

Putting PDF in Perspective

As grantmakers, PDF takes the long view. PDF is an early funder for grassroots groups whose voices are not being heard because their issues are new, marginalized or considered too local or controversial.

We believe that small grants for general support can make an enormous difference to groups that are finding their voice, organizing their communities, and beginning to tackle the challenges of making change. Not only does PDF provide grants, but we try to bring groups together working on similar issues through our program initiatives, and focus our grantmaking to support those initiatives.

We take the long view because to realize the impact of PDF grants requires us to be patient. As an early funder with an open door to any and all community groups, we frequently see issues as they emerge or just before they emerge into the public consciousness. Immigration and border wars, climate change and toxic waste dumps, bullying in schools and restorative justice, the struggles and voices of the formerly incarcerated and their families are areas where PDF grantmaking has been prescient.

In this issue, we look back 10 years at groups that received PDF's community organizing grants, our "open door" to funding. Since PDF's 2004 Community Organizing grants docket, some of the organizations that we funded have folded, some have merged or morphed into other organizations, some have continued their work and grown (Go to PDF's website, peacedevelopmentfund.org, to view the organizations PDF funded in 2004 and for additional information on groups not discussed in this newsletter.) With the help of intern, Tara Smith, PDF tracked down as many of the organizations we could. The result provided a wealth of stories, as well as a valuable assessment of the type of grantmaking PDF does.

Real organizing takes the long view, requiring the patience to work when there is little money, few supporters and just glimmers of hope. Over the last 10 years, we have seen that PDF grantees continued to go forward even when so many obstacles confronted them: the Great Recession, organized opposition, racism, governmental barriers, lack of funding and staff/volunteer burnout. As you will read, many grantees said that PDF's grant came just at the right time. ■

"YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT IMPACT A GRANT MAY HAVE, BUT AT THAT TIME PDF'S GRANT REALLY HAD A HUGE EFFECT ON A VERY YOUNG ORGANIZATION."

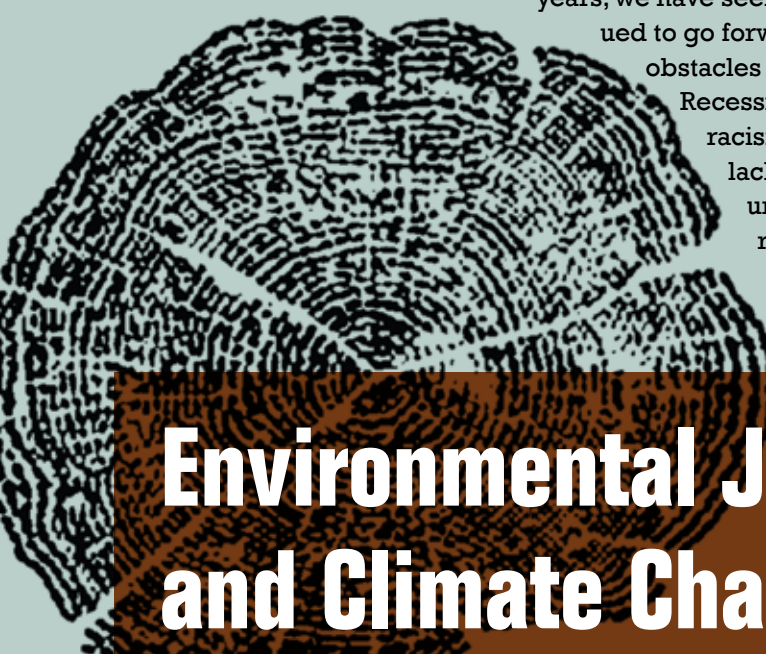
Jarid Manos, Great Plains Restoration Council, Houston, TX



Immigrant Rights

In the early 2000s, PDF began three program initiatives: Cross Border, Criminal Justice and Building Action for Sustainable Environments (BASE). The Cross Border work encompassed building a stronger network among the many communities whose lives are affected by the U.S./Mexico border, by globalization, militarization and criminal activity. It predicted the rise in the criminalization of immigrants, and the militarization of the border with Mexico.

