

Justice Notes

SUMMER 2018

Updates on Social Justice Fund NW's Donor Organizing in the Northwest



On June 3, over 300 people gathered at Washington Hall in Seattle for Social Justice Fund NW's 40th Anniversary Celebration. It was a historic occasion, marking four decades of grantmaking to grassroots community organizations in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.

In 1978, SJF was founded by a group of progressive donors and originally named A Territory Resource. Two of the original founders – Maxwell Milton and Jill Bullitt – were in attendance at the celebration and received a special acknowledgement, along with early supporter Andrea Rabinowitz. Three grantee organizations who have received grants since the 1980s – Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN), Native Action, and Western States Center – were also recognized.

As part of the event, a special installation displayed SJF's 40-year history, including an artistic representation – using colored pieces of yarn – of every

grant made by decade, totalling over 2,100. A decade-by-decade history timeline charted the various foundation milestones, movement moments, and grantee victories SJF has been involved in since 1978, while quotes and portraits of dozens of past and present SJF staff, board members, donors and grantee leaders decorated the exterior of the exhibit.

SJF Executive Director Mijo Lee made a powerful speech about ATR/SJF's history, about community organizing, and about hope. Here's an excerpt:

A lot has changed over the last 40 years. Growing wealth inequality and especially a growing racial wealth gap. The proliferation of the nonprofit industry and institutional philanthropy in particular. The rise of the extreme right wing, white supremacist and white nationalist movements – beat back by ATR grantees in the '90s – return-

SEE PHOTO GALLERY



Go to: bit.ly/SJF40Photos

WATCH VIDEO



Go to: bit.ly/SJF_video



Mariana Harvey, left, and Itsa Shash perform at the anniversary event.

We know for a fact that people are stronger together, that we always need leaders, that the people most impacted by injustice have expertise that has been ignored for too long, and that the injustices we face are too dire to wait around for a certainty that will never come. This shows me that from day one this organization has been characterized by the strategic and necessary practice of hope.

ing like a horror movie villain wearing khakis and a polo shirt today. In the last 40 years, new frameworks of race and gender have transformed the way we envision social justice. The internet has fundamentally changed the way we organize. What has stayed the same? That we need to organize.

Our definition of organizing has evolved over the years, and continues to. But organizing means, fundamentally, that you're never on your own, that our collective power is stronger than the sum of its parts. So Rosa Parks wasn't just a tired seamstress who'd suddenly had enough, as so many of us were taught in elementary school. She was an organizer who had trained and strategized for that moment, and who took an incredible risk knowing that she was part of a movement, knowing that she was not alone.

... One of the hard things about organizing is that it can be a long time before we see the fruits of our labors. It takes a lot longer than a grant cycle, it can take years or even generations. When we invest in organizing – with our time, energy, and money – we know we're investing in change. But we don't know when we'll achieve the changes we seek. It's like heading up a curvy road, unable to see around the bend, having faith that the road will take us where we need to go. It can be tempting to consider a more straight-forward route to a less ambitious destination. But in the Northwest, we've all driven through mountains. The only way to the top is on a curvy road, with all the uncertainty that entails.

SJF stands on 40 years of history. We have the benefit of looking back on 40 years and seeing what happens you head up that road. I can see that when Oregon grantees like Rural Organizing Project and PCUN banded together in the '90s to defeat the viciously homophobic Measure 9, they forged personal and organizational relationships that make each of their organizations stronger to this day. The word intersectionality wasn't really being used then, but they understood that their communities – LGBTQ, immigrant, Latinx, indigenous, workers – were not separate. And neither were their struggles. I see them putting those lessons into practice every day. I can trace a direct line from longtime grantee LELO (rest in power Tyree Scott) to the environmental justice powerhouse of Got Green. And as Got Green founder Michael Woo says in one of the stories in our history installation, "When you pass one of Sound Transit's construction sites today and see people of color and women working there, it's because of LELO's Family Wage Jobs organizing."

But in 1978, they couldn't know any of that.

On June 2 we had a reunion with folks from the early years and someone brought a copy of the very first grantmaking report. It talked about their first couple years of grants and explained why they had chosen to focus their funding on community organizing. I was struck by one sentence in particular: "Community organizing is still too new to judge."

Here's what I found striking about that statement.

