

# Rapid Responses To Crises

OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS, PDF has been reviewing our practices in light of the rapid flood of federal changes and ongoing attacks on so many fronts. We are asking ourselves what is our role and are our current practices in alignment with the moment. We have been leaning into our work of incubating grassroots groups to grow and thrive through our technical assistance and capacity-building programs. The number of groups we serve has grown 20% this year and we have made adjustments to what we offer to meet these challenging times.

Through strategic partnerships, we have dramatically increased our donor-initiated grant-making assets from roughly \$1 million to \$10 million. This ten-fold change allows us to facilitate more grantmaking to grassroots groups engaged in building social movements for change.

Additionally, we increased the size of our recent community-led grant allocations by 46% to shift more resources and power to the frontlines of change. Many experts have recognized that the lack of investment in grassroots infrastructure is one of reasons for our current political situation.

We've also doubled down on our rapid response strategy. Our goal is to quickly and effectively allow groups to respond to challenges and opportunities as they arise. Earlier this summer, we funded ten organizations across the country doing immigrant organizing in the current crisis through our DeColores Rapid Response Fund. See below for more information about the fund and the Immigrant Defense Project of NY. ♦

Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice



## De Colores Grants: A Team Effort

By Ian Husler

THIS past year I've had the privilege of running the De Colores Rapid Response Program and I wanted to tell you all a little about it, what the process looks like behind the scenes, and future changes. PDF uses this fund to get money out to people dealing with crises, ranging from unjust legislation to disasters. The process for any De Colores grant begins with the submission of an application. Once it's received, I review it to make sure we have received everything we need to process it. Our staff review committee reads over each application carefully before giving our individual verdicts on whether we should approve an application or not. Then we'll gather together as a team to go over our thoughts.

We really make this a team effort, so we always try to come to a consensus on each application. Sometimes



CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Immigrant Defense Project

By Yasmine Farhaug

THE **Immigrant Defense Project** was founded over 28 years ago, following harsh 1996 laws that vastly expanded the government's power to arrest, imprison, and deport our neighbors who are not citizens. Through six federal administrations, we continue to fight against the expulsion of immigrants and the use of the deeply racist systems of policing and incarceration that target our neighbors. **We are unequivocally committed to a basic principle: all human beings deserve basic dignity — and nobody is disposable.**

Now, under this Trump administration, we are steadfast in our work fighting for immigrant justice. We use a multipronged strategy that includes shaping local, state, and federal policy through advocacy and community partnerships, direct legal assistance and support, trainings and education for community members and practitioners alike, challenging unfair laws through impact litigation, and changing hearts and minds through narrative change.

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Dear Community,

As we change seasons, I find myself reflecting with gratitude on the work of the Peace Development Fund — and the Community of donors and partners who make it possible.

Since 1981, PDF has stood with grassroots organizations long before they were household names. We have always been willing to take the first step when others hesitate, offering not just funding but validation that their vision and work matters. By backing bold and often-overlooked groups at the earliest stages, we de-risk interventions before they gain broader traction. In doing so, we are sending powerful messages. **This work is meaningful. This work is necessary. These leaders deserve support.**

Our approach goes beyond writing checks. When we support a group advancing sex worker rights or fighting environmental racism, we are not only fueling their work, we are sending a signal to other funders that these issues must not remain invisible. That early validation builds credibility and opens pathways for additional support, creating the momentum movements need to thrive.

At the heart of it all is a belief in transformative organizing—work that centers care, interdependence, and the strength of relationships. These organizations remind us that change begins with people caring for one another, building collective solutions, and holding fast to a vision of justice and peace.

Looking ahead, I am inspired by the path before us. Together, we can continue nurturing the movements that others overlook, ensuring they not only survive but become the cornerstone of a more just and interconnected world. Thank you for walking alongside us, and for believing — like we do — that another world is possible, and is already being built.

In peace,

Allistair Mallillin,  
Executive Director

## Immigrant Defense Project

CONTINUED FROM COVER



In the year ahead we are prioritizing our campaigns at the city and state level in New York to fight for local and state sanctuary laws to ensure that our local resources are not entangled in the cruel business of immigration policing. In the face of recent federal attacks on localities that stand up for their immigrant communities, we are calling for passage of the New York City Trust Act and the New York for All Act in the state legislature.

We also fight for clemency justice — a powerful and underused tool that offers recipients the second chance that is routinely denied by the overly punitive criminal and immigration systems. For immigrants, pardons can be a means for the governor to address the unfairness of harsh immigration consequences that never expire. We seek both to pass the Clemency Justice Act to bring greater transparency to the clemency system and to call on the governor to grant more pardons more frequently throughout the year, especially for urgent cases.

