

## Gen Z Votes

Young people turned out in historic numbers in the 2020 election and in high numbers during the 2022 mid-terms. Their engagement was shaped by the pandemic, the national movement for racial justice, and climate change. Many fear that the last four years of infighting, the war in Gaza, and other issues have disillusioned these new voters. Recent polls found that only 48% of Gen Z voters plan to vote in the presidential elections in the fall. The 2024 election year serves as a crucial turning point, and the role of youth involvement and activism has never been more critical. Young people are not simply the inheritors of the fixed future; they are the architects and voices demanding a better world for future generations.

We interviewed four youth organizers to hear more about their concerns and plans for 2024. Two of them serve on PDF's Braiding New Worlds Fund participatory grantmaking committee, where they review and make grant recommendations. The other two are involved with PDF grantees.

### GABBY FARRELL (SHE/HER), 25

**Professor of Journalism  
Southern CT State University,  
PDF Braiding New Worlds Fund  
Committee**

For Gabby, activism is more than just the front-line work of organizing. She shared that activism is also resting and taking care of your mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual health. She believes that we all deserve to live a life in which we are cared about, accounted for and have our needs equitably met.

She shared that youth are vital to our democracy. She sees youth focused on issues such as education affordability, mental health, racial equity, LGBTQ rights, safety on school grounds, the economy, healthcare, housing and job markets, and foreign affairs, such as the war in Gaza. They care about broader issues than many imagine.



**"They are seers with the innate ability to pinpoint what older people have grown accustomed to. Youth are challenging the status quo and practicing activism both personally and within their communities."**

Gabby encourages adults to talk directly to youth to see what support is needed. "Show up at their events. It's important for people of all ages vouch for their efforts."



### ALEX GOMES GARCIA (HE/HIM), 20

**Class of 2026, Cornell University  
PDF Braiding New Worlds Fund  
Committee**

Alex is a first-generation college student whose parents are from Guatemala and Portugal. During the last election, he worked at the polls and felt appreciated by the other poll workers. Many noted that they had never had someone so young volunteer at the polls.

**"The decisions made by politicians today will impact our futures more than other generations."**

Alex sees a rise in youth involvement in activism, especially during COVID when everyone was stuck at home with a computer and social media. He thinks organizations need to be more welcoming to help youth learn the skills they need to get more involved. He encourages other youth to "take leadership positions, even if you don't feel as ready as you are. Don't doubt yourself. You are more capable than you think."



### AVERY CAUSLEY- INGRAM, (SHE/HER) 17

**High School Senior, Lansing, MI**

Avery is the treasurer of **Detroit Area Youth Uniting Michigan**, a youth-centered organization and PDF grantee. She shared that the experience at DAYUM has given her new skills and confidence. She believes that youth activism is "all about using your voice."

**"Activism isn't just about standing up for others, it's also about standing up for yourself."**

She sees first-hand that young people's voices are heard more now than in the past. She still doesn't see enough people in power taking youth seriously. She thinks that technology plays a huge role in the ability of youth to tell their authentic stories and reach larger audiences.

Avery's experience at DAYUM has given her hope for the future. She has seen their ability to create change that will allow other states to follow their lead.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

With a full heart, I have reached that point where it is time for me to step aside as Executive Director of Peace Development Fund on April 30th, after twenty years at the helm!

I have given my all, and I have done my best to honor the position, the history, the good work and the amazing people who have made

PDF hum for the last 42 years. I have stood on the shoulders of giants from Jean Sindab to Kimo Campbell and from Esmeralda Brown to Ali Elissa. Thanks to Teresa Juarez, Board President, and all those serving now on the board and to the staff to whom I am handing the leadership baton.

I especially want to thank all the donors, grant partners, board members, funders and organizers who have given so generously of your time and resources to help PDF, and myself, to be the best that we and I can be. You have built amazing communities of organizations, organizers and leaders, to move this world toward what our highest selves would dream it to be.

And I know that PDF will continue to shine as a light into the void, a lighthouse offering hope, offering solidarity, offering grants, training, and other support as we work to salvage a livable climate and peaceful, coexisting communities without prisons, wars and occupations.

With so much more to express than space will allow, I offer my blessings on all those PDF supporters, and on all the mothers, young leaders, indigenous survivors, and newly exonerated who carry on the struggle and who carry on the vision and the dream. I promise you that while I may be giving up my seat at this table, I will still be serving elsewhere on the front-lines of the struggle for peace and justice in this world!