First, I'm reminded that the definition of organizing is always in development. The concept of communities coming together to build collective power – that's not new now, nor was it then. We all understand that's been happening since time immemorial. But what the ATR founders were talking about was a particular strategy, a particular definition of community organizing and the even newer strategy of funding it. At the time there was a movement, a burgeoning of social justice philanthropy, and they were all figuring it out as they went.

Second, they did not claim to have all the answers. In contrast to many of the people I encounter in philanthropy today, they were really clear about what they didn't know. They said, we can't know for sure what this will yield. We have no pie charts to back it up. But we know the theory is solid. We know for a fact that people are stronger together, that we always need leaders, that the people most impacted by injustice have expertise that has been ignored for too long, and that the injustices we face are too dire to wait around for a certainty that will never come. This shows me that from day one this organization has been characterized by the strategic and necessary practice of hope.

40TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

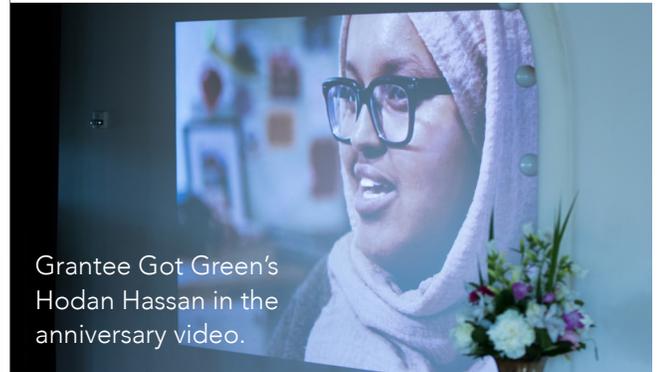
For more photos, go to: bit.ly/SJF40Photos



The 40th anniversary installation chronicled SJF's history through the decades.



SJF Donor Relations Manager Mano (Emanuel da Silva) leads staff in a performance of "Shoop."



Grantee Got Green's Hodan Hassan in the anniversary video.



Grantee Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN) receives an award.



40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Detention, family separation, and Northwest organizing to protect immigrant communities

By Palmira Figueroa

In May, the Trump administration introduced its “zero-tolerance” immigration policy, calling for the prosecution of all individuals who cross the border into the United States without documentation.

This policy had the immediate effect of separating thousands of parents from their children when they enter the country together, because parents are referred for prosecution and the children are placed in the custody of a sponsor, such as a relative or foster home, or held in a shelter.

To date, an estimated 2,300 children have been removed from their parents and shipped to 100 different detention centers in 17 states. Many of the adults who have been detained and prosecuted are women, fleeing gang and domestic violence in their homelands with their children in order to seek safety and security in the United States. In June, as many as 200 of them were transferred to the federal detention center in SeaTac, Wash. They are behind bars in our backyard.

The Executive Order (EO) signed by President Trump on June 20 did nothing to reunite these families or abate the cruel treatment of immigrants and asylum seekers. Instead, the EO allows for the indefinite detention of families

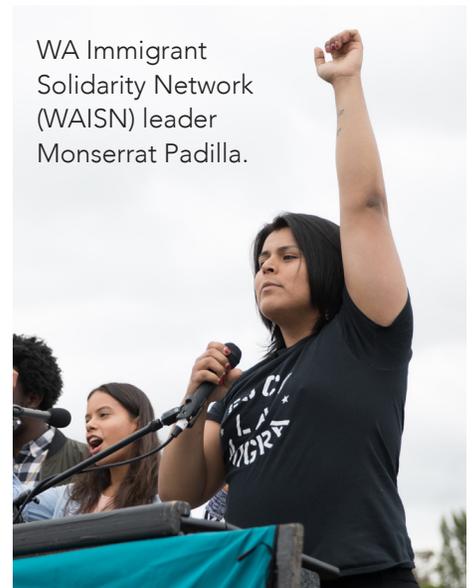
while their deportation proceedings are pending, and is purposefully vague about the process of family separation, allowing Border Patrol to interpret the order as they choose.

The Trump Administration has also ordered existing facilities be converted into detention camps and new detention camps be built to hold all people crossing the border, regardless of whether they are seeking asylum or not. There are already thousands of people waiting in detention for a fair hearing; American immigration judges are overwhelmed, and the court system is backed up for years.

