YOU CAN NO LONGER EXPECT ME TO RAISE MY HANDS AND LOWER MY VOICE

WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK/NYC

ANNUAL REPORT 2015
Dear Friends,

Whether it’s money, ideas, or vision, New York City has enough to sustain all of us. Too often, though, we look to someone else to handle it. Or even worse, racism, classism, or sexism rear their ugly heads, and slowly but surely, our abundance and greatness as a city are tarnished. At North Star Fund, we spend our hours challenging ourselves and our system to share, to go deeper, and to sustain each and every neighborhood and community.

In this year’s annual report, you will see how our network of community and philanthropic activists are working hour-after-hour, and day-in and day-out, to take on deep-seated problems that limit opportunity for all.

You will follow activists working toward victories in housing, education, police accountability, and the workplace. You will see how time and again, organizing by the people directly affected by injustice has turned the tide. You will see how New Yorkers have found ways to mobilize, and win big things like higher wages, paid sick leave, and the municipal ID. And you will see how every minute of this work counts, and depends on hard work, commitment, relationships, creative energy and joy.

You will also find that participation in the social justice movement takes different forms. Whether you’re a donor activist, philanthropic leader, or activist on the ground, we must all work together in order to share a just future.

Action, accountability and building a beloved community invested in a New York for all people is at the heart of our work at North Star Fund.

I hope you’ll join us. And I extend my heartfelt thanks to every one of you who sustain each and every neighborhood and community.

Hugh Hogan
Executive Director
Our Vision

Justice is happening—and it’s both the means and the end. At North Star Fund, we’ve overcome immense challenges and remained committed to deeper systems-change because the means and ends of our vision have never changed. But how we realize justice, and the scale of it, is always evolving—thanks to you, and the incredible dedication of our donor activist community.

At North Star Fund, justice means that profit should not come before people, other species, nor the environment, that everyone should share in the resources needed for a better life, and that an authentic democracy doesn’t just happen—it has to be invested in. We want to catalyze a more just future for all New Yorkers by enabling those with resources beyond their immediate needs to leave a legacy of equity and opportunity. Justice means building a culture of respect and support for grassroots organizers who, day-in and day-out, work to make our city a beacon of possibility and opportunity.

We are doing this by making more and even larger grants, by finding and investing in more indigenous leaders, their organizations, their networks, and their activism. In the process, we want more communities to be able to share power over the policies and practices that define our democracy. We want to undo corrupt, inept systems that limit the hopes and aspirations of those furthest from the halls of power. We want everyone to share in a just future.

In the months and years ahead, North Star Fund will explore how we can remain steadfast as a local funder in New York City while partnering with others on Long Island and the Hudson Valley. We will also take leadership in the electoral organizing space—using all of the tools available to 501(c)(4) organizations to advance social and racial justice.

Of course, all of this will depend on you, the donor activist. This age of incredible inequality and dramatic change in our climate demands your participation if we are to not just survive, but to thrive as a city, a nation, and a planet.

Justice is happening. Join us.
What is Donor Activism?

Donor activism is about what you do beyond giving money. As Asa Johnson, longtime North Star Fund donor, board member, and volunteer explains, “You can be a donor and just write the check, or you can be a donor activist by also serving or volunteering. If we’re going to find meaningful solutions to big problems, then it’s up to those of us with more to do both.”

Donor activism at North Star Fund is a form of community organizing. And it enables donors to become more strategic by offering insight into some of the most effective and compassionate social justice organizing in our city.

North Star Fund donor and board chair Nisha Atre says, “This last year in New York, we saw some important victories happen quickly. The political will was there, the activists were there, and the money was there. It makes you want to continue as a donor because you can see that change can happen and you can be a part of it.”

Governor Appoints Special Prosecutor

Justice Committee (JC) is among the groups leading a movement against police violence and systemic racism in New York City. They are empowering low-income Latino/a communities and other people of color to address these issues. JC members and leaders are New Yorkers whose lives are impacted by police violence, including families who have lost loved ones to the New York Police Department. JC is a co-founder and steering committee member of Communities United for Police Reform.

Since 2004, Justice Committee has received 14 North Star Fund grants totaling over $150,000, including the 2015 Frederick Douglass Award. In 2014, they received a $50,000 Movement Leadership grant (see page 14) in recognition of their success organizing the families hurt by police shootings and brutality.