Migwiich! Merci, Mahalo, Gracias, Thank You and more!

Paul Haible

## Welcome New Faces, Fresh Perspectives!

### JOINING THE PEACE DEVELOPMENT FUND TEAM:

**Ian Husler** (he/him), our newest Foundation Associate, brings his passion for social justice and his computer science expertise to streamline our database and gift management systems. Ian is a recent graduate of Amherst College. "Growing up in different Latin American countries exposed me to the beauty and struggle of diverse communities," shared Ian. "Joining PDF, I get to combine my technical skills with the chance to support causes I deeply care about."

**Jessa McCormack** (she/her), our new Program Manager, boasts seven years of experience building coalitions and designing programs for a more equitable world at the Liberty Hill Foundation in LA. At PDF, she's leading our fiscal sponsorship program and community organizing grantmaking. "I'm excited to partner with organizers, donors, and fellow philanthropy professionals in New England and beyond," says Jessa, who brings a proven track record of success, such as creating the largest eviction defense program in Los Angeles.

### ENHANCING OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**Donté Smith** (they/them), a national lecturer, health educator, and cultural curator, joins our board with a unique perspective gained from their diverse work with various communities. Donté's activism spans from co-creating punk rock festivals with STI testing initiatives to leading initiatives on public health within Southern US county health departments. Their story of resilience and dedication to community engagement will be invaluable to our board.

**Dr. Mildred McClain** (she/her), also known as Mama Bahati, brings 50 years of experience in the fight for justice and self-determination. As the founder of Harambee House and a champion of youth leadership development, she brings invaluable wisdom and a long history of advocating for marginalized communities. Mama Bahati's dedication to education, environmental justice, and people's liberation enhances our board.

We warmly welcome **Ian, Jessa, Donté,** and **Dr. McClain** to the Peace Development Fund! With their diverse talents and dedicated spirits, we know they will play crucial roles in amplifying the voices of those working for social justice nationwide! ♦

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate the arrival of spring and the promise of new beginnings, Peace Development Fund also marks a significant transition. After twenty years of exceptional leadership, our Executive Director, Paul Haible, will be retiring at the end of April.

Paul's dedication and vision have been instrumental in shaping Peace Development Fund into the impactful organization it is today. Throughout his tenure, he championed countless initiatives that have empowered communities, fostered peacebuilding efforts, and championed social justice organizing projects around the country.

During Paul's tenure in collaboration with the board, PDF has grown, expanding our reach and amplifying our impact.

We are incredibly grateful for Paul's remarkable contributions and tireless efforts. His leadership will be deeply missed. However, we are confident that the strong foundation he has built will ensure Peace Development Fund's continued success in promoting peace and justice around the world.

In the coming months, we will share details about the search process for our new Executive Director. We are committed to finding a leader who embodies Paul's passion and dedication to our mission. During the transition, one of our experienced staff will serve as Interim Director.

In the meantime, we invite you to join us in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to Paul Haible for his exceptional service. For more information on Paul's legacy and Peace Development Fund's future, please visit our website at [www.peacedevelopmentfund.org](http://www.peacedevelopmentfund.org).

With sincere thanks,



Teresa Juarez

## Farewell

We are sad to bid farewell to our Director of Administration and Finance, Rose Westbrook, who has been with PDF for the last four years. Rose oversaw human resources, financial systems, and operations at the foundation. She was instrumental in streamlining processes and providing fiscal oversight. We wish her well in her new role as Director of Business Operations, Office of Advancement & External Affairs at Springfield Technical Community College. ♦

# Native Vote, Native Voice

Much attention and analysis has been made of the rural vote in past years with little recognition of indigenous communities as part of the rural ecosystem. Currently, there are 9.7 million Native Americans in the US which is roughly 3% of the population. The largest concentrations are in western states, including Alaska, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, South Dakota, and Montana. In this pivotal election year, the Native vote may be more important than ever in swing states, including the Arizona, Wisconsin, and New Mexico.

PDF understands the profound influence that Native American communities can wield in shaping electoral outcomes, where the population of Native Americans is larger than the vote differentials in those races. This potential underscores the critical nature of engaging and empowering these communities, work that PDF has been fostering through our partners for the last decade.

Recent trends suggest growing awareness and mobilization of Native voters. Despite this positive trend, the Native American electorate continues to face significant barriers — the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have accentuated these challenges, exacerbating health disparities and economic vulnerabilities within Native communities.

