

**National Legal Sanctuary for Community Advancement's  
Founder and President Banafsheh Akhlaghi  
Awarded the Second Annual Agape Foundation Rising Peacemaker Prize**

**Thursday, September 21, 2006** - The National Legal Sanctuary for Community Advancement (NLSCA) would like to congratulate its Founder and President, Banafsheh Akhlaghi, for being awarded the Agape Foundation's Second Annual Rising Peacemaker Prize.

The Rising Peacemaker Prize recognizes a Northern California peacemaker making a critical difference towards peace within the last five years. With courage, commitment and creativity, the rising peacemaker engages in progressive change and inspires others to do the same. The peacemaker has chosen to work for peace, and to expand the concept of peace.

The Agape Foundation is a non-profit public foundation that raises and distributes funds to groups working for non-violent social change. It is committed to true human security through equitably redistributing resources, and challenging all forms of oppression. Its decisions and discussions are rooted in histories of non-violent resistance. It promotes community-based efforts towards creating systemic change for social justice. It values transparent decision-making processes as an aspect of non-violence. It is participatory and consensus based. It values and fosters a collaborative and inclusive organizational culture. It believes that those communities that it funds and fiscally sponsors should be represented in the foundation.

Since its formation in 1969 by a group of pacifists and anti-war activists, in Palo Alto, California, the Agape Foundation has provided millions of dollars to non-violent, grassroots organizations throughout the western United States. The Agape Foundation has been NLSCA's fiscal sponsor since our inception in 2004.

We thank the Agape Foundation for this wonderful honor, and for all that it does to contribute to peace in our world. We echo the Agape Foundation in acknowledging and congratulating Ms. Akhlaghi for her tremendous dedication to waging peace.

*It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it.*

- Eleanor Roosevelt