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PEACE DEVELOPMENT FUND AWARDS \$10,000 TO VALLEY GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS

AMHERST, MA – The Peace Development Fund (PDF) announced grant awards through their Pioneer Valley Community Advised Fund (PVCAF) to five social justice organizations in Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin Counties. Each organization received \$2,000 for a total of \$10,000 this spring. The grant program includes community members, students, and donors in the grant decision process for the region, which builds the expertise of local leaders.

2022 PVCAF grant awardees include: **Decarcerate Western Mass Bailout Project**, **Great Falls Books Through Bars** (based in Franklin County), **the Nolumbeka Project** (based in Greenfield), **Springfield No One Leaves** (based in Springfield), and **the Trans Asylum Support Network** (based in Greenfield).

“PDF helps provide the funds to support our Pocumtuck Homelands Festival: A Celebration of Native American Art, Music and Cultures. This family friendly, two-day celebration has been offered free to the public since 2014. Events such as this are critical, especially in the Northeast, where tribal erasure began 400 years ago and our education was/is based on the cultural, racial and religious biases of the early settlers,” shared Diane Dix of the Nolumbeka Project.

The Pioneer Valley Community Advised Fund supports local organizers who are challenging injustice, building power, and creating new community structures anchored in social justice. These annual grants are made possible by the generous support of individual contributors.

"It is vitally important to PDF to invest in organizations here in the Valley who are pushing community-driven, lasting change. It is equally important that those making the decisions about local grants be community members as well," said Foundation Officer Emily Serafy-Cox.

The [Peace Development Fund's](#) mission is to build the capacity of community-based organizations through grants, training, and other resources as partners in human rights and social justice movements.
