

Garden Hill Fund
Interim Progress Report for *Restorative Radio*
Sylvia Ryerson S'04
Funding Received: March 2015

Dear TMS Alumni Committee,

I am eager to report the progress made on my project "Restorative Radio," for which I received generous funding from the Garden Hill Fund last spring.

At this point in time, I am completing the outreach and research phase of this work, and will be starting production later this month. My goal is to complete the entire project by January 2016.

Since receiving funding I have:

- Sent a newsletter out to 75 families across the state of Virginia who have loved ones in prison, inviting their participation in this project
- Identified and been in contact with 14 people who are interested in creating their own "audio postcard"
- Created a workshop curriculum that will introduce the principles of sound recording & design to participant producers
- Purchased five Zoom h4n audio field-recording kits. This excellent equipment will make it possible for the families I am working with to record very high quality audio.

I have also organized a free van trip for family members to visit their loved ones in prison, which will take place the weekend of September 25-26. I am going to drive a 15-passenger van from Richmond, Virginia to two super maximum-security prisons in southwest Virginia, 6 hours away. This will be a chance to connect with more people about the Restorative Radio project, and to invite their participation in the project.

Following this van trip, I am going to begin scheduling audio workshops with participating producers, and start loaning out recorders to begin the actual audio production process. I am very much looking forward to this next phase of the work!

So far I have learned how useful community partnerships are in helping get a project like this off the ground. My collaboration with WMMT-FM community radio has been invaluable to helping me connect with potential participants. I am also learning how to make space for participants to take on leadership roles, and how incredibly helpful and important this is. A few people who are already excited about making their own audio have helped me tremendously in spreading the word and getting more people involved.

I am on track to complete this project by January 31, 2016. I will be sure to send in a final report, and I very much look forward to sharing this work with the TMS community.

Please let me know if there is any more information you need at this time, and a huge thanks to the committee for all your support!!

Best Regards,
Sylvia