



Socially Responsible Investment Coalition

Justice and Peace Through Corporate Responsibility

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SRIC is a 501(c)3 Non Profit Corporation

Volume 25

Milestone in the work of SRIC



Robert Sosa, UIW Director of Foundations, Corporate & Government Relations and artist, has created this design (in red) as the new SRIC logo for the 25 year anniversary. Dynamic energy, clear and concise goals, and going forward was the description of the SRIC work that inspired his work.

Thank you!!!!!!!!!!

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25th Anniversary of SRIC (1982-2007)

The 25th anniversary celebration for the Socially Responsible Investment Coalition (SRIC) will be Wednesday, April 18, 2007 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel near the airport in San Antonio. Hospitality/Gathering Hour begins at 4:00pm, with dinner and program to follow at 6:00pm. Please consider joining us for this historic occasion. If you cannot come, please consider making a donation to empower our ministry.

In an age when many organizations come and go, SRIC has a rich history of educating its members, challenging corporations about their practices and networking with various groups to bring about systemic change. In 1982, the Texas Coalition for Responsible Investment (CRI) began. For many years, the organization was a program of Camino a la Paz, an inter-congregational justice and peace office, headquartered in San Antonio at Oblate School of Theology. In 1997, Camino completed its ministry and the CRI program separately incorporated, becoming known as the Socially Responsible Investment Coalition.

We have celebrated our anniversaries every five years. For this very special anniversary, we have invited the first executive committee members and founders, former executive directors, staff of CRI and Camino, board members and friends to join us in celebrating this milestone. Our invited keynote speaker is Timothy Smith, current vice-president at Walden Asset Management in Boston and former executive director of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility in New York.

The work continues, even as you read this newsletter. SRIC members filed many resolutions for the 2007 proxy season. Volunteers and interns help us with research.

We are grateful for all that has been. We have been built on the shoulders and hard work of all who have done this ministry for the past 25 years. We look forward to the next 25 years of making a difference in the socially responsible investment movement.

COMPANY NAME	2007 RESOLUTIONS FILED	SRIC MEMBERS
Abbott Laboratories 100 Abbott Park Road Abbott Park, IL 60064-6400	Separate CEO & Chair - Pharmaceutical	Congregation of Divine Providence; Benedictine Sisters Boerne; Benedictine Trust
Altria Group, Inc. 120 Park Avenue New York, NY 10017	Youth Anti-Smoking Campaign Findings	Congregation of Divine Providence; Providence Trust
AMEREN (Union Electric) One Ameren Plaza 1901 Chouteau Avenue St. Louis, MO 63103	Nuclear Power's Radioactive Releases	Congregation of Divine Providence; Providence Trust
Bank of America Corp. 101 South Tryon Street NC1-002-29-01 Charlotte, NC 28255	Corporate Tax Avoidance	Congregation of Divine Providence; Providence Trust; Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word San Antonio; Congregation of Holy Cross; Missionary of Oblates of Mary Immaculate; LKCM; Sisters of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament
Boeing Company 100 N. Riverside Plaza 311A1, MC 5003-1001 Chicago, IL 60606-1596	Foreign Military Sales	Missionary of Oblates of Mary Immaculate
Chevron 6001 Bollinger Canyon Road San Ramon, CA 94583	Human Rights -Develop and Adopt Policies	Congregation of Divine Providence; Providence Trust; Congregation of Holy Cross; Christus Health; Benedictine Sisters Boerne; LKCM
Coca-Cola Company P.O. BoX 1734 Atlanta, GA 30301	Advisory vote on executive compensation	Benedictine Sisters Boerne
Cooper Industries, Ltd. 600 Travis Street Suite 5800 Houston, TX 77002	Human Rights Standards	Benedictine Sisters Boerne
DELPHI	Global Standards	Benedictine Sisters Boerne
DuPont Company 1007 Market Street Wilmington, DE 19898	Genetically Modified Organisms - Report	Congregation of Divine Providence; Providence Trust; Benedictine Sisters Boerne
EXXon Mobil Corporation 5959 Las Colinas Boulevard Irving, TX 75039-2298	Executive Compensation	Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word San Antonio; Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
General Electric Company 3135 Easton Turnpike Fairfield, CT 06828	Ethical Criteria for Military Contracts	Congregation of Divine Providence; Providence Trust; Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word San Antonio; Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate; Benedictine Sisters Boerne
Caterpillar Inc. 100 NE Adams Street Peoria, IL 61629	Separate CEO & CHAIR	Providence Trust; Benedictine Sisters Boerne; Sisters of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament
Federated Department Stores, Inc. 7 W. Seventh St. Cincinnati, Oh 45202	Universal Healthcare Policy	ChristusHealth