This crisis has both heightened the obstacles to electoral participation and illuminated ways that Native communities are disenfranchised. Access remains a formidable barrier, with many residing in remote areas where polling stations are scarce and information on voter registration and education is limited. The digital divide further compounds these issues, limiting the reach of crucial electoral information. Additionally, the historic legacy of marginalization has fostered a sense of disillusionment with a political system perceived as unresponsive to Native concerns. This dampens the enthusiasm to participate in electoral processes.



Whiteswan Environmental

**“The distrust we have for Government goes all the way back to before there was an American government. I know the majority of my Native friends don't see the point of voting; we're still poor, we're still neglected, we're still fighting for treaty rights, our murder victims are non-priority, the government is still after our lands, and we're still waiting for our cows and plows,”** shared Lakota Holder, PDF Executive Assistant Oglala Lakota, Navajo, and Tlingit.

It will take a concerted effort to increase access and engage wary Native voters. Organizers share that change takes time through building local relationships. This is the work that many of our grantees are doing in rural communities, especially in Native communities. PDF grantees such as, the [Montana Two Spirit Society](#), the [Center for Social Sustainable Systems](#), and [White Swan Environmental](#) are organizing Native communities to address a myriad of challenges.

These organizations exemplify PDF's history of funding indigenous initiatives, recognizing the indispensable role these groups play in not only advocating for environmental and social justice, but also mobilizing Native voters. Time and time again, we see that engaged and organized communities turn out to vote. Through empowering Native communities and ensuring their voices are heard in elections, we can move closer to a democracy that truly reflects all. ♦

## MOBILIZE YOUR RESOURCES - DAF

A Donor Advised Fund, or DAF, allows donors to make a charitable contribution to PDF, for an immediate tax deduction, and then recommend grants from the fund to the groups that you want to support. You sit back while we do all the paperwork! A DAF is easy to establish and manage at PDF, and we offer 40+ years of grant making experience and knowledge of hundreds of organizations around the country. We have a top rating from Charity Navigator and were highlighted by Forbes Magazine on “How to Find the Right DAF (And Why).”

For more information, contact Lora at (413) 256-8306 or lora@peacefund.org



## More Grants, More Impact

This fiscal year our Donor Advised Fund donors have been more active than ever! To date, \$693,450 has been distributed through 82 grants to organizations around the country and the world. In comparison, last year \$819,995 was granted through 79 grants for the entire year. We are thrilled that our donors are actively using their funds instead of holding onto their dollars. The range of organizations is inspiring, from food justice to indigenous rights.

The popularity of donor advised funds has continued to grow in the last few years, with more options than ever available to donors. Many, ourselves included, have criticized the large DAF vehicles like Fidelity for not encouraging donors to spend down and redistribute their funds. When total charitable giving in the U.S. declined in 2022 and returned

to pre-pandemic levels, DAF donors actually accelerated their DAF giving. They recommended more grant dollars than their previous “high-water mark” in 2021.

We are excited to work with our DAF holders to help resource social justice groups and their amazing work. A new



Izzy Snyder, DAF holder

DAF fund, the **Izzy Snyder Fund**, is not wasting time. In just one month Izzy made grants to more than 30 organizations. Izzy is a recent college graduate who chose a DAF because it makes it easier for her to donate; allowing her to focus on groups instead of paperwork. She is using her DAF as a tool for radical wealth redistribution.

**“I chose PDF because they align with my values and have great grantmaking programs that are participatory,” shared Snyder. ♦**

## RAPID RESPONSE IN ACTION:

## UMass Dissenters

**UMass Dissenters**, a student-led movement at the University of Massachusetts Amherst actively challenges militarization and advocates for peace. Through their work, they are making a difference not only on campus but also in the global conversation surrounding the ongoing conflict in Gaza and beyond.

UMass Dissenters emerged in fall 2022, joining the national Dissenters organization’s mission to “reclaim [the] resources from the war industry, reinvest in life-giving services, and repair collaborative relationships with the earth and people around the world.” Their campus activism includes holding educational events and discussions, organizing peaceful protests and demonstrations demanding UMass divest from Raytheon and other companies profiting from war, and collaboration with other student groups like Students for Justice in Palestine to



amplify their message and build community solidarity.

Beyond their local efforts, UMass Dissenters have played a crucial role in elevating calls for a ceasefire in Gaza through social media outreach, protests, letter-writing campaigns, and petitions.

