**DRAFT**

**POLICY REGARDING WIDER HORIZONS SUPPORT FOR ATTENDANCE**

**at the Annual Village to Village National Conference**

Attendance at the Annual Village to Village National Conference is of great benefit to both Board members and non-Board members who attend, as well as to new staff. Not only do attendees benefit as individuals, when they share information gained, the organization as a whole can also take advantage of what is learned about villages in general and about other villages. Often, this new knowledge gives us ideas for changes we want to implement and how we might best do so. Providing monetary support for attendance at this conference is in recognition of the fact that the conference is worthwhile for the organization as well as each person who attends.

It is desirable to have at least two *Wider* Horizons members attend so they can share ideas and experiences (and a hotel room if appropriate).

Therefore, WH will annually budget an amount for all conference expenditures except food, including registration, airfare and hotel costs up to a maximum of $3,000. Those attending will pay for their own food and beverages.

Expenses over and above that amount will be borne by the attendee unless this would be a financial hardship, in which case, a fair amount will be negotiated on a case by case basis.

If the Board Chair can attend, s/he should do so at least once. Any new Executive Director should also attend. If neither the President nor the ED wishes to attend (or has already attended), WH will offer to pay for the registration for first-time conference attendance by any member who wishes to attend at his/her own expense, up to a total of $3,000 for the entire conference including registration.

Priority:

* First-time Board President
* First-time ED
* Expenses for up to two other Board members who have not previously attended and who request the funding by a deadline set annually by the Board. If more than two Board members desire support, the first two who make a written request earliest (not later than April 1) will receive the funds.
* Registration for up to two *Wider Horizons* members who want to attend

The expectation of the Board is that the attendees will make a formal presentation to share what they have learned and that they may take with them assignments to research certain topics to benefit us.