COMPANY NAME	2007 RESOLUTIONS FILED	SRIC MEMBERS
Halliburton Company 5 Houston Center 1401 McKinney St. - Ste. 2400 Houston, TX 77010	Human Rights -Develop and Adopt Policies	ChristusHealth; Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament; Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
Home Depot, Inc. 2455 Paces Ferry Road Atlanta, GA 30339	Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)	Missionary of Oblates of Mary Immaculate
McDonald's Corp. McDonald's Plaza Oak Brook, IL 60523-1928	Genetically Modified Organisms - Label	Congregation of Divine Providence; Providence Trust
Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. 222 Broadway, 17th Floor New York,, NY 10038-2510	Executive Compensation	Congregation of Divine Providence, Providence Trust; Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word San Antonio
Newmont Mining Corporation 1700 Lincoln Street Denver, CO 80203	Free Prior & Informed Consent (HR)	Missionary of Oblates of Mary Immaculate;Christus Health
PepsiCo, Inc. 700 Anderson Hill Road Purchase, NY 10577	Genetically Modified Organisms - Label	Congregation of Holy Cross; Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate; Benedictine Sisters Boerne
Pfizer, Inc. 235 East 42nd Street New York, NY 10017-5755	Executive Compensation	Providence Trust; Congregation of Divine Providence
Target Corp. 1000 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis, MN 55403	Universal Health Care Policy	Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate; Christus Health
Time Warner Inc. One Time Warner Center New York, NY 10019-8016	Separate CEO & Chair - CG	Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
Torchmark Corp. 2001 Third Ave. South Birmingham, AL 35233	Inclusiveness of Board of Directors	Christus Health
TXU	Emissions Reduction	Congregation of Holy Cross; Benedictine Sisters Boerne
United Technologies Corp. One Financial Plaza Hartford, CT 06103	Foreign Military Sales	Congregation of Divine Providence, Providence Trust
Visteon Corp. One Village Center Drive Van Buren Township, MI 48111	Human Rights -Develop and Adopt Policies	Benedictine Sisters Boerne;Congregation of the Holy Cross
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. 702 Southwest Eighth Street Bentonville, AR 72716-0215	Pay Disparity - betweenCEO and Workers	Benedictine Sisters Boerne



JOAN BRAUNE'S - SUMMER INTERNSHIP

I spent six weeks as a volunteer intern with the Socially Responsible Investment Coalition (SRIC).

In May 2006, I graduated from the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, and I am now a graduate student in philosophy at the University of Kentucky. After having been quite active in social justice activism in San Antonio for three years and serving three years as our President of UIW's highly active Amnesty International chapter, I was sad to be moving. I decided to stick around San Antonio for the summer to stay involved in activism.

As I contacted a number of organizations looking for a productive way to spend my summer, I contacted SRIC and spoke to the highly enthusiastic director, Sr. Susan Mika. "I certainly hope you'll pick us," she told me.

I was non-committal at first, but I soon accepted the internship and am quite glad that I did. Working with SRIC made for a fun and intellectually engaging summer. I read about the history of the modern corporation, and I read up on Catholic Social Teaching and the teachings of other faiths about social justice. I watched a dozen or so videos on economic globalization and on environmental damage caused by corporations, especially Exxon and the maquiladoras on the U.S./Mexico border. I learned how socially investment works and what a shareholder resolution is. Socially Responsible Investment (encompassing both screening of investments and shareholder activism) is certainly an exciting branch of activism, which, coupled with the efforts of other activist movements, can be surprisingly effective in bringing about justice and peace.