Over the course of their Movement Leadership grant, they and their allies have taken huge steps towards achieving a goal they identified in the 1990s: an independent prosecutor to investigate and prosecute civilian deaths at the hands of police and cases of police brutality.

As a result of a families-led Special Prosecutor campaign, this July Governor Cuomo signed an executive order establishing a standing special prosecutor to investigate killings by police, the first of its kind in the country.

Governor Cuomo was finalizing his executive order to create a special prosecutor to handle deaths at the hands of police, but he appeared to be wavering on two key provisions. He was considering making the position short-term and limiting it to cases where the police identified the deceased as “unarmed.”

The Justice Committee organized an action outside his Manhattan office and negotiated with him late into the night. As a result, the final executive order does not include language limiting it to one year and authorizes the special prosecutor to handle a broad range of cases.
Funder briefings offer a unique opportunity to bring donors and funders together with grassroots leaders who can offer up-to-the-minute assessments and insight on specific issues.

In 2014-2015 North Star Fund convened funders and organizers on housing, Hurricane Sandy recovery, and the importance of supporting Black-led organizing as the wave of police killings continued apace this past year.

10:00 AM

Resourcing the Movement: The Let Us Breathe Fund

North Star Fund launched the Let Us Breathe Fund in response to grantee needs, donor outrage, and philanthropic peers who wanted to strategically move resources so that organizers on the ground could sustain the momentum of activists responding to police killings while advancing deeper policy, political, and cultural change.

The fund prioritizes Black-led organizations—a reflection of our deeply held belief that people directly affected by an issue or injustice should lead efforts for social change. The Let Us Breathe Fund also supports allied efforts led by other communities of color, including youth, women, and LGBTQ communities.

We made the first round of grants within six months of launching the fund in December 2014, with grants totaling $80,000 to eight organizations. In September 2015, we made $200,000 in additional grants to 21 organizations. Parallel to the fund, North Star Fund organized the Let Us Breathe Forum, a 500-person gathering in May 2015 to center Black leadership as we explored the insidious nature of “broken windows” policing—how it undermines the fabric of our democracy and ultimately the freedom of all communities in New York City.

Over the course of a full day, participants were able to:

- Highlight the vision, analysis, and leadership from local Black organizers and Black-led organizations;
- Explore concrete solutions to build a stronger and more strategic grassroots movement;
- Create spaces for Black communities and allies to strategize about the resources needed to address anti-Black racism and intersecting issues that affect Black communities; and
- Build support for deeper investment in Black-led organizing.

“If Black people are being talked about, instead of being the people talking—then we’re not really building the kind of power that can reliably force the answers we need on our own terms.”

—Rashad Robinson, Executive Director, ColorOfChange.org

LET US BREATHE FUND

Grants to Black-led and allied organizing of communities directly impacted by “broken windows” policing, poverty, and injustice in New York City.

ROUND 1 GRANTS

Black Alliance for Just Immigration
Brooklyn Movement Center
CAAAV Organizing Asian Communities
Community Voices Heard
Justice Committee
Picture the Homeless
Streetwise and Safe
VOCAL-NY

The Let Us Breathe Forum stage (l-r): Imani Uzuri, Lumumba Akinwole-Bandele, Opal Tometi, Kevin Ryan and Hugh Hogan

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New Yorkers Want IDNYC

Without government-issued identification, it can be difficult to enter a building, access social services, or enroll a child in school in New York City. The lack of identification erects barriers that keep New Yorkers from participating in some of the most essential pieces of public life.

The historic launch in early 2015 of IDNYC, the city’s municipal ID card program, has literally opened doors for undocumented immigrants, the homeless, and gender nonconforming New Yorkers. In the first month, well over 15,000 applications were processed at sites across the city. This number surpassed even the most enthusiastic predictions of how many people would apply.

IDNYC is a major victory for grassroots groups supported over many years by North Star Fund donors—Arab American Association of New York, the New York Immigration Coalition, Faith in New York, and Picture the Homeless. These organizations turned out people to make phone calls, circulate petitions, attend rallies, and partner with the mayor’s office and the City Council to make it happen.