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Environmental Justice and Climate Change

PDF's focus on early stage grantmaking, supporting marginalized communities and bringing forward youth leadership are a common thread through a decade's worth of special initiatives and community organizing grantmaking.

BASE Initiative

The BASE Initiative organized around the chemical weapons, military and civilian nuclear industries and alternative sustainable economies and their impact on health and climate change. It was the first environmental network organized by people of color—not one race or ethnic group, but multiracial.

BASE meetings convened Indigenous people, Latino farmworkers, African Americans from the rural south, funders with decades of experience in philanthropy, groups and organizations who had never received a foundation grant, high school-aged youth and elders who were part of the beginning of the environmental justice movement in this country. Working with such a diverse group was part of our strength, as well as PDF's biggest challenge.

BASE participants brought decades of experience from the front lines of the nuclear struggle, those communities most directly impacted by the nuclear fuel cycle. From the Diné (Navajo) Nation, where the mining began and where the multigenerational effects of genetic mutation are still playing out, to the Columbia River downstream from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, where those few salmon still returning to spawn exhibit many forms of genetic mutation, to the

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PeaceTalks Fall 2014

Join us for fall events at the PDF Center for Peace and Justice, with activists from PDF-funded organizations.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 FROM 7 TO 9 P.M.

Pioneer Valley Fall Open House

Our community partners, Board of Directors, staff and friends invite you for an evening of inspiring conversations and light refreshments.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10 FROM 7 TO 9 P.M.

Bringing Social Issues to the Big Screen

A panel of PDF grantees, led by director and producer Julia Mintz, will discuss how to use film and video as a catalyst for social change.

All events are at the PDF Center for Peace and Justice
44 North Prospect Street, Amherst, MA

For more information and to RSVP email peacedevfund@gmail.com.

Recent First-time Grantees

A number of first-time grantees this spring come as a result of a new community advised fund, The Ignacio Martín-Baró Fund. Through PDF's **donor advised and community advised funds program**, PDF is able to make grants outside of the U.S. to organizations working on such issues as violence against women, promoting human rights and international peace.

99Rise California March for Democracy,
Los Angeles, CA
www.99rise.org

Asociación Centro de Educación y Formación Maya
Ixil, El Quiché, Guatemala

Action des Femmes à la Non-Violence, Burundi,
Democratic Republic of Congo
www.gnwp.org

Almuyah La Junta Hoop Project, Embudo, NM

American Studies Association, Washington, DC
www.theasa.net

Anti-Nuclear Organizing Initiative,
San Francisco, CA

Asociación para la Investigación y Acción Social
Nomadesc, Santiago de Cali-Valle del Cauca,
Colombia
nomadesc.blogspot.com

The Awakening, Khyber Pukhtunkhwa, Pakistan

Aztlan Cultura A.C., Colonia del Valle, Mexico

Be Present, Inc., Stone Mountain, GA
www.bepresent.org

Breaking Walls, New York, NY
www.breakingwallsprogram.org

Camps in Common, Oakland, CA
www.featherrivercamp.com

Centro de Psicología Comunitaria (COPERMA),
North Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of Congo

Coexist Learning Project, Boston, MA
www.upstanderproductions.org

Fund for Constitutional Government,
Washington, DC
www.fcgonline.org

International Action Network for Gender Equity &
Law, San Francisco, CA
www.iangel.org

Live with HOPE, Masaka, Uganda
www.livewithhope.org

Malcolm X Grassroots Movement-NY, Brooklyn, NY
www.mxgm.org

Medicos Descalzos, El Quiché, Guatemala
<https://sites.google.com/site/medeschinique/home>

National Immigrant Youth Alliance, Washington, DC
www.theniya.org

Peoples' Justice for Community Control and Police
Accountability Justice Committee, New York, NY
www.peoplesjustice.org

