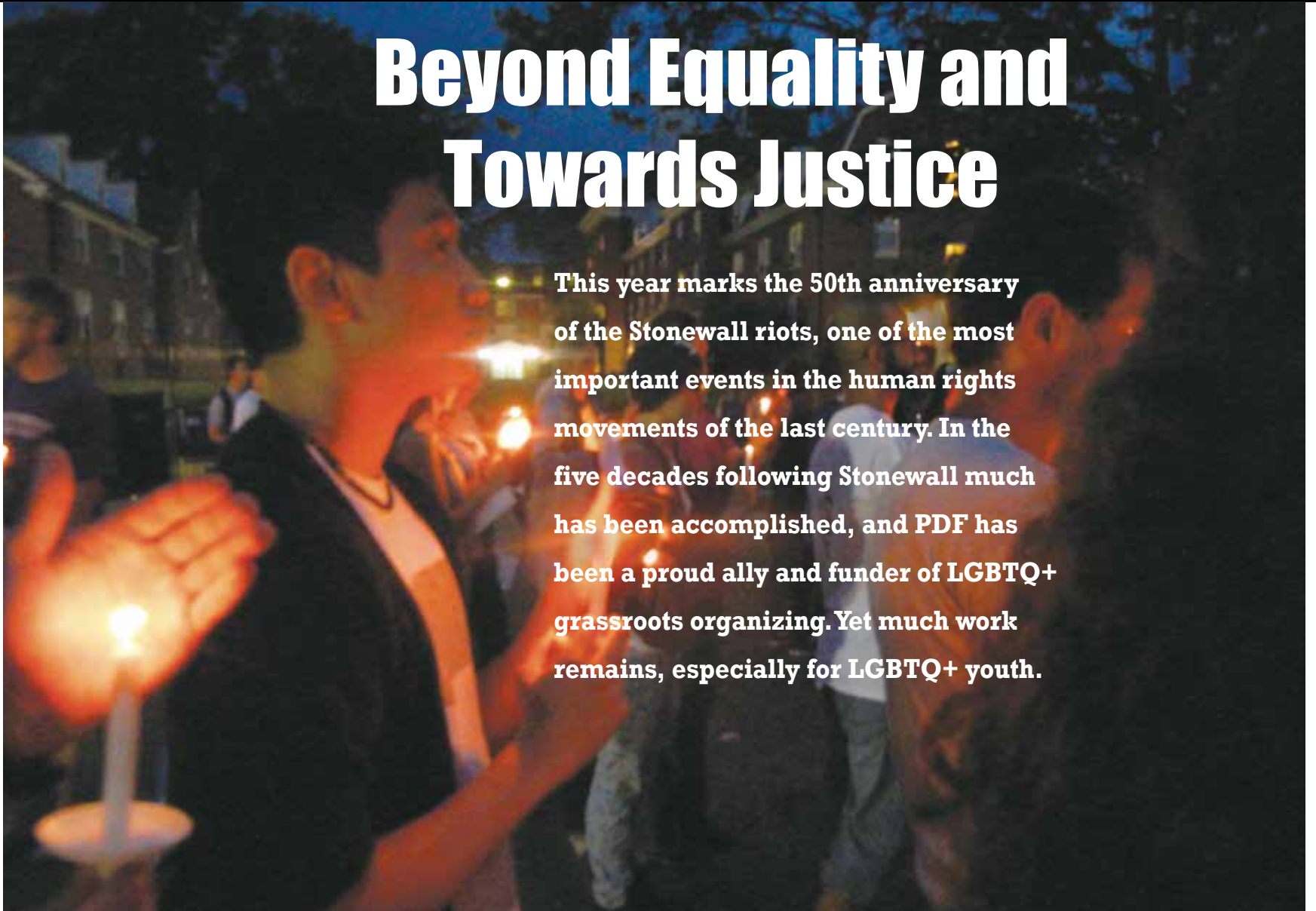


Beyond Equality and Towards Justice

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, one of the most important events in the human rights movements of the last century. In the five decades following Stonewall much has been accomplished, and PDF has been a proud ally and funder of LGBTQ+ grassroots organizing. Yet much work remains, especially for LGBTQ+ youth.



“We know that for many people, navigating public space is fraught with harassment and violence simply because of who they are,” said **Peoples Justice League**, of Athens, OH. “It has been hard to attract the attention of funders in our region in general,” they added, much less for LGBTQ+ youth.

