December 3, 2011

Dear Tri-Valley CAREs supporter,

We are on the cutting edge of changing nuclear policies.

Change that Washington pundits told us was impossible to achieve mere months ago is now occurring. I’ll share some of the news. First, though, I want to say thank you. Your support has kept Tri-Valley CAREs in the forefront of creating needed social and political change for three decades.

Working together, we have successfully confronted harmful nuclear technologies and promoted positive alternatives. So, today, I am writing to ask for your financial help to ensure that Tri-Valley CAREs is here tomorrow (and every day) to hold the government’s feet to the fire and stop nuclear weapons and their horrific impacts.

Let me update you on a few recent activities – and share some heartening results.

This year, we were asked to help form a national campaign to cut the U.S. nuclear weapons budget. The initiative was convened by the Ploughshares Fund in coalition with groups in DC and those located “in the belly of the beast” at nuclear weapons sites, like ours. As you may recall from our newsletter and action alerts, Tri-Valley CAREs and coalition groups have championed -- and won -- cuts to programs to build new nuclear bomb plants and to produce plutonium mixed oxide fuel for nuclear power. Another exciting facet of the campaign is its “crosscutting” nature, focusing equally on Dept. of Energy and Dept. of Defense nuclear weapons spending.

Washington insiders told us that we could never turn back the nuclear funding increases that President Obama promised in exchange for conservative votes to ratify New START. But, a shift is happening. And, in this time of national financial upheaval, I believe that the sustained attention this campaign can bring to the budget debate will result in reductions in both the number of nuclear weapons we keep and in their overall funding. Too, as nuclear weapons programs get the budget ax, it will free up hundreds of billions of dollars for much-needed social programs for the 99%.

For all of these reasons and more, I ask you to give generously so that Tri-Valley CAREs can carry on this important work.

I am happy to say also that Tri-Valley CAREs’ reputation transcends borders. Because of our long-standing expertise on nuclear weapons issues, I was invited to speak in Hiroshima, Japan last month at a major international gathering of scholars, Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors) and journalists.

The conference title, “Exploring the Roles of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Japan in the Wake of the 3/11 Nuclear Power Plant Disaster,” illuminates another huge shift taking

(turn over)
place just below the surface of things. The conference was firmly anchored in Japan, but the reexamination of the risks of nuclear power is taking place around the world.

Let me offer you a snapshot of the proceedings. Dr. Hitoshi Yoshioka, Vice-President of Kyushu University and a member of a government-appointed task force investigating the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant tragedy, spoke on Japan’s nuclear policies and called for a national phase out of nuclear energy. This was particularly significant due to his status on the task force, whose official report is not yet public. Dr. Osamu Saito, a medical doctor from Watari Hospital in Fukushima City, spoke on the effects of radiation and the multiple problems faced by the evacuees and the area residents left in place.

Ms. Toshiko Tanaka, who survived the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima as a young girl, linked her experiences with the exposures being suffered around the still-leaking nuclear plant. Dr. Frank Ulcketter, of the Rachel Carson Center in Germany, offered an analysis of that county’s decision to abandon nuclear energy. My role was to speak on U.S. nuclear weapons policy, its impacts on the land and people around nuclear weapons facilities and its links to nuclear power -- and to issue a call to action.

I witnessed a profound shift in Hiroshima, and a growing understanding of the necessity to work together to abolish both nuclear weapons and power. Here in the U.S., similar changes are taking place, and Tri-Valley CAREs is on the “front lines” making it happen.

With your help, in the coming days and months, we will:

- **Assist a newly-formed statewide network** deal with California’s two nuclear power plants located, like Fukushima, on major fault lines along the Pacific Ocean.
- **Brief the 9th Circuit Court** at a key Hearing in January on our litigation to stop a dangerous bio-warfare agent research facility at Livermore Lab, which began operating on the basis of a faulty environmental review.
- **Produce a cogent analysis of the DOE’s next budget request** for nuclear weapons activities in February when it is transmitted to Congress -- and alert the media and public as to what it really contains!
- **Follow our recent community meeting** in Livermore on toxic pollution oozing from Livermore Lab with a February meeting in Tracy, to ensure that residents there have the opportunity to weigh in on contamination at the Lab’s “Site 300” in Tracy.
- **Bring a team of community members, including youth**, to Washington, DC in March to speak truth to power to Congress on nuclear weapons policy – and more!

I realize you will receive appeals this holiday season from a number of groups. Let me assure you that no one will use your donation more effectively than Tri-Valley CAREs.

For peace, justice and a healthy environment,

Marylia Kelley
Executive Director

P.S. Please give as generously as you can. And, too, you are invited to a party (see insert).