



COURTESY OF Chainless Change



COURTESY OF Chelsea Greenroots



COURTESY OF Disabled Rights Action Committee



COURTESY OF Decarcerate



COURTESY OF Fund for Empowerment

ORGANIZERS ADAPT TO COVID-19 WITH PDF'S SUPPORT

IN MARCH OF 2020, when there was so much unknown about COVID-19, the United States went into lockdown, a sense of panic was widespread. Schools and businesses closed their doors. Governments and hospitals scrambled to prepare.

Grassroots organizers became lifelines in their communities, and PDF was ready to support them throughout the pandemic through the **De Colores Rapid Response Fund**. Early grant recipients came from areas hard hit by the first wave, like **Movement for Justice in El Barrio** in Harlem, NY, and **Chelsea Greenroots** in Chelsea, MA.

With the support of PDF, the **People's Press Project** in Moorhead, MN, produced daily radio and Facebook segments to provide current and factual information about COVID-19, including in multiple African languages to ensure local immigrant communities were being reached with essential information.

In Salt Lake City, the **Disabled Rights Action Committee** utilized rapid response funding to organize with disabled community members in nursing homes, contacting over 1,380 adults and elevating awareness of how to slow the spread of COVID-19. They demanded their local representatives have greater oversight of long-term care facilities and they advocated that increased safety measures be introduced in facilities across Salt Lake City.

HOUSING JUSTICE

As unemployment has reached levels unseen since the Great Depression, housing inequities that existed before the pandemic were greatly exacerbated. While the eviction moratorium was critically important, it did not prevent evictions — it merely delayed them.

Working-class families continue to be in limbo, unsure how they're going to put food on the table or keep a roof over their heads. Economic and housing insecurity has been particularly impactful on immigrant communities because federal relief programs are inaccessible to those without citizenship.

Transnational Villages Network / Red de Pueblos Transnacionales (RPT), one of our De Colores grant partner recipients, collaborated with other organizations to create funding and rent relief for immigrants and other excluded essential workers. **RPT** is a grassroots network of Indigenous and rural immigrant groups living in New York City working to advance human rights and cultural, social, and economic inclusion.

Lead organizer Marco Castillo said, "With the support from PDF, our network led a rent cancel-

ation campaign. We organized two caravans to Albany to demand Governor Cuomo cancel rent. Immigrant families from across New York City came together to share their stories of the devastating impact of COVID-19 and make clear the urgent need for relief."

Fund for Empowerment used PDF funding to organize two protests to draw attention to the housing crisis in the Phoenix area. Over 500 people experiencing homelessness died in 2020 in Maricopa County alone, a cruel and tragic reality in what is the wealthiest county in Arizona.

Director Elizabeth Vendale said, "Media attention to our protests helped us to expose injustice from a first-person perspective. Houseless folks were able to speak publicly about their struggles and experiences of criminalization. Thanks to support from PDF, our members had screen-printed shirts and signs that read 'Houseless but not Hopeless' and 'Homes not Jails,' as well as the necessary PPE to ensure COVID-19 safety."

The protests were part of Fund for Empowerment's Houseless Leadership Project. Vendale said, "We are organizing people who experience houselessness and their allies to combat policies and practices of institutions which marginalize people."

DECARCERATION

Another acute issue during the COVID-19 pandemic has been the threat of the virus to vulnerable populations in jails and prisons, environments that are conducive to its rapid spread. The threat is made worse by the fact that the United States is the incarceration capital of the world, with 25% of the world's total prison population.

More than one in five people in jails and prisons has been infected with COVID-19, a rate four times as high as the general population and a figure many experts believe is a vast undercount. According to The Marshall Project, 2,144 prisoners died from COVID-19 as of January 19, 2021. Incarceration should not be a death sentence and yet, for many, it has become exactly that.



COURTESY OF Movement for Justice in El Barrio



COURTESY OF People's Press Project



COURTESY OF Transnational Villages Network

"This generous and timely grant has allowed us to acquire and implement tools and a system for managing digital advocacy campaigns that will allow us to continue our organizing and advocacy efforts safely and effectively."

— ZACHARY CROW, DIRECTOR, DECARCERATE

PDF provided rapid response funding to **Chainless Change** in Miami-Dade County, FL. "With the support of PDF," said Executive Director Marq Mitchell, "we staged a series of protests which drew about 200 people. As a result, we worked with the local Sheriff's office and State Attorneys and successfully expedited the release of qualifying individuals. In addition, incarcerated individuals reported they finally began receiving masks and previously-denied protective equipment."

