

**SAVE THE DATE**  
 Inaugural  
 Grassroots Gala  
 January 30, 2025  
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## A Broken Promise: The Fight for Water Rights

**W**ATER RIGHTS in the Western United States has been a source of conflict for decades between cities, agriculture, tribes, and conservation lands all vying for dwindling resources. As the planet gets hotter, water has become scarcer. Many of PDF's partner organizations have been fighting for both clean water and Indigenous water rights for years.

Last year, Indigenous communities were dealt a huge loss when the Supreme Court ruled against the Navajo Nation in a water rights dispute with the federal government. The court determined that the United States has no "affirmative duty" to ensure the Navajo Nation has access to water, a decision that has been widely criticized as undermining tribal sovereignty and treaty rights. PDF Board member Earl Tulley, Diné, was part of the fight for Navajo rights.

The Navajo Nation, the largest Native American reservation in the United States, faces a critical challenge made harder by the ruling: securing access to clean, reliable water. This fundamental right, essential for human health and economic development, has been under threat due to the Supreme Court decision and the ongoing effects of climate change.

This decision comes at a time when the Navajo Nation, like many Indigenous communities across the country, is already grappling with the devastating effects of water scarcity. The desert southwest is experiencing historic drought conditions.



U.S. Secretary of Interior, Deb Haaland & Earl Tulley, PDF board



Communities for Clean Water, New Mexico

This, coupled with a growing population and aging water infrastructure, creates a dire situation for Navajo communities.

**CLEAN WATER: A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT**

Access to clean water is also a fundamental human right. It is essential for drinking, sanitation, cooking,

and crop irrigation. Without sufficient water, communities face a multitude of health problems, including waterborne illnesses, malnutrition, and developmental issues in children.

For Indigenous communities, water is also deeply connected to their culture and traditions. Traditional ceremonies and practices often rely on water, and the health of the land is intrinsically linked to the health of the water sources.

Despite the recent Supreme Court decision, the Navajo Nation and its allies are not giving up the fight for water justice. PDF grantees like **Communities for Clean Water (CCW)** and the **Center for Social Sustainable Systems (CESOSS)** are working tirelessly to advocate for the rights of Indigenous communities and secure access to clean water.

CCW is a New Mexico-based non-profit that works to protect and restore water resources for communities throughout the state. They have a long history of working with the Navajo Nation on water issues, providing technical assistance, legal support, and community education.

CESOSS is another organization dedicated to social and environmental justice. They focus on building healthy communities through sustainable practices, including water management. CESOSS works with Indigenous communities to develop culturally appropriate solutions to water challenges. Environmental justice and racial justice were among the top issues being addressed by this year's Seeding The Movement



Fund grantees. We recognize that the need to resource environmental justice will only increase with climate change. ♦

July 2024 tour of Navajo Nation water conditions including Indian Health Hospital in AZ where it took 8 months for water to be turned on. Pictured from left: Water Rights Comm. Chair Joelynn Ashley, Bureau of Reclamation Comm. Maria Camille Climlim Touton, and Navajo Nation Speaker Crystalyne Curley.



Dear Friends,

We enter this fall with an unsettled feeling at PDF and in the country. We knew the presidential election would be topsy-turvy, but who would have predicted President Biden's withdrawal. The war in Gaza rages on with

no end in sight. And at PDF, the retirement of Paul Haible has left a big hole for us to fill.

Yet, despite the turbulence we draw inspiration from Vice President Harris's joyful approach to campaigning and the front-line organizations that continue to work for systemic change that goes beyond one election cycle or policy fix. We see the humor in countless memes that are reframing the narrative and bringing joy to the hard work. This newsletter highlights the work of Return Strong! in the swing state of Nevada and STL2DNC's organizing at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

Although it has been challenging without the leadership of Paul, our staff has taken up the slack and risen to the occasion. Soon, we will announce our new executive director and I know you will share the same excitement and hope for the future that we have seen in our finalist candidates.

I have had the privilege of serving as your Interim Executive Director, while we have been searching for our next leader. I look forward to continuing the important work of raising the funds necessary to resource our movement partners. Thank you for your support and dedication to being the change we desperately need in the world.

In solidarity,

Lora Wondolowski  
Interim Executive Director

## De Colores Rapid Response Fund: Seize the Moment

The fight for justice is rarely linear. Often, critical moments arise – windows of opportunity for movements to make significant progress or respond to a crisis. But these moments are fleeting, and organizers need resources to act fast. That's where rapid response funding comes in, and why the Peace Development Fund's De Colores Rapid Response Fund is more important than ever.