Over the summer, I also met with local activists from a number of different organizations to learn more about their work and see how their efforts were interconnected with the socially responsible investment movement. I attended a meeting of the Texas Youth Commission to find out how private corporations are profiting from the imprisonment of youth.

I spent a few days attending forums as part of the Southwest Workers Union's conference on military toxins, which drew together activists from around the globe who were concerned about pollution and weapons manufacturing by large U.S.-based corporations.

I plan to come back next summer and continue this work. I also encourage others to get involved in SRIC, and I want to thank Sister Susan Mika for such an enjoyable summer. SRIC really makes a difference in a big way, and its work is so closely linked to many areas of research and action.

END

Corporations and Social Justice Forum

ORGANIZED BY: JOAN BRAUNE

ARTICLE BY: JOAN BRAUNE

On the evening of July 25, approximately forty professors, students, and community activists gathered at the University of the Incarnate Word for a forum on "Corporations and Social Justice" sponsored by the university's Amnesty International chapter. The speakers were Sr. Susan Mika of the Socially Responsible Investment Coalition, Martha Ojeda of the Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras, emeritus religion professor and local activist Tom Keene and Monica Garcia of the Southwest Workers Union and the UIW Amnesty International chapter.

The talks were engaging, and the audience appeared glued to their seats. Our Amnesty International chapter at the university had called the conference hoping to delve more deeply into a number of issues that had been discussed by students and community activist over previous weeks concerning corporate power. We were not disappointed.

Sr. Mika discussed socially responsible investment and the work of the coalition, mentioning some of her personal experiences that have influenced her in her work. Martha Ojeda gave a brief history of the Mexican economy from the Mexican revolution to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and explained how the issues faced by *maquiladora* workers interlock with the concerns of a wide range of social movements. Tom Keene offered a philosophical interpretation of the problem of corporations, advising listeners to ask three fundamental questions about major political and economic issues: Who decides? Who benefits? Who pays? Monica Garcia discussed Starbucks' violation of fair trade principles and the fair trade movement on university campuses.

Following the presentations, a lively conversation ensued between audience members and speakers. A number of people reported to me that they had made valuable connections at the meeting and re-connected with fellow activists that they had not seen for a number of years. Fair trade coffee sellers exchanged phone numbers with union activists, teachers arranged to have speakers present to their classes, and everyone went home a little more knowledgeable and ready to carry on the struggle for justice in our communities and world.



At the Forum...left to right...Joan Braune, Monica Garcia, Martha Ojeda, Sr. Susan Mika, Tom Keene.

CORPORATIONS

By: Joan Braune

I spent quite a bit of time this summer researching a number of different corporations: Exxon's continued pollution of the environment and attempts to hide the truth about global warming, Stepan Chemical's pollution in Matamoros during a time when there were many serious birth defects, including babies born with anencephaly—that is, born without brains—and with spina bifida, Chevron and Shell's human rights violations in the Amazon and in Nigeria, Sodexo's mistreatment of refugees in its privately owned prison in England, abuses committed by the private prison industry (both Wackenhut and a network of juvenile behavior modification camps going under the name "WWASP"), and a number of other corporate abuses caught my attention.

Rather than summarize my research, I've decided to offer a reflection on one corporation in particular, Coca-Cola, that impacts life around the world in some very dramatic ways.

Most Americans do not realize that for many people in the third world, Coca-Cola has long been seen as an ugly symbol of US corporate globalization and neocolonialism in the third world. This is not without reason.

I have had several contacts with the global movement to stop Coca-Cola's human rights violations. My first encounter was with a number of activists from the United Students Against Sweatshops at a protest in Georgia, who chanting "Coke Kills!" and passing out huge posters with a drawing of bloody, assassinated workers floating back-up in large Coke glasses under the heading, "Murder: It's the Real Thing." I learned from student activists that Coca-Cola has allegedly been employing paramilitary squads to intimidate workers at Colombian Coca-Cola bottling plants who try to unionize. Nine employees have been assassinated, while many hundreds of others have been brutally tortured, kidnapped, or illegally detained. In 2003, the fifteen-year-old son of the leader of the union at one of Coke's Columbia plants was kidnapped and brutally tortured by paramilitary leaders who demanded information about his father's whereabouts.

