



NELL MERLINO

Fulbright Student Program
(1977-1978)

CITY OF RESIDENCE: New York, NY

HOST COUNTRY: United Kingdom

PROJECT: Study of labor relations in the National Health Service

BACKGROUND: After graduating from Antioch College in 1973, Nell Merlino became active in the labor movement. She organized health care workers for New York's District 1199, National Union of Hospital & Health Care Employees and organized strike support for the Amalgamated Clothing & Textile Workers Union during the Farah Strike. In 1977, Merlino received a Fulbright grant to the United Kingdom, where she studied labor relations in England's National Health Service.

OCCUPATION: Merlino is president and founder of Strategy Communication Action, Ltd. in New York City, a firm specializing in the creation of public education campaigns. She has extensive experience in the development and production of dynamic and highly effective national and international efforts including Take Our Daughters to Work Day, NGO Forum on Women in Beijing '95, Earth Day's 20th Anniversary, Picture What Women Do for Lifetime Television, and the YWCA Week Without Violence.

Merlino is also the co-founder of Count Me In, a 501(c) nonprofit organization based in Manhattan that provides micro-loans to female small business owners nationwide. She is a frequent panelist and speaker on media, social justice and the integration of work and family.

AWARDS/HONORS: For her work on behalf of women, girls and families, Merlino was named a 1993 Woman of the Year by *New Woman* magazine and has been recognized in the book, *Remarkable Women of the Twentieth Century: 100 Portraits of Achievement*. Merlino was also named one of "50 New Yorkers to Watch in 1999" by the *New York Daily News*.

QUOTE: "Being a Fulbright Scholar improved my confidence in my own thoughts, observations and abilities to create solutions to social and economic challenges...It was the first time as a social activist and entrepreneur that I had time to read extensively, talk with experts and write about issues of concern to women and girls."