### BUILDING CAPACITY, NOT JUST REACTING

Rapid response funding goes beyond simply reacting to emergencies. It's about empowering grassroots organizations to capitalize on strategic opportunities for change. This can take many forms, such as funding travel expenses for activists to attend crucial conferences or rallies, or providing resources for printing flyers and organizing workshops during a surge in public interest around a specific issue.

### INVESTING IN SOLIDARITY AND INTERCONNECTEDNESS

Rapid response funding isn't just about singular issues. The story of **STL2DNC** Coalition exemplifies the power of solidarity across seemingly separate struggles. Their work connects the fight for justice in St. Louis with the ongoing crisis in Palestine, interconnecting local and global movements. By supporting such coalitions, rapid response funding fosters collaboration and strengthens the overall movement ecosystem.

The De Colores Rapid Response Fund plays a vital role in supporting grassroots organizations when they need it most. It's an investment in a more just and equitable future, one where movements can seize timely opportunities and turn them into lasting change. ♦

The De Colores Fund recently supported the **STL2DNC** Coalition, a powerful alliance working for a permanent ceasefire in Palestine in conjunction with their local social justice work in St. Louis. The grant allowed STL2DNC to use the DNC in nearby Chicago to hold planning meetings, stage actions, and conduct outreach events – all crucial steps in building a stronger movement infrastructure for long-term impact. Our grant resources provided more than just a one-time boost; they invested in the foundation to build a movement with lasting power.



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# Building Resilience

Capacity building refers to the *process of developing skills, abilities, processes and resources that organizations and communities need to survive, adapt, and thrive in a fast-changing world*. It was coined by the United Nations in the early 1990s and has since become a common offering from social sector funders. In its most traditional form, capacity building involves a funder-paid consultant assessing an organization and then sharing results with the organization and the foundation. The foundation may then offer a restricted grant the organization can use on specific workshops or consultants that will fill in gaps identified by the assessment. For example, if an organization lacks financial infrastructure, a foundation may pay for a consultant to set up new financial processes. At first glance it seems to solve an all-too-common problem: organizations are established around a certain issue, and leaders may not have in-depth knowledge of tax structure, finances, business law, or other specialties. Like many ideas that are good at first glance, the challenges are in *how* capacity building is executed.

We now have ample research and feedback, particularly from BIPOC leaders of movement organizations, that traditional capacity building further entrenches organizations in white dominant culture. Movement leaders continue to call on funders to evolve towards a new model of capacity building rooted in resilience, equity, and mutual accountability.

Best practices include:

- **Granting multi-year general operating support.** Organizations thrive when they have financial security. Grants that allow organizations to use funding for salaries, benefits, bills, and other back-end costs not only pay staff a living wage but give leaders room to focus on the work.
- **Providing space and support for self-determination.** Funders don't know what's best for an organization. We must trust that the leaders of the organization know what they need to meet their own definition of success and allow them to choose what resources they need to get there. Funders are there to act as a sounding board.
- **Leveraging their power to change the rules.** Non-profits are entrenched in a system of finance and administration fundamentally rooted in maintaining the status quo. Instead of training organizations to fit the mold, foundations should ask how they can change their own rules, either their own policy or through encouraging best practices in the sector.

PDF has, by nature of our mission, done many of these things. Our grants have always been and will always be for general operating support, and we often fund organizations for multiple years in a row even though we do not formally have multi-year funding. Like all organizations though, we can be better. We're starting to relaunch our capacity building program utilizing frameworks from movement leaders. In July we launched a monthly roundtable series, which rotates between a specific topic (for example, lobbying as a fiscally sponsored organization) and a peer-to-peer strategy session where participants can workshop challenges. This is a small but consistent step to help us better understand what our partners need to build the world we all deserve. ♦

AT THE FOUNDATION

## SAVE THE DATE

### Inaugural Grassroots Gala

#### *Celebrating Our Past, Embracing Our Future*

Join us for a night of fun, inspiration, and community as we commemorate the Peace Development Fund's achievements and welcome our new Executive Director. This is an opportunity to celebrate the work of our grassroots partners and share our vision for the future.

DATE: January 30, 2025

Location: Holyoke, MA

## PRESIDENTS CORNER



Dear Friends,

It is with gratitude that I send this message to you our supporters, grantees, and partners in the movement. I would like to highlight the dedication of the board and staff as we have journeyed through our transition process

toward identifying a new executive director. It is an exciting time for Peace Development Fund, and we look forward to what is to come.

We have maneuvered and continue to persevere through challenging times; we have witnessed the impacts and tenacity of our communities to continue to forge ahead. We continue to hold strong to our commitment to building peace within our communities and around the world.

Last spring, scores of young people raised their voices to decry the violence and mass killings in the Middle East. I see connections between my generation's peace activism and the recent massive protests. We are excited about PDF's new *Speak Your Peace Podcast's* first episode highlighting the story of a campus peace activist. We look forward to more intergenerational dialogues as we chart our future.

