Years

InterPlay activity already takes place in over 50 cities on five continents.

Imagine if there were twice as many InterPlayers in twice as many locations dreaming up new ways and places to use InterPlay for increasing health, building community, having fun and creating beauty...

InterPlay is already being used to make connections across cultural divides safe, easy and fun in this country and in others.

Imagine if more people were trained to lead this community-building, peace-making way of being to bridge the divides of culture, class, and beliefs...

InterPlay has already been used by women in the slums of India to find their freedom and power and to connect with each other.

Imagine if this health-making practice could be made available to folks in all sorts of communities in India and in other countries...

These are some of the pictures we imagine as InterPlay grows into a **global social movement**.

In celebration of the 20th birthday of InterPlay, the Board of Directors of Body Wisdom, Inc., has a vision of creating **a million health-making connections all over the world**—big ones, small ones, deep ones, sneaky ones, exuberant ones, and quiet ones. And with each connection we will be creating a little more ease in the world, adding the secret ingredient of peaceful and playful body wisdom back into the mix of life.

The Million Connections Campaign will seek to raise \$1 million over the next three years in order to create One Million InterPlay Connections and to propel InterPlay into its next 20 years of dancing, singing and telling our stories.

What will it take to make this vision a reality?

- Strong, vibrant regional InterPlay communities
- Inspired InterPlayers reaching out to new contexts and communities
- Sustainable organizational forms that support ease and grace as we develop new InterPlay leaders, events and communities

Strengthening Regional InterPlay Development – Goal: \$570,000

The largest share of funds raised from the Million Connections Campaign will go towards strengthening InterPlay at the regional level by 1) financially supporting those who are organizing and leading in the regions (especially those who are taking care of the details that few want to take care of!), and 2) creating stipends for the InterPlay Life Practice and Leader Training Programs, nurturing the growth of new InterPlay leadership. Body Wisdom, Inc. already devotes 70-80% of its resources to supporting regional activity, and the Million Connections Campaign will expand the total resources available for regional growth.

Krista Harris played a huge role in building the Seattle InterPlay community, contributing her own time, energy and resources to making that happen. Now a committed group of InterPlayers provides organizational leadership and Sharie Bowman is paid a small stipend to take care of details. Increasing support for a regional organizer will help to significantly increase InterPlay opportunities in Seattle. Stipends for participants in the Life Practice Program will expand the pool of Seattle leaders, and will also support the local Life Practice Program leaders.

InterPlay Outreach – Goal: \$165,000

InterPlay is a gift that wants to be widely shared where it can do lots of good. InterPlayers are already using InterPlay in **prisons, schools, social service agencies**, and with specific groups and populations that are hungry for the wisdom and tools that InterPlay provides. It is also spreading to other parts of the world where economic realities are quite different. We seek to support outreach projects in partnership with people and groups who are excited about what InterPlay has to offer. Already there are folks who are anxious to learn to lead InterPlay in ways that best fit their local cultures.

Prashant Olelakar, a Jesuit priest from India, learned InterPlay while a student in Berkeley. Now back in India he is sharing InterPlay widely, using it in community development, leadership training, spiritual direction, and peace making. Cynthia and other InterPlay leaders have already made two trips to India to help train others and to learn from them. Cynthia, CathyAnn Beaty and Trish Watts (from Australia) will be going again in January of 2010. Similar development is happening in several other countries, including Malawi and Brazil. We seek to support this important cross-cultural connecting.

Sustainable Organizational Forms – Goal: \$265,000

InterPlayers know the power of forms—those underlying structures that create an easy and reliable space for freedom and creativity. In a time when many non-profit organizations have lost their homes, we are blessed to have our own center—**InterPlayce** in downtown Oakland, California—where there is room to teach, meet, dream, email, organize, write, phone, staple, design, collate and mail. We have a national staff which as of August 2009 was the equivalent of **2.85 full-time positions**. We hope to solidify the long-term future of InterPlay by reducing the debt on the building (mortgage and construction loans) and growing the staff. It seems reasonable that an organization with international outreach might aspire to having six full-time staff members. InterPlayce and the Body Wisdom staff serve InterPlay activity throughout the world by providing resources, mentoring, administration, publicity, training, networking and by financially supporting a large number of InterPlay leaders.

Before the building was purchased, Cynthia and Phil were juggling class schedules in three different locations. The Body Wisdom office was in Phil's apartment and a succession of (wonderful!) part-time administrative assistants had to find an open spot to work. It took the combined effort of many to transform InterPlayce into the lively community center it is today, an asset to the neighborhood, the city and the entire world-wide InterPlay community.

Many hands make light work. If we all work (and play!) together, the Board of Directors has no doubt that we can reach the visionary goal of creating a million InterPlay connections in the world.

We hope you will feel inspired to help us achieve this wild and wonderful goal. The secret will be the shared commitment of a broad group of people who are willing to make longer-term, incremental contributions. We hope you will consider joining others in the **Giving Wings Society** by making a five-year pledge of at least \$45 month. Of course, gifts of all sizes, smaller and larger, are welcome!