Third World Newsreel, New York, NY
www.twn.org

Women De-Militarize the Zone DMZ, Honolulu, HI
www.w808.blogspot.com

TIMELY AND TAX-WISE

PDF's Donor Advised Funds program delivers more than 30 years of experience in grantmaking to donor activists who are interested in funding specific, progressive interests. PDF carries out the research, ensures the reporting, and manages the government's requirements while you, with PDF staff advice, recommend groups for funding. 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)." A Donor Advised Fund is simple to start at PDF, easy to understand, and gives you the information you need to recommend grants for social change. For more information on Donor Advised Funds, call Ray Santiago, at 415-642-0900 or email, ray@peacefund.org.



Photos courtesy of **Re-entry Solutions Group**, Richmond, CA, a partner in PDF's Fiscal Sponsorship Program. For more information, visit www.reentrysolutions.org.

Environmental Justice and Climate Change

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Savannah River Site and Los Alamos National Laboratory, around which the communities have health and social indicators far outside of the norm for this country.

During the decade that groups engaged with BASE, they were able to effect some nuclear policy changes such as stopping uranium mining on the Navajo Reservation and banning all future nuclear activity. Just as importantly, they were able to influence other policies in a way that they could not previously. "Federal agencies opened doors to us because of BASE," revealed Lori Goodman of **Diné CARE** in Durango, CO. She described the time spent with BASE going to Washington, DC and meeting with government leaders as making her group better prepared to take on the subsequent fight over the Desert Rock power plant. "We knew who the players were at the DOD, EPA and DOE, and we weren't intimidated."

The Imani Group of Aiken, SC was able to have better dialogue on existing policies with government agencies and a presence at the table. "We gained a level of respect by being part of BASE," said Rev. Brendolyn Jenkins, Imani's executive director. "At the government level, they dealt with us as a unified group." Dr. Mildred McClain of **Harambee House: Citizens for Environmental Justice** (Savannah, GA) agreed. "We didn't change much policy but we were instrumental in changing practice. We got them to implement the regulations. We held their feet to the fire on agreements already in place."

Chief Wilbur Slockish of **Columbia River Education-Economic Development** in Washington described a new ability to testify at congressional hearings, with invitations from state lawmakers to consult over fishing rights and native land use. "This is progress, and it all stems from the work we did with BASE. People know about Hanford issues now. If not, we'd be just another dump site."

Environmental Health and Sustainable Communities

As PDF supported the 10-year initiative of BASE, through our community organizing docket we also looked for ways to make grants to other community organizations working on climate change. The **Great Plains Restoration Council**, which started in 1999, was working in Ft. Worth, TX, Denver, CO and Wounded Knee, SD to rebuild the Buffalo Commons. By bringing Indigenous prairies back they would restore healthy, sustainable communities in the Great Plains, enhance the natural environment and restore native wildlife. Their program of ecological health leadership with youth led over time to Restoration Not Incarceration, Plains Youth InterACTION and Your Health Outdoors.

The founder and current CEO, Jarid Manos, described PDF's grant as coming at the right time, just as they were developing an ecological health model. Ecological Health: the Interdependent Health of People, Animals and Ecosystems, had 12 components:

1. Create safe places for people and wildlife; work to protect, restore and connect wildlands.
2. Protect, teach and serve children. Ensure interaction with Nature, making sure youth learn and understand that Nature is not made up of objects but is a community of living beings and interwoven relationships that includes us.
3. Understand consequences of actions; accept personal responsibility.
4. Strive to cause less pain to others, whether it is to people, animals, yourself or Earth.
5. Embrace vitality. Eat clean and low on the food chain (preferably plant-based), reject factory farming, reduce your carbon footprint, exercise daily, drink at least half a gallon of pure water each day.
6. Embrace earned confidence and humility; reject arrogance, waste, violence, hatred and ugliness.
7. Live like a watershed; become an ecosystem participant wherever you live.
8. Embrace physical work; fear no mental challenge (don't be taken for a fool because of willful ignorance, such as with "greenwashing"); connect meaningfully within your community.
9. Fight environmental injustice pollution as the act of violence it is.
10. Seek peace and health-based solutions over endless conflict; claim the same over endless despair.
11. Give thanks; get outdoors with our living, breathing Earth.
12. Seek silence, wisdom, deeper thought and personal growth for the rest of your life.