In Washington state, a coalition called Families Belong Together WA formed in response to the crisis. The coalition’s leadership includes Social Justice Fund NW grantees Colectiva Legal del Pueblo and WA Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN). Nearly three dozen organizations have joined the coalition.

In late June, the coalition organized a week’s worth of actions demanding freedom for immigrants and the protection of our communities. The week included a massive rally outside the federal detention center in SeaTac where 10,000 people opposed the ongoing abuse of immigrants by our Federal government. Other actions

WA Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN) leader Monserrat Padilla.



included vigils outside ICE and ICSIS offices, meetings with lawmakers and elected officials, and an Immigrant and Refugee Symposium at the Muslim Association of Puget Sound. Thousands of people responded to the coalition’s call, which was very encouraging and inspiring for those involved.

As part of the week of action, SJF and Philanthropy NW partnered to organize a Funders’ Briefing with grassroots leaders representing immigrant rights organizations from Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. The speakers explained the context of current

federal anti-immigrant laws and rhetoric as well as the mistreatment and abusive processes that immigrants are currently subjected to. They described the extensive actions being taken by grassroots groups in response, and called on funders to support base-building and grassroots movements in the NW.

The conversation also focused on the vision for moving forward, identifying opportunities to support the region's immigrant-led organizations in their efforts to protect, defend and organize immigrant and refugee communities. Speakers identified specific ways that funders could step up and move more money to groups on the frontlines of the immigration fight:

- Organizations are stronger if working together; building and strengthening coalitions, especially during this political moment is key. Groups can't go at it alone, they need each other! Funders can support the work by funding convenings and gatherings that facilitate more local, state and regional collaboration.
- Rapid Response Funds are key, focusing on organizing actions, legal defense, family preparedness, etc.
- Groups are responding to a variety of urgent needs, meaning there's a need for capacity building.
- It is important for funders to understand the full ecosystem of work and needs, and in particular the crucial role of community organizing.

SJF Grantees on Frontlines of Immigration Fight

More about some of our grantees working on this issue who participated in the Funders' Briefing on July 9:

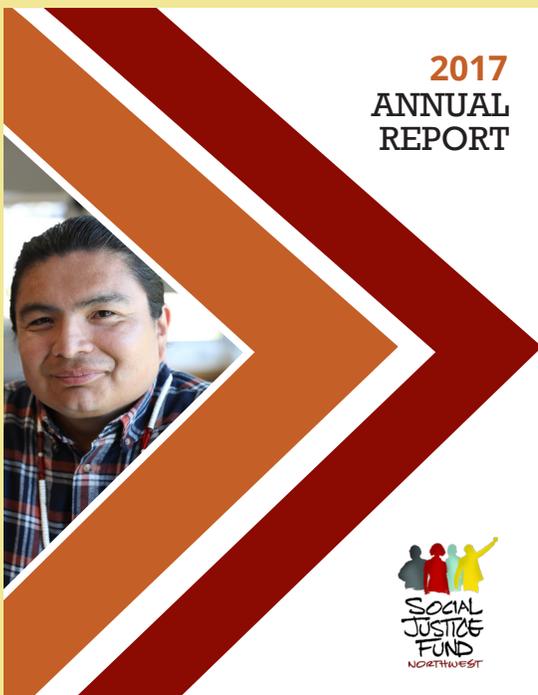
Causa Oregon leads the Oregon Ready coalition which focuses on immigrant family protection and defense. They have also been supporting legal work at the Federal detention center in Sheridan, Ore., where at least 120 immigrants are being held. causaoregon.org

Montana Human Rights Network has continued to make the connection between the rise of white supremacists groups and growing anti-immigrant actions. They work closely with SJF grantee **Montana Immigrant Justice Alliance** (MIJA). Learn more at: mhrn.org and mija.org

The **WA Immigrant Solidarity Network** helps lead the Families Belong Together WA coalition which is working to: 1) end zero tolerance policies, 2) encourage non cooperation with ICE, 3) target businesses to get them to stop working with ICE and Homeland Security. waimmigrantsolidaritynetwork.org

The **ACLU of Idaho** was part of an effort earlier this year to stop the creation of a new federal detention center in Idaho. They have also supported the formation of new grassroots group called PODER that is challenging the termination of DACA and attacks on Dreamers. acluidaho.org

2017 SJF ANNUAL REPORT



We are proud to share our 2017 Annual Report, which highlights our work in 2017 and shows the impact of our grants throughout the Northwest.