This is also a victory for New Yorkers who sustained this call to action with their support for organizing immigrant communities.

Universal School Lunch

The Lunch 4 Learning campaign started off the 2014-15 school year heading in the right direction. Thanks to Movement Leadership grantee Community Food Advocates, students in stand-alone public middle schools had already won universal free lunch. As a result, more than 10,000 additional students are now eating lunch during the school day. This brought in an additional $6.8 million in federal subsidies to New York City schools.

But in high schools, students still struggle with the stigma at the root of the campaign: that receiving “free lunch” marks them as poor. Fewer than half the students eligible for the high school free lunch program actually participate.

Community Food Advocates has built a coalition of more than 100 groups for the Lunch 4 Learning campaign. They’ve trained youth leaders to present testimony at City Council hearings and to press elected officials to support universal free lunch.

It’s been a long road toward universal lunch programs in all New York City grades, and there are more and more students being trained to organize against bullying and hunger.
Where Climate Change and Food Justice Intersect

The tri-state area’s food system, like every regional food system, is where we see struggles play out over the future of how we’ll feed ourselves. After many years of organizing and new streams of investment, local food producers are finally gaining a foothold in the face of pesticide- and fossil-fuel-dependent industrial agriculture. But even amidst the locavore and good food movement, one can also see how race and income determine who is at the greatest risk for food insecurity, and who has access to healthy food.

Hurricanes Irene and Sandy laid bare the inequities that underlie our region’s food system. It was clear immediately after these storms that upstate areas in the case of Irene, and New York City following Sandy, were not prepared to meet the needs of farmers, nor the low-income communities that were among the hardest hit. Community-based organizations played a crucial role in filling the gap left by this lack of preparation. Yet years later, we’re still early in the long process of changing systems that have been determined by corporate bottom lines and racial discrimination for decades.

North Star Fund’s central focus in Sandy work has been organizing leaders in philanthropy to make smart investments that will leave the city and region stronger when the next storm lands. We can’t just rebuild physical structures—we have to build the capacity of communities to be self-reliant, and in the buzzword of the moment, resilient.

Faith In New York, a longtime North Star Fund grantee who received the 2015 Frederick Douglass Award, has taken leadership on Sandy rebuilding efforts. Are local workers from communities affected by Sandy, particularly low-income people of color, able to access training and jobs in the rebuilding effort? How is federal money flowing into communities that have been historically overlooked when it comes to infrastructure development? Faith In New York has engaged a diverse and powerful network of spiritual leaders and laypeople to ask the tough questions about how we can build back together, stronger.
Training Organizations to Win

The Movement Leadership Program asks a lot of the organizations who receive grants. Grantees consistently rise to the occasion, and embrace the extra effort that goes with these grants because of the potential for their organization to grow in three ways:

- Transform the organization’s leadership through consistent participation in the peer-learning program over two years;
- Allow the organization to hone their strategies with the support of coaches (like Zahida Pirani, pictured on this page) so that they can create change on the issues they address; and
- Expand their coalitions to include new ally organizations and related communities.

Organizations can then increase their impact and win bigger with sustained commitment from their new allies.

Movement Leadership Program grantee partners have won big victories in the last year, including the victory for nail salon workers that took years of organizing to come to fruition.

Victory for Nail Salon Workers

A series of front page articles in the New York Times in May 2015 exposed unbearable working conditions for nail salon workers in New York, including inhumanely long hours, wage theft, and exposure to carcinogenic chemicals. But the series wasn’t the beginning of the story, it was the middle. With the support of North Star Fund donors, Adhikaar had been organizing South Asian women and nail salon workers for close to a decade prior.

Since 2007, Adhikaar has received multiple North Star Fund grants for their organizing, including a Movement Leadership grant in 2014. The training and support that they received through this program enabled them to forge an effective relationship with Public Advocate Letitia James, conduct a participatory research survey of nail salon workers, help form the New York Healthy Nail Salons Coalition, and win a seat on Governor Cuomo’s Nail Salon Industry Enforcement Task Force.