After five years, GPRC was at a make or break time for their project, said Manos. Grants were hard to come by and their programs, which brought together inner city and Plains youth, were in the pilot stage. With the support of PDF they were able to focus on developing their programs. By doing what they did best—reach out to bring Indigenous and urban youth together—they could then work with other communities to achieve a larger environmental justice goal, said Manos. PDF's community organizing grant of \$9,000 gave them the boost they needed to collaborate with other groups, especially in Houston where GPRC is now located. "You never know what impact a grant may have, but at that time it really had a huge effect on a very young organization," Manos declared. ■

We have a wealth of stories as well as a valuable assessment of the type of grantmaking PDF does.





information on being fiscally sponsored, go to www.peacedevelopmentfund.org.

Immigrant Rights

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Padres Unidos in Denver, CO received a \$9,000 community organizing grant from PDF in 2004. It was the second grant they received from PDF. Although they had been in existence since 1992, they had recently begun Jóvenes Unidos, a youth initiative for school reform, ending the school to prison pipeline and organizing for immigrant student rights. PDF's grant was to support this multi-issue organization led by people of color working for educational excellence, racial justice, immigrant rights and quality healthcare, and in particular, the work of Jóvenes Unidos in the Denver public schools.

With PDF's grant, Jóvenes Unidos surveyed over half the student body of North High School to identify key issues of concern. The results of the survey were published in a groundbreaking report where students called for drastic change, "North High School Report: The Voice of Over 700 Students." Jóvenes Unidos became part of a committee to develop a plan to turn the school around. The following year, "Education on Lockdown," detailed the impact of zero tolerance practices on low-income communities of color and again called for reform in Denver Public Schools.

After a six year campaign to end the zero tolerance approach to discipline that targets low-income students of color, Jóvenes Unidos won new discipline policies for Denver Public Schools that focus on keeping students in school and learning. They also won the introduction of Restorative Justice, a program with a progressive approach to discipline. But the fight didn't stop there, as Jóvenes Unidos held the school system's accountable to insure implementation.

Jóvenes Unidos members educated over 256,000 people through radio, flyers and face-to-face outreach and presentations, on the urgent need to organize to implement the 2008 Denver Public Schools discipline policy and join their legislative campaign to *End the School-to-Jail Track* in Colorado. The state passed SB 133 to create an interim committee to study the issue of school discipline and provide legislative recommendations for the next session. SB 133 put them one step closer to ending the school to prison pipeline at the state level.

After successful passage of the 2008 discipline policy, Padres & Jóvenes Unidos (their new name) set an example for district accountability to the community through the research and release of a report on the implementation of the 2008 Denver Public Schools Discipline Policy. Denver Public Schools agreed to hold quarterly public accountability meetings.

Padres & Jóvenes Unidos had successfully pushed through passage of the Smart School Discipline Act, designed to end harsh zero tolerance policies, address racial disparities in discipline, and put a stop to the unnecessary and unjust criminalization of students of color within Colorado public schools. Every single school district had to adopt this policy by 2012. The group also helped bring two West Denver Preps into Northwest Denver, the highest performing middle school in Denver Public Schools with proven best practices to catch up low-income students of color and prepare them for high school and college.

Can we say that the successes of Padres & Jóvenes Unidos could be attributed to

that early PDF grant? Pam Martinez, their co-director since 2004, told PDF recently, "Your grant contributed to the road map for an organization that has certainly grown, but also sustained the same goals over time." The year 2004 was a formative year for them on school reform, discipline reform, college prep for all and student rights, she said. And as a result of all their wins, students and their co-director were invited to the Department of Justice and Department of Education to take part in civil rights committees that were forming the language that shaped President Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals' initiative.