This year, Community Organizing grant applicants working on a variety

of issues applied for funding because they realized that in order to achieve their goals, they needed to address the challenges that LGBTQ+ youth face. Bullying, family rejection and the lack of safe housing were cited in applications as the three greatest barriers for LGBTQ+ youth, impacting their health and well-being. Thirty-nine percent of LGBTQ+ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past 12 months. More than half of transgender and non-binary youth have seriously considered it.

The LGBTQ+ community also faces higher rates of hate-motivated violence, which can often take the form of sexual assault. This is exacerbated by the cultural narrative around sexual violence, one that blames victims and allows the behavior of predators to be excused.

Peoples Justice League (PJL), addresses these problems in rural Ohio: “Our programming works to eradicate bias, harassment, discrimination, and abuse targeting any part of a person’s perceived identity.” Athens is a college town with a high density of bars within easy walking distance of Ohio University, a school that has been cited for its weak stance on sexual violence on campus. PJL was formed by queer women who were fed up with their own experience of homophobic and sexual harassment in public spaces. Noticing a relationship between alcohol and sexual violence, PJL began to develop programs to disrupt the cycle of abuse.

Through the Incident Reporter, PJL collects and amplifies the experiences of marginalized community

members by offering an anonymous on-line platform where people can report incidents without fear of retaliation. PJL shares these stories via their social media pages to inform community members of potential dangers and to open the eyes of those who do not experience harassment and abuse. PJL offers a two-hour training program for bartenders and other service providers to set the tone in community spaces. PJL’s training program helps bartenders notice early warning signs of harassment and to step in as active bystanders.

PDF’s **Pioneer Valley Community Advised Fund** recommended that Springfield, MA-based **Out Now** receive a grant to help them meet the needs of LGBTQ+ youth. Out Now describes themselves as a “diverse Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Two Spirit, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Neutral, and Allied youth organization.” They are dedicated to the support, safety, understanding, acceptance, equality and liberation for the LGBTQ+ community at home, in schools, and throughout society. As a youth-led, adult-advised organization, they prioritize community activism, youth leadership development and harm reduction.

Bullying, family rejection and the lack of safe housing were cited as the three greatest barriers for LGBTQ+ youth.

Out Now uses a youth development model where youth are both the center and the leadership of planning and programming. Adult/youth relationships coexist, are valued and are focused on developing an organization that respects and encourages youth to be critical thinkers, sharing a commitment for justice. Youth work to find solutions to the problems they face, advocate for change and support one another. For example, Out Now youth and staff are members of **Arise for Social Justice** (another PDF grantee), participating in collaborative work to stop police brutality. Together, they meet with city officials, the police commissioner, and others to address police brutality, misconduct and

PEACE TALKS

PDF at the People’s Pint

Thursday, September 12 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
24 Federal St, Greenfield, MA

The People’s Pint in Greenfield, MA is hosting a fundraiser for PDF and our Pioneer Valley Community Advised Fund. Come learn about how to join PDF’s Pioneer Valley Community Advised Fund while enjoying local food and drinks. The People’s Pint is a family-friendly brewpub serving housemade drafts, sodas and traditional locally-sourced pub fare.

What Doesn’t Kill You Makes You Stronger: Lessons from The Sustainability Project

Monday, October 21 at 6:30 p.m.
PDF Center for Peace and Justice
44 North Prospect St, Amherst, MA

From embracing organizational change to avoiding magical thinking, PDF trainers offer nine ways to build sustainability into your non-profit organization.

Mindful Travel in an Unequal World

Friday, November 1 at 7:00 p.m.
Odyssey Bookshop
9 College Street, South Hadley, MA

Dr. Anu Taranath will be speaking about her newly published book, *Beyond Guilt Trips: Mindful Travel in an Unequal World*. While travel abroad to non-western countries can provide much-needed perspective, it can also be deeply unsettling, confusing and disconcerting. Travelers can find themselves unsure about how to think or speak about the differences in race or culture they find, even though these differences might have fueled their desire to travel in the first place. Storyteller and University of Washington professor, Anu Taranath, begins at home, unpacking our baggage about who we are, where we come from, and how much we have.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING GRANTS