That was a few years ago, and, my stomach churning from the bloody image of the dead union activists on the students' protest posters, I've boycotted Coca-Cola products ever since. (While I don't think boycotts alone can solve the problem of corporate abuses of human rights, in some cases they have been quite effective, and the current Coke boycott has a large following with university students.)

Later that year, I joined an "alternative spring break" trip organized by my university's Campus Ministry group, and our delegation of students visited the small, impoverished Mexican town of Tlapa, Guerrero. The chief employer in Tlapa is a Coca-Cola plant, and the town is blanketed in the red-and-white Coca-Cola logo. It is rather disconcerting to see small shacks beside huge Coca-Cola billboards.

Our student group talked a lot about how it made us feel to see this symbol of the wealth of the few beside the poverty of the many. Once, we decided to count Coca-Cola ads in a residential neighborhood, and I think we got to up to seventeen in two blocks. The signs were everywhere, even painted onto the sides of homes. I also asked Abel Barrera, the founder of the Tlapa Human Rights Center about the wages earned by workers in the plant. He informed us that just the day before a couple of women had come in to ask him for help, since they had not been paid for some time. He said that the workers are mistreated and under-paid, and that they work long hours in miserable conditions.

This summer, I've had the opportunity to research Coca-Cola in more depth. It so happened, however, that I also met a couple of interesting people who are working on this issue.

I heard from one of the Sisters of the Charity of Nazareth about how members of her Order in India have been protesting Coca-Cola's illegal water drilling and pollution. Indian writer/activist Vandana Shiva reports that Coca-Cola's water drilling practices in the southern Indian state of Kerala have had devastating effects: rice farmers can no longer irrigate their fields, women now have to walk about four miles every day to get water (since local wells are now dry due to Coke's illegal drilling), and the water is severely polluted by chemicals from the factory.

Meanwhile, the struggle continues in Colombia, and I spoke this summer with a young Colombian activist who was visiting San Antonio for an international conference on "military toxins" organized by the Southwest Workers Union. He gave an impassioned speech about the role of a number of powerful U.S. corporations (including Halliburton, DynCorp, Lockheed Martin and Monsanto) in fumigation of Colombian farmland; this practice is supposedly intended to eradicate drugs, but the spraying of chemicals destroys farmland, causes cancer, and destroys the environment.

But the young activist reserved some of his strongest words of condemnation for Coca-Cola, which continues to threaten its Colombian workers.

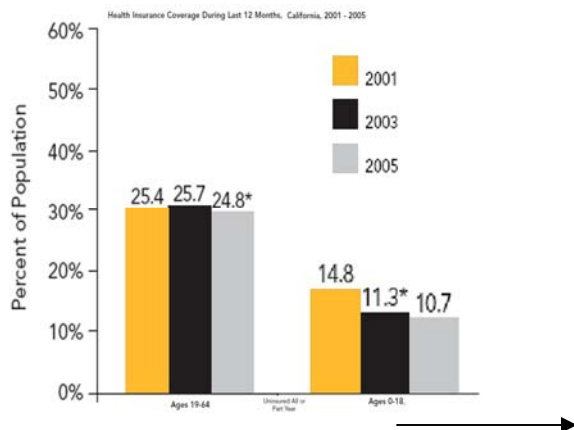
When I think about the ways that a single corporation, Coca-Cola, has impacted my life and the lives of so many people around the world, I am struck by the way that globalization has tied together the fates of all people. It may seem that there is little connection between my life and that of a harassed union activist in Colombia or a peasant farmer in India. But all of us form part of the same global capitalist economy, and every day we see more clearly the very dangerous effects of immoral, unchecked corporate power. At the same time, we can take heart that the global economy has also produced a global justice movement, and when anyone suffers, all of us are affected and can take action together.