"We are still calling for college education to be available to all," said Martinez. "We haven't passed the DREAM Act yet, but undocumented students can now go to college in Colorado paying resident tuition rates. To this day we are still calling for reforms and we have made progress. We are still doing the summer leadership institute we did in 2004. We still have a vision of a world democracy rooted in equality, with an end to oppression and exploitation. Our staff is still majority staff of color.

"We are a good example of how PDF grants make a difference. We really are coming from the community. These were our issues then, and they still are."

"2004 was a busy year," said Alex Sanchez, executive director of **Homies Unidos** in Los Angeles, CA. "This was the beginning phase of criminalizing immigrants." Many people in LA had been deported and deemed criminals, sent back to El Salvador and other countries in Central America. Homies began organizing, speaking to the larger public about criminalization, and trying to get people on board in their community. "However, no one wanted to talk about it or deal with the issue," said Sanchez. "They wanted to talk about it only after people became legal."

PDF's community organizing grant of \$10,000 for youth organizing was part of a long partnership with Homies, beginning in 2002 and continuing as PDF donors with Donor Advised Funds kept up support for the organization. But in 2004, criminal justice youth organizing—trying to bring youth in, get them involved and give them an understanding of the political process—was a new experience. Homies had been doing violence prevention and intervention, but realized the youth needed something else. It was difficult to work with pro-immigration groups when they didn't want to talk about criminalized youth. Youth need to be engaged and empowered, Homies believed, and given an alternative to gangs. The "Liberty with Dignity" program was born.

With this program, youth learned life skills, and were able to apply for summer internships to learn about community organizing. They went to the state capitol to advocate with families of the incarcerated to abolish solitary confinement. They were exposed to work being done by other criminal justice organizations, and saw the consequences of state and federal laws in their communities. Youth went on to educate each other and their communities about their rights. "This all came out of the 2004-2005 program," explained Sanchez. "It shaped what we fight for, and PDF's grant gave us a new direction to follow." ■



PDF Board member, Tina Reynolds, was honored at Providence House in New York City at their 35th Annual People of Hope Celebration. Ms. Reynolds is one of the women who stayed at Providence House with her sons when she was released from prison. Providence House's mission is to transition women who are homeless and recently released from prison back into society. They provide case management and an array of programs throughout their network of transitional residences, individual apartments, and permanent supportive housing. An extraordinary video about the women, including Ms. Reynolds, who have benefited from Providence House is available at http://fuelcreative.us/client/Providence_House_Rev2/. ■

PDF's **Spring Reception in the Bay Area** on June 12th at the home of Pattie Silver attracted 50 friends, grantees and donors. Oakland native community organizers Rencho Dallas Wahpepah and Hector Patty, with Richard Moves Camp from Wamblee, SD on the Pine Ridge Reservation began with an honor song led by Mr. Patty. Mr. Wahpepah runs a native youth program under the auspices of the Native American Health Clinic in Oakland, and Mr. Patty has been part of the program which turned his life around. PDF Board member Esmeralda Brown linked their native organizing success to PDF's work in the international community. Lori Hill, director of Providing Alternatives to Violence, told PDF staff and board members, "What fabulous work you and PDF do and the organizations you support. Truly heartbreaking, crucial, inspiring!" ■



"This is the most important, most meaningful award I have ever received," said artist **Faith Ringgold, who was honored by PDF** for her work for social justice at the ACA Galleries in New York City in May. PDF Board members Ali El-Issa, Iva Kaufman, Tina Reynolds and Esmeralda Brown presented Ms. Ringgold with a Native American star quilt. Ms. Ringgold is best known for her own painted story quilts—art that combines painting, quilted fabric and storytelling—work that she has been creating since the 1970s. Working with fabric has been a strong part of her family history, beginning with Ms. Ringgold's great, great grandmother, who was a slave and had made quilts for her slave-owners. Ms. Ringgold later incorporated written text into her works that communicated the themes most important to her: stories of her own life, of African American women and artists throughout history, and of racial and gender inequality. PDF was delighted to honor Ms. Ringgold, who has generously shared her work with PDF on behalf of our grantmaking. ■



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CRIMINAL JUSTICE

PDF STRENGTHENS THE CAPACITY of groups seeking justice in our courts and prison system, promotes practical and effective alternatives to incarceration, and opposes new prisons. In the long-term, this work aims to promote an empowered grassroots movement.