Mitchell said, "Without this support, the protests would not have generated as much community mobilization. It enabled us to protest safely by coming together while still practicing social distancing. The main benefit of receiving this grant was increased awareness regarding jail conditions and the successful release of vulnerable populations from overcrowded jails. Keeping our fellow citizens safe is of paramount importance to building strong, healthy communities."

Another De Colores Rapid Response Fund

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

PEACE TALKS ONLINE

De Colores Grantee Town Hall.
Join us for an interactive dialogue with recent De Colores Rapid Response Fund grant partners about organizing responses to COVID-19

Wednesday, May 12, 2021
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 PM EST
Register on our website:
www.peacedevelopmentfund.org

For more information on this online event go to www.peacedevelopmentfund.org

RECENT GRANTS

A ★ denotes a new grantee

- ★ African American Policy Forum, New York, NY
www.aapf.org
- Arriba Las Vegas Worker Center, Las Vegas, NV
www.arribalasvegas.org
- Aztlan Cultura A.C., Colonia del Valle, Mexico
www.aztlancultura.com
- ★ Center for Economic Democracy, Boston, MA
www.economicdemocracy.us
- ★ Brooklyn Ghost Project, Inc., Brooklyn, NY
www.brooklynghostproject.com
- Creative Thought and Action, Inc., Ashfield, MA
www.creativethoughtandaction.org
- Changing Worlds, Chicago, IL
www.changingworlds.org
- Coal River Mountain Watch, Naoma, WV
www.crmw.net
- Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture Inc., South Deerfield, MA
www.buylocalfood.org
- Confederación Nacional Campesina (National Farmworker Federation), Provincia La Vega, Dominican Republic
www.confenaca.org
- The Freedom Archives, San Francisco, CA
www.freedomarchives.org
- ★ Fund for Empowerment, Phoenix, AZ
www.fundforempowerment.org
- Grassroots International, Boston, MA
www.grassrootsonline.org
- ★ Impact Inc., Boston, MA
www.impactboston.org
- ★ InterAction Initiative Inc., Chicago, IL
www.interactioninc.org
- La Pena Cultural Center, Berkeley, CA
www.lapena.org
- ★ Massachusetts Jobs with Justice, Boston, MA
www.massjwj.net
- Migrant, Immigrant & Refugee Rights Alliance, New York, NY
www.mirralliance.org
- Highlander Research and Education Center, New Market, TN
www.highlandercenter.org
- Nodutdol for Korean Community Development, New York, NY
www.nodutdol.org
- ★ Northern Youth Project, Abiquiu, NM
www.northernyouthproject.org
- ★ PVUSD Students Deserve, Watsonville, CA
- Safe Passage, Northampton, MA
www.safepass.org
- ★ National Religious Campaign Against Torture, Washington, DC
www.nrcat.org
- ★ Ventura County Community Foundation, Camarillo, CA
www.vccf.org
- Whose Knowledge?, Santa Cruz, CA
www.whoseknowledge.org
- Women's Foundation of California, Oakland, CA
www.womensfoundca.org

NEW FISCAL SPONSORSHIPS:

- Beloved Economies, Stanford, CA
www.belovedeconomies.org
- Education Justice Coalition of Vermont, Burlington, VT
www.ethnicstudiesvt.org
- Hempstead Project Heart, Green Bay, WI
www.hempsteadprojectheart.org
- Path to Healing, Inc., South Easton, MA
www.pathtohealing.org
- Planet Hool, San Francisco, CA
- Reproductive Outreach & Education Center for Justice, Huntsville, AL
- Whistleblower Fellowship Program, Washington, DC



COURTESY OF InterAction

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE LEADING THE WAY

“People often talk about young people as future leaders,” said Julia Cuneo, of **Detroit Area Youth Uniting Michigan (DAYUM)**, “but young people are already leaders today. If you look just at this past year, with Black Lives Matter protests and the 2020 election, you see that young people are already leading the way toward a more just future.”

DAYUM, one of PDF’s Community Organizing Grant partners, is led by high school students. This past year DAYUM launched a campaign called Black Education Matters, which centers on getting districts to adopt the Online Learning Bill of Rights during virtual schooling. “We led a banner drop, a student strike, and several speak-outs at school board meetings,” said Cuneo.

With support from PDF, DAYUM organized two youth-led Black Lives Matter protests, one on the Dequindre Cut with over 1000 people, and the other with over 200 people down Woodward Avenue to highlight the women and girl victims of police brutality.