Our next leader of PDF will build on our strong foundation and lead us into a new future of possibility. We look forward announcing them soon.

We are planning a Grassroots Gala for next January to honor our past and celebrate our future, including the introduction of our new executive director. Stay tuned, there is much to celebrate at PDF.

In Solidarity,

Teresa Juarez  
Board President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teresa Juarez'.

## Spending Down for Collective Liberation

The Peace Development Fund oversees more than a dozen donor advised funds as part of our strategy for resourcing movements. Unlike traditional DAFs, we only work with mission-aligned donors and encourage our donors to give it away.

DAF holders Eva Westheimer and Dani Grover have taken that to heart. Since 2019, they have granted forty to fifty thousand annually to roughly thirty organizations a year. They collaborate with each other on grant decision-making each quarter. The couple prioritizes organizations working on systems change and mutual aid work. The majority of the groups they support are local and they value establishing relationships with their grantees. As such many receive multi-year funding from them.

Eva shared with us that they are spending down their fund this year because they believe strongly in wealth redistribution. This year they are focusing on Palestinian liberation, queer and trans liberation, land care, and supporting BIPOC land workers and creatives.



DAF Holders Eva Westheimer and Dani Grover

**“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,” shared Eva.**

We look forward to visiting them on their Vermont farm and helping distribute the remainder of their grants over the next 12 months. Looking for a partner for your giving? By partnering with PDF, DAF holders can maximize their philanthropic impact and support frontline organizations. **Let’s work together to build a more equitable future.**

## Mobilize Your Resources

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](mailto:lora@peacefund.org).* ♦



## PDF is Recruiting Community Reviewers!

PDF believes people with lived experience organizing communities for social and environmental justice have the expertise needed to guide our grantmaking. Each of our competitive funds has a Review Circle that brings together leaders from the fund’s major grantmaking regions to review and evaluate applications.

We’re looking for volunteers to join Reviewer Circles for our Seeding the Movement and Western Mass Transformation Funds. Applicants should have at least one year of community organizing experience and know their local/regional *organizing ecosystem*. We seek Review Circles that reflect the diversity of organizations that apply to PDF for funding and encourage those with identities underrepresented in philanthropy to apply.

An *organizing ecosystem* refers to the many organizations working together in a specific place, using a variety of strategies and tactics, to make positive change.

Our Review Circles are all volunteer. It is an excellent opportunity for leadership development, especially for those who want an entry point into movement-aligned philanthropy. Volunteers must commit to the following:

- One two-hour virtual training in January 2024
- 6 hours in February 2025 to read and evaluate approximately 6 written applications
- 3 hours in early March 2025 to decide which organizations move to the final round
- 4 hours in March 2025 to complete 1-2 interviews with final round applicants
- 3 hours in April 2025 to finalize the grantmaking docket

Applications are due November 15, 2024 and final decisions will be made by November 30, 2024. To apply, scan the QR code. Then, make an account and then select “Seeding the Movement Review Circle Application.”

Applicants are encouraged to reach out to Jessa McCormack at [jessa@peacefund.org](mailto:jessa@peacefund.org) with questions about the role or technical assistance with the application. ♦



## 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. ♦





Return Strong! Members

# Return Strong!: Building a More Just Future in Nevada

Empowering formerly incarcerated individuals in Nevada, **Return Strong!** is an organization working to dismantle the prison industrial complex. They play a vital role in aiding a community that has been denied the support and resources needed for a lasting solution to the factors leading to mass incarceration. Return Strong! operates under a *We Take Care of Us* mindset. In other words, the members of the organization have created a community that intends to be self-sufficient, regardless of the results of the election and a continued lack of government support by nurturing and uplifting an alternate system of care for people affected by incarceration.

Through transformative education programs, Return Strong! equips formerly incarcerated individuals with the tools and resources they need to successfully reintegrate into society. Their advocacy efforts work to dismantle the systemic inequalities that perpetuate mass incarceration.

“Beginning our work with individuals who are statistically most marginalized, we work towards equity. The work we do is urgently needed in Nevada, which is home to some of the Forbes listed worst prisons in the country,” shared Jodi Hocking, Executive Director, Return Strong!.

Return Strong! is working to hold the Nevada Department of Corrections accountable to address to address inherent systemic issues rooted in capitalism and white supremacy culture. They believe the department needs more outside oversight. This includes a focus on accountability, working to ensure that ongoing in the prisons are not hidden behind the secrecy embedded in the system. The organization is also working to change community perceptions of incarcerated people and advocate on behalf of their members. ♦

## Reframing Philanthropy

We invite you to join us for our Reframing Philanthropy series! These informative and interactive sessions offer opportunities to engage, learn, and network with each other.