Additionally, IDP's focus in the year ahead includes:

- Providing critical legal support to thousands of community members and their loved ones contacting our hotline, as well as analysis and assistance to immigration advocates and public defenders.
- Documenting ICE raids and tactics to develop robust community Know Your Rights education and defense.
- Using impact litigation to defend the rights of immigrants targeted by this federal administration's interpretation and application of immigration laws against immigrants impacted by both the immigration and criminal legal system.
- Moving hearts and minds through narrative change and strategic communications.

We are so grateful for support from the Peace Development Fund which has been key in powering our work to safeguard fundamental rights which are under attack. Both the financial support as well as the engagement with what we do energizes us as we continue our fight.

We encourage those who can to donate to IDP and to sign up for our newsletter to stay up to date on our work. ♦



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## Honoring a Legacy: Celebrating Paul Haible!



Last month, friends and colleagues came together at the home of Patty Silver in Berkeley to celebrate the retirement and impactful career of Paul Haible. The evening was a beautiful tribute to Paul's decades of dedication and passion. The guest list was a testament to his wide-reaching

impact, bringing together supporters from his days at the Vanguard Foundation, the Funding Exchange, and others from the public foundation world, as well as friends, past grantees, and others touched by Paul's work.

The host committee for this event included: George Galvis, Tracy Gary, John Harrington, Johnella LaRose, Tricia Yi-Chun Lin, Allistair Mallillin, Beth Rosales, Ray Santiago, Patty Silver, Peter Stern, Nghia Tran, Carol Wahpepah, and Doug Yamamoto.

The event was also an opportunity to spotlight the new **Land Justice Fund**, established in Paul's honor. This fund will continue his work of supporting grassroots community organizations fighting for land rights and racial justice. It was a perfect way to build this part of PDF's work while honoring one of the core individuals who helped build its foundation. We extend our deepest gratitude to all who attended and contributed, ensuring that Paul's legacy of justice will continue to grow.



## Leave a Lasting Legacy of Peace and Justice

Recently we relaunched our Legacy Society to recognize our supporters who have included PDF in their planned giving. These donors ensure that PDF can continue to provide resources to front-line communities and social justice organizers today and for years to come.

**"I love PDF's work but can't donate at the level I would like right now. I have included PDF in my will so that I can support justice for years to come."**—Anonymous Legacy Member

Become a member of PDF's Legacy Society today by making a gift through your estate plan. It is super easy through our partnership with Free Will, a service that allows you to create or update your will for free. Your gift will have a lasting impact on creating a more just world.

Join by contacting Lora Wondolowski at [lora@peacefund.org](mailto:lora@peacefund.org) or scanning the code.



## AT THE FOUNDATION

### PRESIDENTS CORNER

Dear Friends,



We are entering into the fall season with an invigorated sense of responsibility for the fight for justice. The ever-growing injustices—from the continuing deportations to the detention of Palestinian rights protesters—is more than devastating. Yet, I am also incredibly energized by the on-the-ground organizing of our grant partners and allied organizations.

With a long-history of environmental organizing, I am distressed by the rollbacks of hard-won gains while climate-related disasters increase. The grassroots organizers we support are the vital antidote to this moment. We are actively working to increase resources for these communities and help our partners build resilience.

I am proud of our four-decade legacy of funding the organizations others wouldn't. We will not abandon our roots now. With new leadership, the board is working with the staff to strategize on new ways to do our work. Thank you for joining with us in this critical moment and in the months to come.

In solidarity,

Teresa Juarez,  
Board President



## GET INVOLVED

PDF is seeking leaders from current or former grantees to become Community Reviewers for our Seeding the Movement Fund. Reviewers evaluate applications for the fund. They are essential to ensuring our grants go where they are most needed. This is a great opportunity particularly for those who fundraise for their organizations and want to know what it's like from the funder side. We especially encourage people from communities underrepresented in philanthropy to apply.

You should expect up to 22 hours of work between January and May 2026. PDF has \$250 stipends available for up to 12 reviewers.

Contact Jessa McCormack for more information at [jessa@peacefund.org](mailto:jessa@peacefund.org)



## De Colores Grants

CONTINUED FROM COVER

it's fairly quick, as we're all on the same page, but other times it takes discussions or even reaching out to the organization to ask clarifying questions. This consensus method allows the committee members to be involved in the process and have their voices heard, while also shaping the grant program to align with both PDF and staff goals.

This past year we've refined our efforts to adapt to the current situation in the country and have begun making changes to the program to better serve the needs of those on the front lines. We're in discussions to raise the maximum grant size, because \$1,000 just doesn't go as far as it once did.

We've also begun proactively connecting with current places of crisis to seek out organizations that are doing good work in that area and sending them grants without having them apply! This reduces the stress placed on these organizations as the grants arrive in times of need and the group can focus on their very important work instead of filling out our application.

We recently sent out ten grants to organizations working on immigration justice and supporting migrants' rights, without the need for applications.