The Peace Development Fund was excited to support UMass Dissenters with a De Colores Rapid Response Fund Grant during a critical moment in their efforts. **This grant helped them fund a two-**

**day gathering, Building Bridges: US Anti-War and Environmental Justice Organizers Convene with Communities Affected by US Militarism Abroad.**

The gathering took place in October, capitalizing on the early days of the school year to engage student organizers on the 20th anniversary of the invasion of Iraq to bring together the anti-war movement with environmental and climate justice organizers. The gath-

ering successfully educated, connected, and mobilized student activists, raising awareness and fostering activism around issues related to militarism and the environment.

We encourage you to follow UMass Dissenters’ work and support their ongoing efforts for peace and justice. You can learn more about their activities and get involved on their website and social media platforms. ♦

## Planting Seeds for Peace

Begin this season with an Estate Plan Fresh Start that will bloom in years to come. Just like your garden, each seed we plant is hope for a brighter future.

We have partnered with FreeWill to offer you an opportunity to write your will with their free and secure online estate planning tool. In doing so, consider including PDF to ensure our future and create your just legacy. You’ll be joining our new Legacy Society and many others in our larger community garden. Get started today by scanning the QR Code. ♦

# Gen Z Votes

CONTINUED FROM COVER

## HENRY MORGAN

(HE/HIM), 21

**Executive Director, Public Higher Education Network of MA**



Henry recently joined PHENOM as their executive director, working to reduce financial inaccessibility in the Massachusetts public higher education system through education and legislative advocacy. He sees youth justice as a critical issue today because of the climate crisis.

**“The question of whether or not we’re going to have a working food system, clean drinking water, or be able to actually grow food in these climates is a dire one and one that my generation will have to grapple with.”**

He views corporate domination of regulatory structures and the influence of corporate money in federal politics as key issues that are undermining our democracy. His generation is questioning the billions of dollars pouring into foreign military aid at the expense of basic needs like education and health care.

Henry believes that leadership development is a key way for adults to support youth activism. He recounts the importance of mentors to supporting his journey and encourages others to step up as mentors.

**Thank you to all the youth who shared their stories and time with PDF. Join us in supporting the Braiding New Worlds Fund committee and other initiatives that empower young activists. Visit our website to learn more and get involved! ♦**

## NEW LEGACY SOCIETY

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new legacy society with the help of several donors who have added PDF to their planned gifts. These donors ensure that PDF can continue to provide resources to front-line organizers and social justice organizations today and for years to come.

**“PDF plays a vital role in building social justice movements and ensuring their success in the most marginalized communities. We are proud to join the Legacy Society so that PDF can continue to strengthen communities for years to come.”**

*Teresa Juarez and Daniel Schreck, Legacy Society Members*

Become a member of PDF's Legacy Society by making a gift through your estate plan. Your gift will have a lasting impact on creating a more just world. Join by contacting Lora Wondolowski, [lora@peacefund.org](mailto:lora@peacefund.org) or using our free toolkit through FreeWill. ♦



Scan to get started

## IN THE FIELD

### NEW FISCALLY SPONSORED ORGANIZATIONS

- Transformative Feminist Leadership Institute, Burlingame, CA

### DE COLORES RAPID RESPONSE FUND

Grants on a rolling basis to groups responding to a timely movement moment.

- Cleveland Owns, Cleveland, OH
- Healing Communities of PA, Philadelphia, PA
- UMASS Dissenters, Amherst, MA

### DONOR ADVISED FUND GRANTEES \*

Grants generated by our donor advised fund donors.

- Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice, Albuquerque, NM
- Anera, Gaza
- Another Way VT, Montpelier, VT
- Audre Lorde Project, Brooklyn, NY
- Aztlan Cultura A.C., Mexico
- Black Art Futures Fund, Detroit, MI
- Brooklyn Movement Center, Brooklyn, NY
- Center for Coalfield Justice, Washington, PA
- Center for Jewish Nonviolence, Washington, DC
- Communities United for Police Reform, New York, NY
- Community Justice Exchange, Los Angeles, CA
- Education Justice Coalition of VT, Burlington, VT
- First Nations Development Institute, Longmont, CO
- Friends of the Headwaters, Park Rapids, MN
- Grassroots International, Boston, MA
- Green Mountain Self-Advocates, Montpelier, VT
- Groundworks Collaborative, Brattleboro, VT
- Honor the Earth, Rapid City, SD
- IfNotNow Education Fund, Washington, DC
- Illuminative, Lafayette, CO
- Refugee & Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services, San Antonio, TX
- Immigrant Defense, New York, NY
- Immigration Equality, Brooklyn, NY
- Justice and Beyond, Freeport, NY
- Justice Committee, Jackson Heights, NY
- Loving Black Single Mothers, Covina, CA
- Malcom X Grassroots Movement, Jackson, MS
- Medical Aid for Palestinians, London, UK
- Menikanaehkem, Gresham, WI
- Menomimi YOU, Keshena, WI
- Migrant Justice, Burlington, VT
- Movement Voter Fund, Northampton, MA
- Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance, Flagstaff, AZ
- Native American Rights Fund, Boulder, CO
- NDN Collective, Rapid City, SD
- Nodudol for Korean Community Dev., New York, NY
- Oberlin Community Services, Oberlin, OH
- Out in the Open, Brattleboro, VT
- Outright Vermont, Burlington, VT
- Pueblo Action Alliance, Albuquerque, NM
- Resource Generation, New York, NY
- Sins Invalid, San Francisco, CA
- Southerners on New Ground, Atlanta, GA
- Sylvia Rivera Law Project, New York, NY
- Tenant Education Network, Chicago, IL
- The Bail Project, Pasadena, CA
- The Center for Popular Democracy, Brooklyn, NY
- The Movement for Black Lives, Oakland, CA
- The Northeastern Farmers of Color Land Trust, Boston, MA
- The Root Social Justice Center, Brattleboro, VT
- Third World Newsreel, New York, NY
- Thousand Currents, San Francisco, CA
- Tonatierra, Phoenix, AZ
- Trans Lifeline, San Francisco, CA
- Vermont Workers Center, Burlington, VT
- Vital Communities, White River Junction, VT
- Women's Freedom Center, Brattleboro, VT
- Woodland Boys and Girls Club, Neopit, WI

\*since Oct. 2023

- April 10..... GENERATION DISSENT PEACE TALK, Northampton, MA
- May 8 - 12 ..... GRASSROOTS FUNDING WEEK
- May 15..... REFRAMING PHILANTHROPY: Climate Shareholder Activism
- May 24..... DRAG BINGO, Greenfield, MA

For more information  
or to register, scan this  
QR code or visit  
our website at  
[peacedevelopmentfund.org](http://peacedevelopmentfund.org)



PEACE  
DEVELOPMENT  
FUND



PO Box 1280, Amherst, MA 01004-1280

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 diverse, self-sustaining, and economically viable communities that are essential to building a peaceful, just, and equitable world.

## Peace through Justice

GRANTEE  
SPOTLIGHT

### Center for Social Sustainable Systems



The Center for Social Sustainable Systems (CESOSS) is a community-driven and community-supported organization that focuses on the protection and preservation of land, water, and Indigenous and Latinx traditions in the South Valley of New Mexico.

The lasting scars of historical dispossession and trauma run deep there, woven into the very threads of the life-giving acequias – traditional irrigation systems that sustain the community. But instead of dwelling on these wounds, CESOSS organizes through the principle of **transformative community**

**justice.** CESOSS builds a sense of community ownership based on their ancestral heritage of land and water stewardship. Their main programs include an **Acequia Walk & Talk Series**, a **Leadership Institute** for youth in their community, and the **Ciclos de la Tierra Curriculum**, an educational program that uses traditional knowledge to connect youth to their land and water.

**“Our vision is to create sustainable, healthy, and thriving communities where traditions connected to land and water are protected, preserved, and passed onto future generations.”**

The work of CESOSS is a testament to the power of **grassroots organizing, cultural restoration, and community empowerment.** With each restored acequia, each empowered leader, and each young mind brimming with ancestral knowledge, they stitch together a brighter future for the South Valley. ♦

### Harness Your Power: Grassroots Funding Week

Grassroots Funding Week (GFW) is your opportunity to be a grant-maker and to be directly involved in increasing support of grassroots organizations. PDF started this initiative to bridge the technology gap between donors and grassroots organizations. We provide training and guidance to help our grantees maximize their fundraising efforts that week. Last year we were able to raise over \$10,000 to add to our grants to these organizations. One hundred percent of your support during Grassroots Funding Week goes directly to participating organizations. **We hope you'll join us for Grassroots Funding Week this May.**