Join us for upcoming virtual discussions as we continue to explore philanthropy through a more diverse and inclusive perspective. These interactive sessions offer opportunities to learn, network, and drive positive change in your community and beyond.

**Who should attend:** Donors, grantees, professional advisors, and staff/board members of organizations focused on social justice philanthropy.

### IN THE FIELD

#### NEW FISCALLY SPONSORED GROUPS:

- Rise Earth Initiative, Honolulu, HI
- Our Fire Collective, Roxbury, MA

#### GRANTEES (SINCE APRIL 2024)

#### DE COLORES RAPID RESPONSE FUND:

- Muslim Counterpublics Lab, Washington D.C.
- STL2DNC, St. Louis, MO

#### WESTERN MASS TRANSFORMATION FUND:

- Decarcerate Western Massachusetts Bailout Project\*, Easthampton, MA
- Western Massachusetts Asylum Support Network\*, Amherst, MA
- Whose Corner is it Anyway?, Holyoke, MA

#### BRAIDING NEW WORLDS FUND:

- Amy Jaques Garvey Institute, Washington, D.C.
- Another Choice Youth and Family Outreach, New York, NY
- GYPSY Ayiti, Haiti
- Maison Familiale Rural de Bassin-Zim, Haiti
- Observatorio de Juventudes Unidas por la Paz, Coyoacán, Mexico
- People of the Confluence\*, Lynnwood, WA
- PHENOM\*, Worcester, MA
- Student Basic Needs Coalition, Knoxville, TN

#### SEEDING THE MOVEMENT FUND:

- Best Practices Policy Project\*, Morristown, NJ
- Black Lives Matter (BLM 5280), Denver, CO
- Denver Metro Tenants Union, Denver, CO
- Education Council Consortium Inc., New York City, NY
- Fundacion Biosfera del Anahuac A.C., Jiutepec, MX
- Global Center for Climate Justice, Boston, MA
- Hollister Guardians, Hollister, CA
- Ho,opae Pono Peace Project, Honolulu, HI
- Interfaith Coalition for Action, Reconciliation and Empowerment, Jacksonville, FL
- Latinos Activate, Selma, NC
- Marijan\*, Haiti
- Mississippi Rising, Ocean Springs, MS
- Muslim Counterpublics Lab, Washington, DC
- Return Strong!, Las Vegas, NV
- Rio Grande Valley Harm Reduction, Edinburg, TX
- SICARS, Sapelo Island, GA
- UE Research and Education Fund Southern Worker Justice Campaign, Raleigh, NC
- Washington Fair Trade Education Coalition\*, Seattle, WA
- Wisdom Institute, Detroit, MI

\*Indicates past grantee

October 23 .....Reframing Philanthropy: Reparations and Repair

November 15 ..... Grant Application Opens

January 30, 2025 .....Grassroots Gala

For more information,  
scan this QR code to visit  
the events page  
on our website



PEACE  
DEVELOPMENT  
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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

WHERE ARE  
THEY NOW?

# Springfield No One Leaves

Springfield No One Leaves (SNOL) emerged in 2010 as a community-driven response to the foreclosure crisis. Founded by residents facing the loss of their homes, SNOL united over 400 families and 180 active members to fight back against predatory banking practices.

With the support of the Peace Development Fund in 2017, SNOL was able to expand its reach and deepen its impact. This seed funding enabled SNOL to implement new programs and strengthen its organizational capacity. Today, SNOL is considered an anchor organization in their area, strengthening other grassroots organizations.

Through a combination of direct action and legal defense, SNOL successfully defended countless families from displacement. Many members repurchased their homes, secured modifications, or negotiated long-term rental agreements.

Beyond individual victories, SNOL also played a crucial role in shaping policy. The organization helped pass one of the strongest anti-foreclosure ordinances in the country, serving as a model for cities nationwide. SNOL also empowered its community through the SNOL Peoples School, a political education and

leadership development program.

Since its founding, SNOL has evolved from a grassroots response to a foreclosure crisis into a multifaceted organization dedicated to advancing social and economic justice. The organization's work now extends beyond housing issues to include advocacy for tenant rights, affordable housing, and economic justice.

A notable example of SNOL's current efforts is its support for the West Village Tenants Association in Ludlow, Massachusetts. SNOL is rallying behind mobile home park residents to protect them from displacement and ensure that affordable housing remains accessible to all.



West Village Tenant Assoc.

Additionally, SNOL continues to invest in leadership development through the Advanced Movement Leaders Academy. This training program equips emerging and experienced organizers with the skills and knowledge needed to build power in working-class communities of color.

Through its ongoing commitment to community organizing, leadership development, and advocacy, Springfield No One Leaves has become a vital force in the fight for a more just and equitable society. ♦