Please read and share the Annual Report.

ONLINE

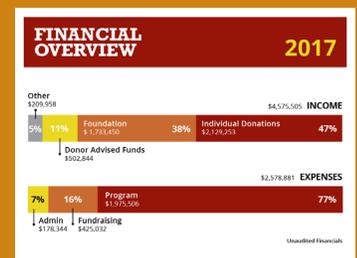
View the report online at bit.ly/2017_SJF

PRINT

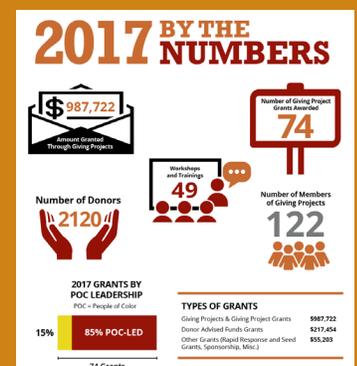
Request a print copy from chris@socialjusticefund.org

INSIDE

Financial Overview



2017 by the Numbers



SJF Welcomes New Program Director Joey Lopez

Social Justice Fund NW is excited to welcome new Program Director **Joey Lopez**, who started on July 19.

As a community organizer at Campaign for Southern Equality, Joey helped to coordinate the second LGBT in the South conference convening of over 500 grassroots organizers, attorneys, healthcare providers, educators and other practitioners from across the South. He co-developed the Southern Equality Fund – a micro-funding initiative for Southern groups and organizers providing direct services and advocacy for the full lived equality of LGBT people in the South.

“I am excited to be joining the SJF team and to be a part of strengthening and resourcing the frontlines of our movements for social justice,” Joey says.

His personal experiences with intersecting identities shaped his commitment to educational, economic, racial, ethnic and queer justice both inside and outside communities of faith.

Our staff and board send our deepest gratitude to Yasmeen Perez, outgoing Program Director, for his years of leadership and hard work through a time of incredible growth and innovation for our organization.



Congrats to SJF’s Economic Justice and Criminal Justice Grantees!

2018 Criminal Justice Giving Project Grants

The 20 Giving Project members granted a total of \$322,000 to the following organizations:

- Asian Pacific Family Club** (APFC) | Salem, OR
- Beyond These Walls** | Portland, OR
- Coalition for Rights & Safety for People in the Sex Trade** | Seattle, WA
- Colectiva Legal del Pueblo** | Burien, WA
- Community to Community** (C2C) | Bellingham, WA
- Critical Resistance** | Portland, OR
- Hilltop Urban Gardens** (HUG) | Tacoma, WA
- Incarcerated Mothers Advocacy Project** (IMAP) | Seattle, WA
- Indian People’s Action** (IPA) | Butte, MT
- Latinos Unidos Siempre** | Salem, OR
- Native Youth Leadership Alliance** (NYLA) | Ferndale, WA
- Native Youth Leadership Alliance** (NYLA) | Ferndale, WA
- Northwest Detention Center Resistance** (NWDC Resistance) | Seattle, WA
- Red Lodge Transition Services** (RLTS) | Portland, OR
- WA-BLOC** (Washington Building Leaders of Change) | Seattle, WA

2018 Economic Justice Giving Project Grants

Giving Project members in two separate projects in Seattle and Portland granted a total of \$391,340 to the following organizations:

- CAPACES Leadership Institute**** | Woodburn, OR
 - Colectiva Legal del Pueblo*** | Burien, WA
 - Community Alliance of Tenants**** | Portland, OR
 - Equality State Policy Center**** | Laramie, WY
 - Firs Home Owners Association**** | Seatac, WA
 - Got Green*** | Seattle, WA
 - Hilltop Urban Gardens**** | Tacoma, WA
 - Indian People’s Action**** | Butte, MT
 - Mujeres Luchadores Progresistas**** | Woodburn, OR
 - Native Youth Leadership Alliance**** | Ferndale, WA
 - Portland Community Harbor Coalition*** | Portland, OR
 - Queer The Land*** | Seattle, WA
 - Tacoma Urban League*** | Tacoma, WA
 - Transit Riders Union**** | Seattle, WA
 - U.T.O.P.I.A Seattle*** | Seattle, WA
 - Verde**** | Portland, OR
 - Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network**** | Seattle, WA
- * organization was funded by the Giving Project in Portland
 ** organization was funded by the Giving Project in Seattle