Lastly, I will be handing off leadership of the fund to Lakota Holder, another Foundation Associate here at PDF, who will continue to ensure the money makes it to the people who need it! ♦

Immigrant Defense Project



## BOARD SPOTLIGHT



## Dana Powell

I started following the work of the Peace Development Fund more than two decades ago, soon after I

met (the late) Ali Saleh El-Issa [1952–2022], Palestinian peace activist. At that time, I was based in Atlanta and managing the progressive philanthropy for the Indigo Girls, in collaboration with Honor the Earth, which afforded me the opportunity to meet Ali and learn about the Flying Eagle Woman Fund, which he established in memory of his wife, land defender Ingrid Washinawatok (Menominee). I saw how the work of PDF was at the cutting edge of a nonviolent, feminist, and anti-colonial philanthropy. Over the years, my education as an anthropologist working in the Navajo Nation in partnership with PDF Board members Earl Tulley (Diné) and Lori Goodman (Diné) furthered my admiration for the transformative, grassroots social justice work that PDF was doing -- emphasizing the wellbeing of communities at the front lines of

economic and environmental vulnerability. As a white ally, I wanted to join the PDF Board to continue Ali's legacy, bringing my experience in women's and Indigenous Peoples' radical grantmaking together with my training in anthropology and commitments to environmental and gender justice.

I am deeply excited about the board and staff's common commitment to feminist and anti-colonial transformations, as an organization that combines funding, advocacy, and capacity-building. Having studied and written about intersections of culture, energy, environment, and human rights in my academic work, I am excited that PDF brings a critical and sophisticated understanding of these concepts to all that we do. PDF is committed to addressing head-on, many forms of social and environmental harm. I am particularly excited about this opportunity to return to my roots in feminist grantmaking to address violence against women and girls and help elevate PDF's projects to support anti-militarism, environmental justice, and community organizing in this unprecedented moment of political uncertainty. ♦

## Tax Smart Giving

Funding from donor-advised funds accounted for nearly 9.8% of US charitable giving in 2023 and is increasing. Donor-advised funds are a great way to fund the things you care about while receiving an immediate tax deduction. Did you know that PDF has offered DAFs since 1987 and was recognized by Forbes Magazine? With PDF, your fund is aligned with your values while we make it easy for you to support the movement while we do all the paperwork! We offer 40+ years of grant making experience and knowledge of hundreds of grassroots partners around the globe. Find out more about how PDF can help your charitable gifts go further.

*"When Dani and I were first looking for a DAF, we were looking for a local organization that aligned with our values. So many are with massive banks. We found that home with PDF and are grateful for the work PDF does."*

—Eva Westheimer, PDF DAF holder

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





## GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

# The Trans Income Project

**T**he **Trans Income Project** (TIP) is dedicated to fostering financial stability, safety, and support for transgender individuals in New Orleans, with a particular focus on those involved in sex work. Founded and run by trans women, sex workers, and allies, TIP employs a unique and holistic model that combines organizing with practical support for transgender folk providing cash assistance, community support groups, and public policy advocacy.

This approach recently achieved a significant victory in New Orleans. TIP successfully advocated for the passage of a bill that offers crucial protections for sex workers. This vital legislation ensures that individuals can report crimes, seek medical help, and cooperate with investigations without the fear of discriminatory arrest or prosecution. It also establishes the right to safe sex by preventing the use of condoms as evidence of prostitution and eliminates the discriminatory “walking while trans” laws. This landmark achievement underscores TIP’s commitment to creating a community where every trans individual can live with safety and dignity.

*“This gift from the Peace Development Fund will enable us to continue our work ensuring the safety and security of transgender individuals in our community. We’re tremendously grateful for this national recognition of our unique model. We pair direct services with public policy advocacy so that we can simultaneously assist our membership in overcoming day-to-day challenges while we work toward systemic change.”*

—Natalie Rupp, Executive Director

## Leave a Lasting Legacy

As the leaves change and we reflect on the year ahead, we’d like to share an exciting opportunity to deepen your impact on social justice. The Peace Development Fund’s Legacy Society continues to grow, thanks to visionary donors like you who have included PDF in their estate plans. These gifts ensure that critical resources can continue to reach frontline organizers and social justice organizations for years to come.

Thank you to all the new Legacy Society members who recently used our FreeWill partnership during national Make-A-Will month to help ensure PDF’s future.