Cuneo said, “The unrestricted grant from PDF was key in allowing DAYUM to shift with the collective moment and be responsive to the needs of young people organizing themselves.” Cuneo added, “Young people don’t always get a chance to see their work in this larger context and receiving funds from a group like PDF shows them that their voices are needed, respected, and valued.”

In nearby Chicago, IL, PDF supported **InterAction**, an intersectional racial justice organization led by and for young Black, Indigenous, and people of color. Rapid response funding from PDF supported a cohort of 18 to 32-year-olds in the Chicago area for popular education and organizing training. Specifically, the cohort was a coalition-building space for Black and Asian youth to build solidarity and to combat all forms of racism in their community.

PVUSD, a coalition of students in Watsonville, California, received a De Colores Rapid Response Fund grant from PDF to make their youth-led organizing course possible during the COVID-19 pandemic for low-income students, many of them from farm-worker families. Together they studied organizing tactics of past social movements, like the Chicano, Farm Workers, and Black Panther movements. The latter part of the course sought to “identify problems in the school district, who the target is, and then work in groups with support of former students to ‘cut the issue’ into winnable campaigns.”

Another grant partner in Pomona, CA, **Gente Organizada**, works to bring together generations to access, build, and utilize their power to achieve educational, economic, and social justice in their community. Led by working-class and immigrant youth, Gente Organizada used PDF’s rapid response funding to transition their programs online and employ digital organizing tactics on housing, education, and criminal justice issues. One major accomplishment was that they successfully pushed for the reallocation of \$1 million in city funding toward youth services. Speaking of the grant, one member told PDF



COURTESY OF Gente Organizada



COURTESY OF InterAction

that, “Funding to support our work is difficult to find, especially as more funders prioritize direct services to those affected by COVID-19 — and not to community organizing.” They added, “PDF’s support was crucial in creating a sustainable support system for our youth organizers to reach their collective goals.”

PDF’s funding niche is in supporting grassroots organizing and capacity-building initiatives that shift power dynamics and create systemic change. While supporting direct services is critical in this time of great need we must also double down on our efforts to support those confronting structural inequities. We invest in local leaders, including in young people, because we know they are building the more just and equitable future our communities need to survive and thrive. ■

CONSIDER A DONOR ADVISED FUND

A Donor Advised Fund, or DAF, is a giving vehicle established at a public charity. DAFs allow donors to make a charitable contribution, receive an immediate tax deduction and then recommend grants from the fund over time. A Donor Advised Fund is straight forward to establish and manage at PDF. We provide 40 years of grantmaking experience to donor activists interested in funding specific, progressive interests.

PDF has a top rating from Charity Navigator and Forbes Magazine highlighted PDF in its article “How to Find the Right Donor Advised Fund (And Why).”

For more information on Donor Advised Funds, call Delia Kovac at 413-256-8306 x101 or email, delia@peacefund.org

ELECTORAL IMPACT AND THE ROAD AHEAD



COURTESY OF Arriba Las Vegas Worker Center

WE ALL KNOW that the 2020 election was as consequential as any election in recent memory. PDF had grant partners on the ground in all of the critical battleground states this past year, including **Arriba Las Vegas Workers Center (NV)**, **Nation Outside** and **Detroit Area Youth Uniting Michigan (MI)**, **La Conexion** and **People's Justice League (OH)**, **Southside Workers Center** and **Phoenix Local Organizing Committee (AZ)**, **Community Movement Builders (GA)**, and **Human Rights Coalition (PA)**. While electoral organizing is not PDF's philanthropic focus, we know that organized communities turn out voters.

Director Maya Beatriz of La Conexion said, "We made sure the Latinx community in NW Ohio was informed and educated about the process. We identified user-friendly information and made sure we translated that into Spanish as needed. We used social media and our member list to send information to make the community aware of deadlines to register to vote, how to verify if they were registered, ensure they knew how to register online, and when early voting hours were."

In partnership with the March for Our Lives campaign, Detroit Area Youth Uniting Michigan participated in a robust GOTV operation in Michigan. Youth leader Brooke Solomon said, "We reached out to marginalized young people in Metro-Detroit who felt disenfranchised by electoral politics and were looking for a chance to engage their communities around the historic 2020 election."

Arriba Las Vegas Workers Center mobilized immigrant communities and workers throughout Las Vegas to get out the vote, working in partnership with the National Day Laborer Organizing Network.