With the sustained philanthropy that came from the North Star Fund community of donors, Adhikaar’s work catalyzed victories in both legislation and policies affecting nail salon workers.
DIGNITY IN SCHOOLS

The national Dignity in Schools campaign has a strong network of local organizing entities in New York City. The campaign is tackling the “school-to-prison pipeline,” systems of discipline that relegate some youth to constant suspension, preparing them better for jail and prison than for college and society. They’re replacing harsh and discriminatory discipline with restorative practices that make for safer and more just school environments.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING AFTER SCHOOL?

The Education Justice Fund is among three initiatives that represent a new path for North Star Fund in recent years: fiscal sponsorship and large-scale support for grassroots-led coalitions. We partnered with the Annenberg Institute for School Reform to provide large scale grants to Urban Youth Collaborative and the Coalition for Educational Justice. These key coalitions unite students and parents across all five boroughs to address long-term inequities facing public schools.

Get Us to College

New York public school students face two distinct but related issues on a massive scale:
- Harsh discipline that tends to fall disproportionately on Black, disabled, and gender nonconforming youth; and
- A poor track record of getting Black and Latina/o public school students into college.

The Urban Youth Collaborative’s Get Us to College campaign has focused on the lack of personnel and resources to ensure that all students are on track to graduate and go to college. Students pressed for the signing of a law requiring New York City’s Department of Education to assess and report the number of guidance counselors in schools and their ability to help low-income and first generation college-bound students to apply to and enroll in college.

Urban Youth Collaborative also secured an early warning system for students who are not on track to graduate, so that they can course-correct before it’s too late.

Students Win Fair Discipline

The Urban Youth Collaborative and other grantee partners that are part of the Dignity in Schools campaign also advanced alternatives to suspensions, a national campaign that is gaining momentum. North Star Fund grantees Teachers Unite, whose members work in New York City schools, conducted research, wrote op-eds, gave public testimonies, and rallied at City Hall.

Meanwhile, two other groups that North Star Fund has long supported, Global Action Project (GAP) and DRUM South Asian Organizing Center, collaborated on a video called #Suspended4What, featuring young activists who are working to end bullying. In the video, student leaders explain the ineffectiveness of “zero tolerance” policies that can lead to indiscriminate suspensions in bullying situations.

Thanks to the organizers of the Dignity In Schools campaign, in June 2015 the City Council approved $2.4 million in funding for pilot restorative justice projects in over a dozen New York City schools for the start of the fall 2015 school year. With this launch, New York joins the growing number of school districts across the nation taking thoughtful steps toward safer schools for all youth.
Financial Activities

This June, North Star Fund wrapped up our highly successful Activism’s Future campaign, which raised $8.5 million. As a result of this campaign, we’ve doubled our grantmaking, increased our technical assistance to grassroots groups, introduced new opportunities for donors to network and learn, and increased our presence in the media.

Because donors made three-year pledges to the Activism’s Future campaign, we recorded income in prior years and created a surplus of unrestricted funds that we used this year. This year shows a decrease in unrestricted net assets due to spending some of that surplus.

On the heels of the campaign, North Star Fund is implementing a number of post-Activism’s Future fundraising strategies to consolidate our success and growth, which will enable us to maintain our grantmaking and programmatic support at this higher level.

We also received our portion of a previously raised endowment held at another institution that increased permanently restricted assets. This gift will help ensure North Star Fund’s stability as the premier home for donor and grassroots activists across the city.
Since our early years, North Star Fund has supported grantee partners drawn from the LGBTQ community, many of whom had to fight for equal access to quality medical care. As long as there are community-based organizations developing leaders to take on these battles, North Star Fund will step up in support.

But a multi-year campaign led by North Star Fund grantees including Sylvia Rivera Law Project and Audre Lorde Project exercised legal strategies, community organizing, and meetings with policymakers. Bringing people directly affected by the issue to sit at the table with policymakers generated some breakthrough moments. In spring 2015, Medicaid officials agreed that transgender New Yorkers can access hormone treatments and gender-affirming surgeries.

This victory took years of persistent organizing by people faced with second-class healthcare based on their gender identity.

For transgender people who want gender reassignment surgery, there are few options beyond paying for it out of pocket. Gender reassignment medical care in New York was still treated as “cosmetic surgery” for Medicaid purposes, leaving many people to fundraise for it on their own.

Medicare Equity for Trans New Yorkers

Grassroots Action Grants: seed grants to new and emerging groups that expand opportunity for communities to fight injustice.

