

Thanks to all who contributed to this effort.

## **BioEthics2006 goals:**

- Specifically **educate consumers** unaware of the GMO issues.
- Begin to bridge the awareness gap around **food safety**, politics and health, and the critical relationship that exists between small family farmers and consumers in the Midwest.
- **Create a foundation of informed individuals** who could assist in expanding a future network of farmers, concerned consumers, persons of influence, and families around GMOs.

## **Achievements:**

- There is a community working group now to get Gmo's and rBGH out of the Chicago Public Schools, with Dr. Samuel S. Epstein and Jeffrey Smith / Kevin Andersen / local organizers.
- There was effective and targeted media which directly achieved the goal of broadening out the message to the general public on the dangers of GMO's: feature length story on BIO and BioETHICS on local NPR affiliate, and favorable coverage on Fox News, as well as other TV and print media.
- Outreach to and involvement with Midwest farmers groups increased considerably. The Illinois Farmers Union and the Illinois Farmer/Consumer Coalition joining our coalition was an important step.
- Two very prominent food growing projects declared their land GMO-Free in Chicago
- There is a proposal put forth by members of the Chicago Food Policy Advisory Council to ban GMO-seeds within city limits.
- We have completed a productive meeting with Congresswoman Jan Shakowsky to discuss the genetic engineering issue in context of the danger to farmers, the environment, and public health and safety.
- We are in contact with the directors of the Chicago Public Schools lunch program, as well as doctors at Children's Memorial and Loyola University regarding dangers of gmo's in the food supply.
- The founder of the La Leche League, one of the largest groups of organized women in the world, attended one of our events and will be working with us on educating their very large constituency in the future.
- There are now several active Mexican and Hispanic parents and Chicago Public School teachers who have taken on active leadership roles in organizing on GMO's and child and parent health in general with GeneWise/BioETHICS.
- All sessions were taped and can be used as educational tools for future reference.

## **Media:**

The conference received strong press interest by numerous and varied media, including: Aspectarian Magazine, Chicago Social, Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun Times, The Rockford Register Star, The NO-GMO Report, ACRES USA, For Her Information, Chicago! Magazine, Epoch Global News Service, Fox TV news, Lerner Press, Metromix TV, National Public Radio, Organic Lifestyles Magazine, Pioneer Press; The Toronto Star.

## **FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE ACTIVITY AND INVOLVEMENT**

There is now a foundation here in the Midwest for greater participation nationally in helping to stop the spread of GMO's. This did not exist before, and establishing this was a primary goal of BioEthics2006. We consider the Midwest agricultural communities and the city of Chicago to be crucial role players in the effort against GMO'S. Prior to BIO2006, however, there was not enough education around the issue locally to generate the level of concern necessary to leverage support. Media presence, public education, and a network of informed friends in positions of influence who can act when called upon, have all been established through BioEthics2006. The groups here will look forward to sharing, debating, giving and receiving input and feedback from our colleagues to offer assistance and insight to the organizers of next year's effort. There will be events planned in conjunction and solidarity here in the Midwest.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

As the first every Midwest based conference on the ethical implications of genetically engineered foods and crops, BioETHICS 2006 'The Voice of Reason' successfully organized four days of action based forums, workshops and panel discussions. Open to the public and at no charge for most events, this conference was supported by an unprecedented broad range of consumer and farmer advocacy and organizing groups and organizations, including:

The Illinois Farmers Union, The Iowa Farmers Union, Angelic Organics CSA and Learning Center, The Illinois Farmer Consumer Coalition, Family Farm Defenders, The National Family Farm Coalition, The American Corn Growers Association, The Columbia College Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences, GeneWise, The Campaign to Label Genetically Engineered Foods, Conscious Choice Magazine, For Her Information, Chicago! Magazine, The Organic Food Network, Mark Klemen of The Funky Buddha Lounge, Charlie Trotter's, Chef Michael Altenberg of Bistro Campagne, Chef John Fuente of the Cooking and Hospitality Institute of Chicago, Greg Christian of GoGo Organics, Fats Catering  
Anna Lappe, Dr. Cass Ingram of North American Herb and Spice, Growing Power, Dr. Sam S. Epstein and The Cancer Prevention Coalition, Chef Paul Kahan of Blackbird Restaurant, Liberty Family Farm, Sustain, The Rogers Park NeighborFood Council and many more.