A ★ denotes a new grantee

A ▲ denotes The Sustainability Project participant

- ▲ The Alliance for Appalachia, London, KY
www.TheAllianceForAppalachia.org
- ★▲ The Alliance to Mobilize Our Resistance Network, Providence, RI,
www.amorri.org
- ★ API Equality – Northern California, San Francisco, CA
www.apienc.org
- ★ Asociación de Gente Unida por el Agua (AGUA), Visalia, CA
www.communitywatercenter.org/agua_coalition
- ★ Centro de Educación en Apoyo a la Producción y al Medio Ambiente, A.C., Parras de la Fuente, Coahuila, Mexico
- ★ Cooperative Economics Alliance of NYC, New York, NY
www.gocoopnyc.com
- ★ Doña Ana Communities United, Albuquerque, NM
www.da-cu.org
- ★ E. Harlem/El Barrio Community Land Trust, New York, NY
www.ehebclt.nyc
- ★▲ FRESH New London, New London, CT
www.freshnewlondon.org
Gente Organizada, Pomona, CA
www.genteorganizada.org
Native American Educational Technologies (NAET), Hayward, WI
www.IndianCountryTV.com
- ★▲ Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment, Pullman, WA
www.nimiipuuprotecting.org
- ★▲ Out in the Open, Brattleboro, VT
www.weareoutintheopen.org
Out Now, Springfield, MA
www.outnowyouth.org
- ★ People Helping People in the Borderzone, Arivaca, AZ
www.phparivaca.org
- ★ People's Justice League, Rutland, OH
www.peoplesjusticeleague.com
- ★ Right 2 Survive, Inc., Portland, OR
www.right2survive.org
- ★ The Root Social Justice Center, Brattleboro, VT
www.therootsjc.org
Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness, Sacramento, CA
www.srceh.org
Springfield No One Leaves, Springfield, MA
www.springfieldnooneleaves.org
Tree of Life Educational Fund, Old Lyme, CT
www.tolef.org
- ★ United Taxi Workers of San Diego, San Diego, CA
www.utwsd.org
- ★ Wicahpi Koyaka Tiospaye, Wamblee, SD
www.wicahpikoyaka.org

PLAN FOR PEACE

A simple bequest written into your will can help ensure a more just future through the Peace Development Fund. Together, we can provide the critical grants that strengthen the social justice movement, and create the new systems and institutions essential to building a peaceful, just and equitable world.

Bequests can be as simple as making PDF a beneficiary of your IRA. 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.



The Struggle with Pride

API EQUALITY – NORTHERN CALIFORNIA (APIENC), a 2019 PDF Community Organizing grantee, builds queer and transgender Asian and Pacific Islander power to amplify voices and increase visibility of the LGBTQ+ communities. They inspire and train leaders, establish intergenerational connections, and document and disseminate their histories.

This year, APIENC won the honor, by popular vote, of Community Grand Marshal for the 2019 San Francisco Pride Celebrations. They had very mixed emotions. “Pride doesn’t feel good or safe, the food is too expensive, and the police and corporate presence has increased over the years, leaving a negative impact on the local communities,” declared APIENC’s Core Committee.

Barbara Smith, a black activist and author, reflecting on “life after Stonewall,” wrote in *The New York Times*, “Despite some genuine efforts to increase diversity, especially in progressive movement circles, exclusivity and elitism still divide us. We have won rights and achieved recognition that would have been unimaginable 50 years ago, but many of us continue to be marginalized, both in the larger society and within the movement itself.”

APIENC wanted to celebrate Pride events but do so in a responsible way that would not hurt the community or cause. They took time to decide whether or not to participate. The APIENC Core Committee met several times, discussed contradictions, and asked questions to ensure that they were acting upon their values. They met with past Community Grand Marshals, this year’s individual Community Grand Marshal (who is also part of APIENC), community elders, the APIENC community and organizers of Pride events.

APIENC sought to honor the history of the LGBTQ+ movement while also acknowledging current struggles, such as law enforcement’s treatment of LGBTQ+ people, particularly transgender, non-binary and queer people of color. The first Pride demonstrated resistance against police, and sparked the parades the LGBTQ+ community and allies march in today. Though it was celebratory, it was also a defiant march against oppression.

Pride parades are a complex issue, but APIENC believes that it is a sign of disrespect to the LGBTQ+ community, particularly to community members of color, for police to pose as allies for one day a year and not expect to be held accountable for their actions the other 364 days.

Compounding the issue, San Francisco Pride events often lack accessibility for those with disabilities. In the weeks leading up to and during Pride, the 25 city blocks where events take place are greatly impacted.

Police do sweeps that lead to the criminalization of homeless people. Homeless people are arrested to get them out of sight. Food and drink prices often skyrocket during Pride week. As Smith noted, one in four people in the LGBTQ+ community experienced food insecurity in 2017. Twenty-four percent of lesbians and bisexual women earn less than the federal poverty line. Participating in the parade is unaffordable for lower income people.

Ultimately, APIENC decided to participate in Pride as the Community Grand Marshal. They sought to use this platform and push this space to be better for all queer and trans peoples.