The Debate over Universal Health Care

Contributed by: James Collins

For the forty to fifty million persons in the U.S. without health insurance around the nation, the thought of universal health care brings a measure of hope. With health care costs spiraling upwards, bringing up premiums along with it, the question of affordability becomes a serious issue for many. The U.S. as a whole, walks a fine line between providing for the common good with universal health care and not violating that sense of individuality that is so key to our collective identity and which resonates within our employer-provided or self-provided health care insurance system.

States from Massachusetts and Vermont on the east coast to California on the west coast are embracing the notion of universal health care. In a speech announcing a health care plan for the state of California, Governor Schwarzenegger reopened a debate that has been lost over the past few years. By pointedly stating, "We don't need a Republican health care plan. We don't need a Democratic health care plan. What we need is a health care plan." Schwarzenegger took the reins and attempted to spur bipartisan action on his health care plan for California that looks startlingly like a universal health care plan. Schwarzenegger's plan would require employers with 10 workers or more to buy insurance for their workers or pay a fee of 4% of their payroll into a program to help provide coverage for the uninsured. In addition to this Schwarzenegger would tax doctors 2% of their gross revenue and place a 4% tax on hospitals to cover the cost of providing subsidized health care to those who cannot afford it. Insurers would also have to spend at least 85% of their premium revenues on patient care, a move that would limit the amount companies spend on administrative costs and profits. In an effort to cover all Californian children, including ones in the state illegally, Schwarzenegger's plan would expand the state's Healthy Families program, providing insurance to children whose parents make less than three times the poverty level. Most telling, though, is that Schwarzenegger said his plan would require every Californian to have health insurance subsidized by the state if necessary.



From the other side of the aisle: Obama, Clinton, Edwards and Kucinich have all announced plans to put forward Universal Health Care plans. In the case of Obama, he's even put forward a timetable to provide for universal health care for all Americans by 2016.

The Democrats are setting up this issue to be a crucial component of the presidential campaign in 2008 and in the following months as these plans are released the debate over universal health care should once again be on the public consciousness. Within SRIC, and encouraged by the collective action taken by ten top CEO's on climate change, we are urging business leaders to form some sort of plan to put forward for universal health care. This year for the first time: General Motors, Wal-Mart, 3M, Ford, Proctor and Gamble, Target, Kohl's, as well as the Federated Department Stores have all received shareholder resolutions on their desire for and their ability to adapt to the formulation of a universal health care policy. We feel that formal corporate leadership will play an essential role in the formulation of this debate and are taking steps to encourage business leaders to anticipate and further a change in the way America looks at health care.

On a more personal note I have had the fortune, or misfortune, of exploring the French health care system. As an exchange student in France in 2001, I was injured while playing rugby. Despite concerns over wait times and quality of care, I found myself progressing from the emergency room to a specialist in a day and the entire process was handled efficiently and the care I received was thorough. That experience served as a welcome introduction to universal health care and I am thrilled to see the beginnings of a debate in this country over an issue that reflects such benevolence and concern for our fellow citizens.

¹http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/income_wealth/002484.html

²<http://gov.ca.gov/healthcare/slideshow>

³<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=61770>

⁴http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/pubs/files/CAS_Uninsured_PB.100406.pdf

Seeking his Masters in International Conflict Resolution, James Collins has come to SRIC through Larry Hufford of St. Mary's University. James has an impressive resume which includes graduating from the Ohio State University in March 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies with a minor in Political Science. Active abroad James studied in Blaye, France with the Rotary Student Exchange, as well as serving in the Peace Corp, in the village of M'Bout, Mauritania



SRIC is excited that James is doing his internship with us. During his 20 hours a week, he is doing research and actively participating in meetings and conference calls. James' has shown an interest in the healthcare issues.

Happy 25th Anniversary to SRIC!!!

How can you celebrate with us? **Donate!**

Your donations will support the work that is being done—such as, our continuing efforts to inform with our newsletter and attending meetings with organizations and schools; presenting the concerns and issues by dialogue with corporations and attending shareholder meetings to present our proposals.