Grantee Summit - Seattle: Building support, shifting power

By **Victoria Kaplan**

(Excerpted from a longer piece on SocialJusticeFund.org)

The opening plenary session at the May 12 Grantee Summit in Seattle was attended by about 125 people. The session led by Mijo Lee, SJF executive director, was a conversation with grantees **Micah Nielsen** from Montana Women Vote and **Huy Ong** from OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon. The format enabled Micah and Huy to “show by telling” that thinking deeply about the root causes of disparity – as opposed to thinking about symptoms – can lead communities to long-term, systemic change. Effective organizing helps people build a collective vision.

Anna So from Critical Resistance PDX reported on the ways CR works with people involved in police issues including houseless people and people inside prisons. Their focus is on abolishing the prison industrial complex.

Shar Litchy from the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane talked about work to end racial disparities and win non-jail solutions and non-arrest solutions, to stop the cycle of crime, save money, and change lives.

Shujat Qalbani from Unite Oregon told us how they develop coalitions working on criminal justice reform to create a more restorative model. Unite Oregon is led by people of color to create criminal justice policies that are accountable to the entire community.

For me, the two most important pieces of information from



WA-BLOC (Washington Building Leaders of Change) co-founder Jerrell Davis, right, on an organizing panel.

this panel were:

How important SJF funding is so they can organize and strategize instead of spending all their time fundraising, and it's vital to be patient and keep at the work. Effective social change takes a long-term commitment and building a large base of support is what's beginning to shift the power. There are small victories along the way, there are many gifts that come from working together in community, and it takes grit, tenacity and love to keep moving forward.

View Photo Gallery: bit.ly/SJFSummit18

Grantee Summit - Portland: Leadership of most impacted

By **Callie Lambarth**

On April 21 in Portland, about 85 grantees, community members and organizations, SJF staff, board members, and Giving Project members and alums showed up to share part of the day together to listen to grantee panelists talk about their alliance-building and coalition-organizing and learn about some of their ongoing work.

Reyna Lopez, executive director of PCUN (Pinos y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste) emphasized the power and impact of the Capaces Leadership Institute collaborative and coalition work as being able to “build power and accountability at the ballot box.” It is important to have space for allied organizations to come together and for Latinx communities to “create the agenda” with a deep understanding of what the needs are.

Cassie Cohen, coalition coordinator of PHCC (Portland Harbor Community

Coalition), said the work requires having continual “conversations about power, privilege, and oppression to constantly be checking that” through their coalition work in order to build power for the community.

In the afternoon, three powerful organizers took the stage to talk about gender justice.

Trish Jordan, executive director of Red Lodge Transition Services, shared about Red Lodge's work providing culturally specific support for Native women, particularly after incarceration.

Denechia Powell-Twagirumukiza, one of the founding members of Queer The Land, spoke passionately about the right for people to root in place and the importance of safety and wellness programs that are led by the people most impacted and that center the needs and experiences of queer and trans people of color.

Emily Lai, Momentum Alliance's Interim



Reyna Lopez, executive director of PCUN, speaks during the summit.

executive director, powerfully and resolutely reminded us that, “gender justice is in everything” – it encompasses a variety of issues like immigration, gentrification, reproductive health, criminal justice, etc. It involves all the issues that affect people of color directly.

For the full versions of both articles go to socialjusticefund.org/news



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About SJF

Social Justice Fund NW is a foundation working at the frontlines of social change. We leverage the resources of our members to foster significant, long-term social justice solutions throughout Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming. For more about Social Justice Fund NW, visit SocialJusticeFund.org



ANNUAL DINNER & DANCE PARTY

Join Social Justice Fund NW in Honoring the Work to Build Our Movement

General Tickets: \$75

To Purchase Tickets: bit.ly/2018_dinner

More information: bit.ly/SJF_dinner_info



TABLE CAPTAINS & SPONSORS NEEDED:

If you are interested in being a table captain or sponsoring the event, contact Chris Olson at chris@socialjusticefund.org or 206-624-4081 x111.

THE Change We're Making CELEBRATION

OCTOBER 6, 2018