When you support PDF you are making an impact, resourcing the community organizations which, when the time comes, knock on doors and get out the vote. Your support strengthens our democracy. The road ahead is long but by investing in community organizing, by supporting PDF, you give power and capacity to social justice and human rights movements. ■



COURTESY OF La Conexion

"Winning structural change is about more than a one time voter mobilization campaign. It's about investing in deeply rooted movements for justice that support immigrant working families to make themselves heard in every arena. Support from the Peace Development Fund strengthened our capacity to mobilize Nevadans to go to the polls to vote against hate, while simultaneously continuing to grow and strengthen movements for immigrant worker justice."

BLISS REQUA-TRAUTZ, DIRECTOR, ARRIBA LAS VEGAS WORKERS CENTER.

ORGANIZERS ADAPT TO COVID-19

CONTINUED FROM COVER

partner, **Decarcerate** is based in Little Rock, the only state-wide organization in Arkansas focused on ending mass incarceration.

Director Zachary Crow said that funding went toward "building digital infrastructure, starting a pen pal program, producing video and blog accounts of solitary confinement, and developing an impacted leadership organizing curriculum." He added, "This generous and timely grant has allowed us to acquire and implement tools and a system for managing digital advocacy campaigns that will allow us to continue our organizing and advocacy efforts safely and effectively."

WHERE WE GO FROM HERE

PDF is a go-to funder for social justice and human rights movements. With our De

Colores Rapid Response Fund, we played a critical role by helping organizers adapt to the COVID-19 crisis. When governments turned their backs on the people, organizations at the grassroots level stepped in, illuminating inequities, and protesting and pushing legislative change when necessary. All while providing essential information, resources, and support for their communities — whether in the deep south, in New York City immigrant communities, or the rural Midwest.

Thanks to the support of our generous donors, PDF will continue to be there for our grassroots partners, providing grants, training, and other resources to make lasting, progressive change amid this unprecedented economic and public health crisis. ■



Keelin Mathews is a current fourth-year student at Hampshire College where she studies anthropology, linguistics, and literature. She has been working as an intern with PDF since October 2019, where she assists in the coordination of social media campaigns, researches and writes posts about work PDF's grantees are doing, and has provided writing for newsletters and Eblasts. She designed the 2020 Community Organizing brochure and has assisted in the grant application process in 2020 and 2021. Keelin also helped organize PDF's GivingTuesday fundraising campaign. She is always willing and excited to participate in new projects and is consistently inspired by the work done by both PDF and the organizations PDF supports.

Two Giants Who Left This World



Hubert Ellis Sapp was a member of the PDF Board of Directors, serving in that role from 1990–1997, when he and his wife Jane Sapp lived and worked in Springfield while Hubert taught at Springfield College as the Director of the School of Human Services. Hubert was also a member of Dr. King's staff, Executive Director of the Highlander Center, the long-

time Executive Director of the Bert & Mary Meyer Foundation, and a co-founder of the Southern Partners Fund. He shepherded many of the programs that PDF was hosting in those years, always leading with his humble, gentle and inciteful perspective on organizing, community leadership and the role of philanthropy. As a veteran of the Civil Rights Movement, a professor and academic, an organizer and a leader in the philanthropic community, Hubert shared his tremendous experience and insight with the many movements underway during his lifetime. Hubert Ellis Sapp, Presente!



Chief Sto-Khin Johnny Jackson, of the Cascade Band of Yakama Indians and the 'River People' who lived along the Columbia River, lived his life as a fisherman, organizer, leader, and teacher, always speaking with great love in defense and praise of 'my people.' The River People never moved from the River after the great dams were built, refusing to give up

their Treaty Rights, sacred sites, food sources and cultural heritage. Chief Johnny stood alongside David Sohappy, Chief Wilbur Slockish of the Klickitat People, and three other fishermen as they exercised their right to fish on the Columbia River, as their people have done for millennia. Those five were convicted in the 1980's 'Salmon Scam', serving up to five years in federal prison. Chief Johnny never served time, but he worked tirelessly in their defense and their right to fish. Chief Johnny and Chief Wilbur were among the leaders of PDF's Base Initiative from 2002–2012, and they remain connected to the PDF community, until Johnny's passing in June, 2020. ■

PLAN FOR PEACE

A BEQUEST TO THE PEACE DEVELOPMENT FUND written into your will can help ensure a more just future. Together, we can provide the critical support to strengthen the social justice movement. Bequests can be as simple as making PDF a beneficiary of your IRA or life insurance policy. You can leave PDF a percentage of your estate, a specific sum of money, or you can make PDF the residual beneficiary of your estate after other bequests.

For more information about leaving a bequest to PDF and specific wording, call 413-256-8306 or email delia@peacefund.org.