----- *Prophetic Perseverance Level \$5,000*

----- *Prophetic Empowerment Level - \$2,500*

----- *Prophetic Strength Level - \$1,000*

----- *Prophetic Justice Level - \$500*

----- *Prophetic Supporter Level—\$50* to sponsor an individual to attend the event that are wanting to attend but are financially restrained, such as a student.

----- *Prophetic Congratulatory Level—\$25 or other amount*

THE NAME YOU WISH TO HAVE LISTED IN EVENT MATERIALS:

Please cut this page and place in the envelope provided with the SRIC return address along with your check.

Or on April 18, 2007 - attend our annual event which will be our 25TH anniversary celebration. This event will include the founders of our coalition, past and present executive directors and staff and our members. They will be traveling from all over, even Rome. This year, our event is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 18, 2007**. It will be held at the Crowne Plaza San Antonio Airport Hotel. We have the Hospitality and Gathering Time scheduled for **4:00 p.m.** with dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the banquet hall. The Hospitality and Gathering Time will be an excellent opportunity to get acquainted or re-acquainted with our membership. Our keynote dinner speaker is Timothy Smith, Vice-President of Walden Asset Management in Boston and former Executive Director of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility.

----- *Prophetic Perseverance Level \$5,000*

----- *Prophetic Empowerment Level - \$2,500*

----- *Prophetic Strength Level - \$1,000*

----- *Prophetic Justice Level - \$500*

----- *Individual attendee—\$50*

----- *Networking Opportunity Tables @ \$50.00* - 36" W x 18" D table will be available in the hospitality area of the event. This will be where your company name will be posted and you can provide approximately 50 pamphlets/materials that **emphasize social responsibility**.

Please note that your participation of \$500 and up will include a table seating 8 persons and acknowledgements in our invitation, program, newsletter and, of course, at the event itself. A table will cost \$500; individual tickets will be \$50.

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

Please include this full page in the envelope provided with the SRIC return address along with your check by March 21, 2007.



**Socially
Responsible
Investment
Coalition**

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Celebrating our 25th Anniversary 1982–2007

BENEDICTINE SISTERS BOERNE BRIGIDINE SISTERS CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH CHRISTUS HEALTH
CONGREGATION OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS CONGREGATION OF THE MIS-
SION SISTERS OF CHARITY OF THE INCARNATE WORD SAN ANTONIO DOMINICAN SISTERS HOUSTON
SISTERS OF THE INCARNATE WORD AND BLESSED SACRAMENT CORPUS CHRISTI HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC
CHURCH LKCM-AQUINAS FUNDS MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE MISSIONHURST-CICM
PROVIDENCE TRUST SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT & MARY IMMACULATE SAN ANTONIO AREA FOUNDATION

**“I suppose that I shall have to die beyond my
means.”**

Oscar Wilde, upon being told the cost of an operation circa 1900

An unlikely alliance between: the Service Employees International Union, Wal-Mart, AT&T, Kelly Services Inc., and Intel have moved forward with an announcement to push for universal health care by 2012. While it was unclear as to whether government, business, or labor would be taking the lead, one cannot help but laud the general swelling of consensus that has brought about this turn of events. With employers on the scale of Wal-Mart supporting a legislative push and the current emphasis on universal health care within the nominees for the presidential run in 2008, the outlook for formulating a working universal health care system has not looked so bright since the early 1990's. While still guardedly optimistic over the tangible effects of the announcement, the announcement itself helps to push this debate further into the fabric of society. The new “Better Health Care Together” campaign principles follow closely ICCR's own health care principles based on:

- ◆ **Accessible and affordable:** each individual has access to quality, affordable health care coverage and services sufficient for a healthy life, regardless of health/financial circumstances
- ◆ **Quality:** quality is determined by improved health outcomes
- ◆ **Accountability:** all stakeholders (individuals, providers, businesses, non-profits, governments) are accountable for the integrity, viability, and cost containment of the health care system.
- ◆ **Equitable Financing:** all stake holders share responsibility for equitable financing of the system.