$10,000 Grassroots Action Grants

African Communities Together
Black Alliance for Just Immigration
Brooklyn Movement Center
Centro Hispano Cuzcatlan
Common Law
Flushing Workers Center
Jews for Racial and Economic Justice
Laundry Workers Center
Mekong
Milk Not Jails
Movimento por Justicia del Barrio
New York State Youth Leadership Council
NY/NJ Teamsters for a Democratic Union
NYC Community Land Initiative
Red Hook Initiative
Rockaway Wildfire
Staten Island Community Job Center
Streetwise and Safe
Ugnayan Youth for Justice and Social Change
United Neighbors Organization
Urban Youth Collaborative
Women Organizing Neighborhoods (WON)

$5,000 Grassroots Action Grants

Adelante Alliance
Banana Kelly Community Improvement Association
Black Urban Growers
Black Women’s Blueprint
Cabinet Immigrant Services of NYC
Center for Frontline Retail
Flushing Tenant Coalition/Flatbush Development Corporation
Foster Parent Advocacy Foundation
FUREE
Indo-Caribbean Alliance
Masa-MexEd
Neighbors Helping Neighbors
Neighbors Together
New York Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement
Parents in Action
Persist Health Project
Queer Detainee Empowerment Project
Raza Youth Collective
Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP) Campaign
Resilience Advocacy Project
Street Vendor Project
Sylvia Rivera Law Project
Teachers Unite
The Black Institute
Young Women of Color Health Advocacy Coalition
HOP ON THE SUBWAY

Public transit is the lifeblood of any city, providing an economic benefit to everyone who commutes or conducts business in the city. New York City’s transit system suffers from decades of under-investment in capital improvements, leaving the system too reliant on maintaining its physical structure by raising money from fares instead of making smart long-term investments.

INNOVATIVE ACTIVISM GRANTS
Grants of $10,000 to organizations combining arts and activism, providing resources to grassroots groups, and developing leaders in marginalized communities.
Audre Lorde Project
Global Action Project
Mayday Community Space
NYS Civic Engagement Table Rise
Sapna NYC
Sure We Can
The BLK Projek
Theatre of the Oppressed NYC Working World

MOVEMENT LEADERSHIP
Two-year grants of $50,000 to social justice organizations that demonstrate a strong record of community organizing and a commitment to a peer-learning program.
Community Food Advocates
DRUM - South Asian Organizing Center
Faith in New York
Riders Alliance
Worker’s Justice Project

SECOND YEAR MOVEMENT LEADERSHIP GRANTEES
Adhikaar for Human Rights and Social Justice
Arab American Association of New York
Brooklyn Food Coalition
Justice Committee
Metropolitan Council on Housing/MCREF

MOVEMENT LEADERSHIP RENEWALS
One-year grants of up to $20,000 to grassroots organizations that successfully completed the initial movement leadership training and are poised to continue building on their previous victories.
Brandworkers
CAAAV Organizing Asian Communities
Child Welfare Organizing Project
Damayan Migrant Workers Association
FIERCE
Mirabal Sisters Cultural and Community Center
New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE)
Picture the Homeless
Tenants & Neighbors
VAMOS Unidos
VOCAL-NY

Saving Public Transit

One of the biggest struggles facing Riders Alliance, a Movement Leadership grantee, is that too few New Yorkers understand the outsized role that the Governor and the legislature play in budgeting for our mass transit system.

Through successful organizing and the engagement of their members, Riders Alliance won three key victories for public transit in 2015: $1 million in funding for bus stop countdown clocks, protection for bus-only lanes, and service changes to increase Select Bus Service.

But they didn’t win on broader issues of funding the subway system, and needed to bring on greater pressure. Their member leaders devised a disarming way to engage ordinary transit riders: even though real-life Governor Cuomo does not ride the 7 train at rush hour, a life-size cardboard cut-out version of the governor could. These photos got significant media play in the summer right after the legislative session.

Riders Alliance is continuing to build on their 2015 bus victories to press the Governor to take action for a reliable transit system.
Across the country, organizing by formerly incarcerated people is building momentum. We’re seeing progress on the rights of people with previous felony convictions and the beginning of a sea change on the long-term nature of punishments for even the most minor felony convictions. In 2015, New York became part of the growing number of cities moving in the right direction on this issue.