APIENC’s Core Committee declared, “By accepting Community Grand Marshal, we accept our responsibility over the story we tell about APIENC, to emphasize that we must value people over Pride, and to honor our queer and trans legacies, all while holding SF Pride accountable to our communities.”

Smith went further. “It is not possible to achieve justice in a vacuum,” she concluded. “Marriage equality and celebrity culture will not solve it. Neither will political agendas focused on unquestioned assimilation. Gaining rights for some while ignoring the violation and suffering of others does not lead to justice. At best it results in privilege.

“Unless we eradicate the systemic oppressions that undermine the lives of the majority of LGBTQ people, we will never achieve queer liberation.” ■

“We must value people over Pride.”

As part of their decision, APIENC crafted a list of actions San Francisco Pride can implement in the near future. These requests include:

- ▶ In the event of any police sweeps, police work with local organizations to house and provide resources for displaced residents.
- ▶ Leverage corporate sponsorships to give free food and drink tickets to local community attendees and groups who could not otherwise afford food.
- ▶ Distribute free food and drink tickets by partnering with local, grassroots community organizations.
- ▶ Publically commit to investing in trained, community-based safety volunteers and systems at the march and festival, rather than relying on the San Francisco Police Department or other local police forces.



Out Now

Beyond Equality and Towards Justice

CONTINUED FROM COVER

abuse. They hold demonstrations and are developing community alternatives to relying on the police and new tools of accountability for the police.

Like Out Now, PDF grantee **Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness** (SRCEH) is addressing struggles that many LGBTQ+ youth face. During the latest housing crisis in the Sacramento, CA area, SRCEH observed the high number of LGBTQ+ youth who are without safe housing and are being criminalized for homelessness. There are about 1,000 unaccompanied youth, 40 percent of whom identify as LGBTQ+.

SRCEH is working to decriminalize homelessness in the community and dramatically shift the focus and resources to long-term, systemic change to end and prevent homelessness. Through policy analysis, community education, collective organizing, advocacy and civic engagement, they advocate for affordable and accessible housing, mental health and substance abuse treatment on demand, and employment with livable incomes.

PDF donors are also prioritizing LG-BTQ+ youth. A PDF Donor Advised Fund grantee, **Global Action Project** (G.A.P.), produced a Know Your Rights video. Groups across the country embraced it to challenge law enforcement abuses against LGBTQ+ youth of color. G.A.P.'s goal is to inspire young leaders and help them promote their social change agendas. "From our founding in 1991, G.A.P. continues to foster a pipeline of socially conscious, media-savvy leaders of the future."

G.A.P. works primarily with new immigrant and LGBTQ+ youth of color from working-class neighborhoods. They are pioneers in providing socially engaged and effective media-arts programming to young people. Working with professionally trained artist-educators, youth collaborate to make powerful narrative, non-fiction and new media pieces that amplify their diverse stories. Youth use that media to educate and advocate on behalf of their respective communities.

These PDF grantees working with LG-BTQ+ youth envision a world free from all forms of domination, where all people have free and equitable access to public spaces, services, information and institutions. As PJJ states, "No one must fear harm by any person or institution on the basis of perceived identity. Our work gets us closer to this vision by giving our community tools with which to take a stand." ■

Youth work to find solutions to the problems they face, advocate for change and support one another.



Peoples Justice League



Global Action Project



Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness



Delia Kovac joined PDF as a Foundation Officer in March. She is responsible for PDF's Donor Advised Funds program, the Pioneer Valley Community Advised Fund, and supports The Sustainability Project, our capacity building program for grantees. Delia learned the power of grassroots fund-raising as a founding board member of Girls Rock! Rhode Island. Before joining PDF, she served as the Individual Giving Manager at City Year Providence, the Assistant

Director of Development at Sophia Academy and as Project Manager for Urban Greens Food Co-op. Delia earned her undergraduate degree from the Rhode Island School of Design and received her Master of Fine Arts degree from Rutgers University. According to Kovac, "At this critical time, I am excited to be at PDF where I can help connect activists to the resources they need to grow a robust movement for peace and social justice."

The 2019 cycle of the **Pioneer Valley Community Advised Fund** (PVCAF) laid new groundwork for the program. Three things guided the shift for PVCAF: PDF's commitment to shaping future leaders, an interest in learning about the local community struggles and solutions, and the idea that if we engage young donors now they will have a more active role in philanthropy throughout their life.

This year we worked with Smith College students in their senior year who were focusing their studies on community engagement. These students all had volunteer experience working with community nonprofit organizations in the Pioneer Valley. They were curious to learn more about foundation work and the grantmaking process. The PVCAF helped develop these women into informed philanthropists while igniting their passion for community engagement.