A first-time grantee in 2004, the **Polaris Project** in Washington, DC received a \$9,000 grant. Established in 2002 to work with trafficking victims and named after the north star—guiding slaves to freedom—their budget was small. The Polaris Project is a classic example of an organization where PDF grantmaking was early and had an enormous impact.

“Organizations like yours really do make an impact and help us grow,” said Hillary Richards, a grant officer at Polaris. In 2004, training police officers and health services members was a primary focus. Rather than seeing these women as survivors, law enforcement was applying a prostitution model and criminalizing the victim. Ten years ago, they had trained 200 police and health workers. By 2014, they had trained 13,000. Polaris became part of the U.S. Campaign Against Trafficking and helped to build a coalition of 80 anti-trafficking groups from around the country.

From a budget of \$200,000, they are now raising \$6.4 million annually. Last year, they served 97 clients in DC, including 40 survivors of sex trafficking, 50 survivors of labor trafficking and six survivors of both forms of trafficking. They are providing 79 programs for survivors, such as support groups, art therapy, enrichment programs, survivor mentorship groups, job training, skills workshops, etc.

Most importantly, in 2004, trafficking was not even part of the national vocabulary for criminal justice. Today, thanks to groups like the Polaris Project, there is a nationwide network to combat trafficking that serves the full range of its victims: American citizens and foreign nationals, men and women, children and adults. Their expert knowledge of trafficking networks around the world is sought by top law enforcement officers, elected officials, business leaders, and service providers. They have successfully advocated for stronger federal and state laws, operated the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline, conducted trainings and provided vital services in order to eradicate modern-day slavery. At the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, TN, Polaris is one of three groups profiled as carrying on the civil rights movement of today.

The **Prison Activist Resource Center** (PARC) in Oakland, CA celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2004, when PDF made a grant of \$5,000 so that PARC could produce and mail a Resource Directory listing over 100 advocacy and support organizations to 8,000 prisoners. “Most prisoners, both in 2004 and today, are indigent,” explained PARC volunteer, Penny Schoner. “By ensuring that PARC could continue to send the directory for free, we were able to reach those inside who needed support and solidarity the most.”

Today, the 24-page Resource Directory has expanded to list over 250 organizations and continues to be updated annually and sent for free to all prisoners who request it. It includes new sections, such as the various Innocence Projects that are continuing to expand throughout the U.S. (conservative estimates are that between five and 10 percent of prisoners are actually innocent of the crimes for which they are currently serving sentences). Post-secondary (college degree) educational opportunities

PDF'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE FOCUSES ON BUILDING AND SUPPORTING A NATIONAL MOVEMENT OF FORMERLY INCARCERATED PEOPLE, THEIR FAMILIES AND ALLIES.

now available through individual state prison systems is a new trend, with some prisons partnering with local colleges and universities to provide free degree-earning programs by providing college-level classes in local prisons.

PDF's ability to take the long view on its grantmaking produces results worth waiting for. As Hillary Richards from Polaris told PDF, “No one really ever checks in on us, so it's nice hearing from an organization that helped us out such a long time ago.”

“Your support contributed to our success,” adds PARC's Penny Schoner, “and we hope to continue partnering with you as we endeavor toward a world where abusive systems of imprisonment no longer exist.” ■

IN THIS ISSUE

**The Impact of PDF Grants:
PDF Looks Back 10 Years**

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.

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