At North Star Fund, we practice activist-led grantmaking, which empowers local activists and donor activists to be our decision makers. We select grantee organizations after an open, honest dialogue about their ability to advance their goals and make an impact.

Our Community Funding Committee members visit potential grantees face-to-face. This way, the organization’s work can shine in ways an application can’t always uncover.

### A Unique Grantmaking Model

When donor activists founded North Star Fund, they recognized that they didn’t have all the expertise needed to make the most strategic investments in grassroots organizing. But they knew that the information was out there. So they set up a Community Funding Committee, where grassroots activists teamed up with donors to thoughtfully select where to make the most effective grants.

This model means that North Star Fund can provide grants to emerging organizations and address issues under the radar. In other cases, it means North Star Fund has on-the-ground insight about which groups are connected to communities affected by an issue. It means that North Star Fund donors can count on their dollars being turned into strategic grants that result in deeper impact and lasting social change.

Longtime housing activist Rob Robinson is on the Community Funding Committee and brings considerable knowledge and relationships to grantmaking deliberations. Collectively, our current Community Funding Committee members bring decades of activist experience and relationships with dozens of grassroots organizations in New York City.

### Winning a Fair Chance

Most people don’t notice it, but hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers do: the box on job applications that asks, “Do you have a previous felony conviction?” Checking that box often stops the screening process before it can even get started. For people rebuilding their lives following incarceration, a single previous felony conviction can make it nearly impossible to get their foot in the door for a decent job.

**VOCAL-NY**, a long-time grantee, has advanced this issue with City Council for years. “Ban the Box” campaigns, like the one that led to the passage of the Fair Chance Act here in New York City last summer, simply allow that applicants be considered based on their qualifications before having to disclose a previous felony conviction. It also offers the chance to explain their current circumstances in the application process. It’s about fairness, and it’s about time that New York has addressed this glaring issue of discrimination.
Meet New Yorkers Who Invest in Justice

North Star Fund hosts a variety of events to build a community of donors who want to be:

- Well-informed about options for values-based investing;
- Aware of the impact and challenges related to grassroots organizing in New York City; and
- Connected to other donors who share their progressive values and share a vision for what a just future for New York City looks like.

Highlights of this year’s events include a Young Professionals for Social Justice Happy Hour attended by more than 150 people, and a panel on Women and Climate Change anchored by Amy Goodman with noted climate justice activists from Manhattan’s Chinatown and the coast of Papua New Guinea. Additionally, the Let Us Breathe Forum brought together more than 500 activists and leaders to learn about strategies to address structural racism and disinvestment in Black communities in New York.

A Donor Steps Up

As support for Black-led activism to address police violence escalated in 2014, Lena Solow was one of many New Yorkers who wanted to step up. So she participated in North Star Fund’s now three-year-old giving circle for next generation leaders, the Springboard Giving Circle.

“I wanted to engage in the moment beyond sharing articles about police violence and racism,” says Lena “and as a white, wealthy person I wanted to ensure that money was moving in an accountable way directed by people of color, which I trust North Star Fund to do.”

Lena recognized that the thousands of New Yorkers taking to the streets meant that this was a time to think big. But to act more boldly, organizations need money to demonstrate, build an increased web presence, and enlist activists, policy experts and other resources.

Through the Springboard Giving Circle, Lena had already participated in trainings on how to fundraise for a cause she believed in. She was also connected to a community of donors through North Star Fund’s longtime partner Resource Generation.

Lena and other Springboard donors raised $30,000 that was quickly disbursed to the community as Let Us Breathe Fund grants.

At North Star Fund, we organize donors. We provide them with networking, information sharing, and learning opportunities. Our programs inspire and motivate donors to advance the mission of North Star Fund by supporting our fundraising efforts and by advocating for our philanthropic approach.
In recent months, we’ve been meeting with our longtime friends and biggest supporters to share with them the incredible victories that came out of the Activism’s Future campaign.

The campaign wrapped up in 2015 and raised more than $8.5 million for the long-term success of grassroots organizing in New York City. Through Activism’s Future, we’ve doubled our grantmaking from 2011 levels, and today we’re boldly sustaining it. Thank you to the donors who have made a deep commitment to the future of our city.