Contact Lora Wondolowski, at [lora@peacefund.org](mailto:lora@peacefund.org) to discuss planned giving options. ♦



## IN THE FIELD

### GRANTEES (SINCE MARCH 2025)

#### Braiding New Worlds Fund:

- Fanm Saj, Port Saint Lucie, FL
- GYPSY Ayiti, Haiti
- Merrimack Valley Project, Lawrence, MA
- More Than a Hashtag, Las Vegas, NV
- PHENOM, Worcester, MA
- Students for International Labor Solidarity, Calabasas, CA
- Tonelhuayótzin Nuestra Raíz A.C., MX
- Youth Alliance for Housing, Astoria, NY
- Youth Power Coalition, Jackson Heights, NY

#### DE COLORES RAPID RESPONSE FUND:

- About Face: Veterans Against the War, New York, NY
- California Solidarity Economy Network, Belchertown, MA
- Farm Worker Self-Help, Dade City, FL
- Good Zone Center, Bronx, NY
- Happy Pappy Foundation, Encino, CA
- Hola Lakeway, Morristown, TN
- Homies Unidos, Los Angeles, CA
- Immigrant Defense Project, New York, NY
- Migrant Justice, Burlington, VT
- People Organized for Westside Renewal, Los Angeles, CA
- Pioneer Valley Workers Center, Springfield, MA
- Standing for Democracy, New York, NY
- Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice, Boston, MA

#### SEEDING THE MOVEMENT FUND:

- America On Trial Inc, New York, NY
- Anonymous\*
- Best Practices Policy Project, Morristown, NJ
- CHAAD, Chicago, IL
- Common Good Montana, Missoula, MT
- Communities Creating Opportunity, Kansas City, MO
- Construyamos Otro Acuerdo, San Juan, PR
- DecrimSexWorkCA, San Francisco, CA
- Germantown Residents for Economic Alternatives Together, Philadelphia, PA
- Huntsville Bail Fund, Huntsville, AL
- LEAN Lived Experience Advocacy Network/Propel Nonprofits, Minneapolis MN
- Memphis Tenants Union, Memphis, TN
- Pro Voice Project, Sandpoint, ID
- Regional Tenant Organizing Network, Oakland, CA
- SWOP Hawai’i, Honolulu, HI
- Trans Income Project, New Orleans, LA

#### WESTERN MA TRANSFORMATION FUND:

- Anonymous\*
- Decarcerate Western Mass Bailout Project, Easthampton, MA
- seeing rainbows, Pittsfield, MA
- Our Fire Collective, Greenfield, MA

#### NEW FISCALLY SPONSORED PROJECTS:

- Center for Aliveness and Liberation, Seattle, WA
- Defend Public Health, New Haven, CT
- Friends of Sumud School, Conway, MA
- Friends of the Horizon, Watertown, MA
- New Jersey Red Umbrella Alliance, Morristown, NJ
- Reparations Interfaith Coalition, Brookline, MA

\* Several grantee organizations wished to remain anonymous



Rolling deadline ..... De Colores Rapid Response Fund  
 November 3 ..... Community Organizing Grants (COG) Application Opens  
 January 30, 2026 ..... COG Application Deadline  
 May 2026 ..... COG Grants Awarded

For more information visit [www.peacedevelopmentfund.org](http://www.peacedevelopmentfund.org)

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pdf

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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

WHERE ARE  
 THEY NOW?

### 350 Vermont

TEN YEARS AGO, PDF supported 350Vermont with a \$5,000 general. The seed funding helped bolster

their central staff and statewide campaigns, which were centered on building a grassroots climate justice movement in the state. The organization's model empowered individuals to organize locally in "nodes" connecting their efforts to larger statewide initiatives.

In 2015, they were working to change the political landscape in Vermont. After a two-year fight, they celebrated a major win when Phase 2 of the state's proposed fracked gas pipeline was canceled. 350Vermont also made waves with their Divest VT campaign, which saw Governor Shumlin call on the state's pension board to divest from coal and ExxonMobil. In a related victory, the Vermont House passed a resolution urging the State Treasurer to follow suit. **The organization's focus on grassroots development led to a doubling of their volunteer base and the establishment of new nodes in Burlington, Montpelier, the Upper Valley, and Bennington.**

Ten years later, 350Vermont continues to evolve and expand its influence. The organization is now a driving force for a just transition to a regenerative economy in Vermont. This broader focus emphasizes not only emissions reduction but also community resilience, public health, and the equitable redistribution of resources and power.

Their current campaigns reflect this evolution, with a



"[The grant from PDF] helped fund our central staff and statewide campaign work including... helping hundreds of Vermonters opposed to the fracked gas pipeline protest and interrupt eminent domain proceedings of affected landowners."

— MAEVE MCBRIDE, Coordinator

focus on actionable local projects and legislative advocacy. Their current campaigns include a community weatherization initiative that organizes hands-on work parties to make homes more energy efficient and Don't Burn Our Future, which is actively resisting the expansion of biomass facilities in the state. They are also mobilizing their network to protect and strengthen the Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act in the legislature. Over the last ten years, 350Vermont has grown from an organization working on specific campaigns into a powerful voice for a comprehensive, justice-driven approach to climate action. They're a great example of the power of seed funding. ♦