Participants did not just learn about PDF grantmaking; they became part of the process as they read through and screened applications, shared notes, evaluated applications, prioritized, decided what groups to ask for supplemental information, performed interviews and ultimately recommended applicants to PDF's Board of Directors.

"As community members, it is our responsibility to not just give to local organizations but to invest in them and build a relationship with them," declared PDF's Board President, Teresa Juarez. The PVCAF helped participants have meaningful exchanges with activist organizations working locally to help solve the root problems of injustice.

Eighteen women came together in San Francisco's Women's Building in late March, part of PDF's **Women Peacemaker's Initiative**. The women, most of whom led groups fiscally sponsored by PDF, came from many countries: Japan, Korea, France, India, Burkina Faso, Albania, Brazil, the U.S. and the U.K. They noted that next year is also the 25th anniversary of Beijing's Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action – another moment when women of many countries came together to rewrite the future.

The groups included Women Cross DMZ, Women for Genuine Security, Whose Knowledge?, the Heart and Hand Fund, and the U.S. section of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. They discussed their organizational journey, why they began, what their mission and focus is, the challenges they face and the support they need. They also spoke of needing to do something now, to heal our oppressive histories through peacemaking and lauded the sisterhood that formed at the Women Peacemaker's Initiative.

The groups talked about strengths and weaknesses of their organizations, whether it be uncompensated work, a less diverse demographic than they would like to see, the pluses and minuses of being non-hierarchical, how a strong analysis doesn't always indicate what actions to take. They wanted to learn more from each other, and build on each other's strengths.

They left the meeting with a list of action steps, a commitment to collaborate and continue the conversation in the coming months, solidifying a concrete plan of action. The Women Peacemaker's Initiative, they agreed, demonstrated the promise of positive developments in the world, a broader vision of unity, and the promise of a greater coalition for peace and social justice. ■

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WE WAKE UP LIKE THIS

IN THIS ISSUE

Fifty Years After Stonewall



UNLIKE LIVING in large cities, resources for the LGBTQ+ community in rural areas can be scarce. “I joined Green Mountain Crossroads in early 2014,” recounts **Out in the Open** Executive Director HB Lozito. “At that time, there were very few other folks talking specifically about ‘ruralness’ and LGBTQ people. That was a real gap in the movement.”

In 2014 Green Mountain Crossroads of Brattleboro, VT (now called Out in the Open) began shifting the organization from a social gay men’s group to an organization building power for rural LGBTQ+ people (many of whom are no- or low-income), and specifically centering trans voices and experiences. Out in the Open today connects rural LGBTQ+ people to build community, visibility, knowledge and power.

Addressing cultural and rural isolation, stigma, political invisibility and erasure, Out in the Open shifted their focus to build LGBTQ+ leadership in the present, celebrate histories, and envision queer and trans futures. By connecting rural LGBTQ+ people with each other and networks of resources, they are establishing a multi-issue, social justice movement of rural LGBTQ+ people.

“We began building a board of directors who were interested in helping to drive that kind of a vision forward and over the next year,” says Lozito. “Through many deep conversations and long meetings, we crafted our present mission, vision and values statements.”

Newer programs include support groups for trans women, networking, skill-sharing, and help finding access to legal and medical resources. They began offering a support group for caregivers of LGBTQ+ youth, hosting on-going “allyship” trainings, and consult with medical professionals for improving quality of care for LGBTQ+ patients. They encourage youth and LGBTQ+ people of all ages to take a strong role in community action and to grow their skills. Recently, they taught 60 aspiring midwives how to best care for their trans clients.



Out in the Open offers more than just programs and services. They provide the opportunity to become involved in community grassroots organizing and change-making. “We are connected to struggles for collective liberation here and throughout the world,” they say. “There is incredible power in bringing together a group of previously isolated people, encouraging them to learn about all forms of oppression and how to effectively organize against it.

“We see that the seeds of social transformation are sown when we come together and reflect true leadership, where rural queer and trans youth do not feel insignificant but feel themselves to be a generative and vital part of the human family.”

LGBTQ+ people are in every community and having every experience that people around the world are having. “We help LGBTQ folks learn that all of these things are connected, that we as LGBTQ people have been facing oppression for a long time and have always resisted, that when we can stand in our power together as a community, we can face these challenges directly and overcome them.

“In the words of Arundhati Roy, ‘Another world is not only possible, she is already on her way.’” ■



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Peace through Justice

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.