### Activism’s Future Leadership Donors

Anonymous (3)  
Susan Adelman and Claudio Llanos  
Nisha Atre and Art Richardson  
Corinna Borden  
Peter Brest  
Oliver Cannell  
Oona Chatterjee and Angel Vera  
Tom Cramer and Michele Burger  
Darma Fund  
Anne Delaney  
Maddy deLone and Bobby Cohen  
Abigail E. Disney and Pierre N. Hauser  
Edward W. Hazen Foundation  
Marjore Fine  
Jason Franklin, Franklin Weinberg Fund  
Rachel Gelman  
Elizabeth Gilmore  
Elspeth Gilmore  
Andrew Goldberg and Karen Putterman  
Jeffrey and Paula Gural  
Chris Heavener and Michelle Rider  
Kimberly Hendler and Sigurd Baark  
Anne H. Hess and Craig Kaplan  
Liz Hirsch and Karen Pratt  
Hugh Hogan and Patrick Moffitt  
Alexandra Jacobus  
Jerome L. Greene Foundation  
Asa Johnson  
Johnson Family Foundation  
Tom Johnson, Jr.  
Isabelle H. Leighton and Timothy J. Cavaretta  
Harris Lritzman and Ralph Wilson  
Sarah Ludwig  
June Makela and Mark Fischwecher  
Lloyd V. Martinez  
Monica Melamid  
Gonzalo Mercado  
Nancy Meyer and Marc Weiss  
Solangel and Alberto Minotta  
Ragnar Naess  
Robert Nixon  
cori schmanke parrish and Sierra Spingarn  
Zahida Pirani  
Karen Pittelman  
Susan B. Plum  
Michael Ratner and Karen Ranucci  
Arva Rice  
James Schaffer  
Katrina Schaffer  
Henry Serrano  
Alvarez Symonette  
Tani Takagi and Toby D’Onench (In Memoriam)  
Monica Tarazi  
Merry Tucker  
Katrina vanden Heuvel  
Michael Waterman and Yuka Hagiwara  
Maggie Williams  
Barbara Winslow  
Sharon Wyse and David Satz

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**DONOR FOLLOW-UP MEETING**

**8:00 PM**
COMING HOME

Nearly 60,000 New Yorkers do not have a place they can call “home.”

2015 became the “Year of the Tenant,” with at least a dozen powerful grassroots grantee organizations coming together in powerful coalitions to mobilize and engage over 100,000 New Yorkers with a stake in affordable housing. They’re keeping the pressure on policymakers to push for real affordability in new construction—not just on luxury condos and profits—and to keep existing public and privately owned buildings affordable.

Momentum on Housing

This past year saw a mix of victories and challenges in the struggle to retain affordable housing in New York City. Developers and banks continue to hold too much sway with policymakers and receive multi-million dollar tax breaks to build luxury condos, even as the overall number of affordable housing units is declining along with the condition of existing public housing.

When the Rent Control Board held hearings in June 2015, tenant organizers demanded the end to false parity, where as many landlords as tenants offered public testimony. By getting more hearings, media coverage, and public events, tenants won the first rent freeze for rent-stabilized apartments in New York City’s history.

New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) tenants organizing with grantee partners CASA, Community Voices Heard, FUREE and VOCAL-NY as well as through the Real Affordability for All (RAFA) coalition, won commitments of $100 million from city government for much overdue repairs. This includes simple fixes needed for years including unit stairwells, mold removal, and roof repair. New York City can’t continue to be one of the city’s most neglectful landlords.

In June 2015, North Star Fund launched the Housing Now Fund to better resource the affordable housing movement, and to support the community visioning and planning that will be required to create truly sustainable neighborhoods. We want to bring more resources to grassroots-led efforts to drive the reforms and policy changes needed to put this city on a stronger path to real affordability—with infrastructure, facilities, businesses, and services that serve every constituency.

The Housing Now Fund is intended to be a partnership of donors, foundations, labor unions, businesses, housing and community developers, and all others who believe we must get on track to deeper reform and real housing affordability.