Board of Directors

Ali El-Issa
TREASURER
Brooklyn, NY

Teresa Juarez
PRESIDENT
Chimayo, NM

Iva Kaufman
New York, NY

Yi-Chun Tricia Lin
New Haven, CT

Tina Reynolds
SECRETARY
Brooklyn, NY

Daniel Schreck
Chimayo, NM

Earl Tulley
Window Rock, AZ

Staff

Meihui Chen
INTERN/SMITH COLLEGE
intern@peacefund.org

Enrique Martinez Flores
INTERN/UMASS AMHERST
intern@peacefund.org

Paul Haible
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
paul@peacefund.org

Zachary Hession-Smith
FOUNDATION ASSOCIATE
zachary@peacefund.org

Delia Kovac
FOUNDATION OFFICER
delia@peacefund.org

Keelin Mathews
WORKSTUDY/HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE
intern@peacefund.org

Marie Muir
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
marie@peacefund.org

Emilia Palascak
INTERN/MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE
intern@peacefund.org

Emily Serafy-Cox
FOUNDATION OFFICER
emily@peacefund.org

Brennan Tierney
FOUNDATION ASSOCIATE
brennan@peacefund.org

Rose Westbrook
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE
rose@peacefund.org

Pamela White
BOOKKEEPER
pam@peacefund.org



PICTURED ORGANIZATIONS

1. The Palestinian Youth Action Center for Community Development
2. Bay Area GI Rights
3. PDF's Cross Border Initiative
4. Corporate Accountability International
5. Homies Unidos
6. Transnational Villages Network
7. Great Peace March for Nuclear Disarmament
8. Spencer Pride
9. Transit Riders Union
10. Northern Youth Project

MISSION STATEMENT

The PEACE DEVELOPMENT FUND works to build the capacity of community based organizations through grants, training, and other resources as partners in the human rights and social justice movements. As a public foundation, we nourish, foster and encourage the diverse, self-sustaining and economically viable communities that are essential to building a peaceful, just and equitable world.

IN THIS ISSUE

De Colores Rapid Response Fund — Organizers Adapt to COVID-19

Young People Are Leading The Way

Electoral Impact and The Road Ahead



MAILING ADDRESS
PO Box 1280
Amherst, MA 01004-1280

PDF CENTER FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE
44 North Prospect Street
Amherst, MA 01002
Tel: (413)256-8306

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 444
SPRINGFIELD, MA

www.peacedevelopmentfund.org

2021 MARKS PDF'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY!

PDF WAS FOUNDED IN 1981 when a small group of organizers and donor activists gathered around a vision of funding peace, human rights, and environmental justice, setting up PDF as a public foundation.

Throughout its history, PDF has always looked at peace as not just the absence of war or militarism, but as the presence of equitable relationships among people, nations, and the environment. This understanding of peace has allowed PDF to bring a social, environmental, and economic justice perspective to our work.

As we begin to celebrate our 40th anniversary year, we are reflecting on some of PDF's more notable accomplishments: the 1986 **Great Peace March for Global Nuclear Disarmament** from California to Washington, DC (PDF was a funder and fiscal sponsor); **The Exchange Project** (1984–2001), which provided training to 1,100 grassroots organizations from across the country; and in 2002, PDF launched the **Cross Border Initiative**, working with groups to coordinate efforts for immigration justice and peace amid the exploitation of land, water, and people along the U.S./Mexico border.

In the early 2000s, PDF also organized the **Building Action for Sustainable Environments (BASE) Initiative** and the **Criminal Justice Initiative**.

Both initiatives were instrumental in bringing diverse stakeholders together on particular issue areas in "co-creation," a cutting-edge model in the philanthropic field at that time that helped set the stage for the blossoming of the environmental and criminal justice reform movements of the last two decades.

More recently, PDF's **Women Peacemakers Initiative** in 2019 brought together feminist peace organizers from nine different countries for several days of strategic planning and visioning. ■

CO-FOUNDER AND FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MEG GAGE SAID RECENTLY:

"PDF has hung in there through thick and thin, creatively responding to the challenges. When things looked hopeless, PDF was the hope. As Jim Hightower said, 'You gotta have the agitator. In a washing machine, the agitator is the part in the middle that gets the damn dirt out.' That's PDF. Congratulations on 40 successful years of fighting injustice and violence!"

Peace through Justice



Grassroots Funding Week

Be a funder and grantmaker by joining us online during Grassroots Funding Week to support community organizing nationwide.

JOIN US ONLINE
STARTING APRIL 26 AT
www.peacedevelopmentfund.org.

(And don't forget to refresh your browser each day!)