North Star Fund is seeding the Housing Now Fund with a challenge match of $100,000. The main grant recipients will be the Real Affordability for All campaign and Homes for Every New Yorker. These coalitions bring together more than 50 organizations from five boroughs.
Many New Yorkers share a vision for a city that is more equitable, safe and just. But not all of them stand on the frontlines of this work each and every day. We are thankful to grassroots activists who are on the ground organizing communities, leading with courage and working toward real change. Thank you for loving the city enough to help make it a better place for all people to live.

North Star Fund uses unique models to funnel hundreds of thousands of dollars in additional grants to support timely and innovative grantmaking. These are additional grants that we are proud to have made in 2014-15.

**SPRINGBOARD GRANTS**

Springboard Giving Circle members worked alongside North Star Fund’s Community Funding Committee during the North Star Fund grantmaking cycle and fundraised in order to make additional grants to these organizations.

- Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC
- Centro Hispano Cuacatlán
- Child Welfare Organizing Project
- Common Law
- Laundry Workers Center
- Musafir Ed
- Movimiento por Justicia del Barrio
- Picture the Homeless
- Queer Detainee Empowerment Project
- Ugnayan Youth for Justice and Social Change

**RAPID RESPONSE GRANTS**

Expedited grants that enable groups to respond quickly to late-breaking events and organizing opportunities.

- Adhikaar for Human Rights and Social Justice
- ALIGN: The Alliance for a Greater New York
- CAAAV Organizing Asian Communities
- CASA: Community Action for Safe Apartments, A Project of New Settlement Apartments
- Center for Popular Democracy
- Community Food Advocates
- Community Voices Heard
- Consortium for Worker Education
- Faith in New York
- Justice Committee
- Make the Road New York
- Millions March NYC
- Movement for Black Lives Convening
- Never 21
- New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE)
- Picture the Homeless
- Staten Island Community Job Center
- Yeah, That’s What She Said (YTWSS)/Babycastles

**POWER TOGETHER**

Large matching grants of $100,000 to $200,000 to support major city-wide coalitions.

- Communities United for Police Reform (CPR)
- Education Justice Fund
- Housing New Fund

**EDUCATION JUSTICE FUND**

Matching gifts that leverage labor and private donations so that every child in New York City can receive quality public education.

- NYC Coalition for Educational Justice
- Urban Youth Collaborative

**SPECIAL INITIATIVE**

These grants helped Movement Leadership grantees to upgrade their technological capacity or build their organizational capacity.

- Adhikaar for Human Rights and Social Justice
- Arab American Association of New York
- Brooklyn Food Coalition
- Communities United for Police Reform (CPR)
- New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE)

**DONOR ADVISED**

North Star Fund partners with individual donors, foundations and businesses to support cutting-edge work in line with their giving priorities.

**ASIAN AMERICAN IMPACT FUND**
- Adhikaar for Human Rights and Social Justice
- Sakhi for South Asian Women

**CALVIN MILES FUND**
- Make the Road New York
- We Learn

**CARIBOU FUND**
- New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE)
- Worker’s Justice Project

**DINNER GUYS GIVING CIRCLE**
- Gay Asian and Pacific Islander Men of NY (GAPIMNY)
- SAGE

**FREDERICK DOUGLASS AWARDS**

Grants of $2,500 in recognition of outstanding work, presented at the 2015 Community Gala.

- Adhikaar for Human Rights and Social Justice
- Brooklyn Movement Center
- CAAAV Organizing Asian Communities
- Community Voices Heard
- Justice Committee
- Picture the Homeless
- Streetwise and Safe
- VOCAL-NY

**GIVE OUT DAY**

A crowdsourcing initiative to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) communities that have historically been underfunded.

- Audre Lorde Project
- Bolder Giving
- Stonewall Chorale
- Sylvia Rivera Law Project

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- Stonewall Chorale
- Sylvia Rivera Law Project
This list reflects gifts received July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. We make every effort to accurately list all contributions. We extend our heartfelt apologies for any mistakes or omissions. For corrections, please contact Development Officer Kofo Anifalaje at kofo@northstarfund.org.

**CORNERSTONE GIFTS**

- Anne Delaney
- Jerome L. Greene Foundation
- Asa Johnson
- Johnson Family Foundation
- Tom Johnson, Jr.

**$50,000 AND OVER**

- American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO
- Brown University
- Tom Cramer and Michele Burger
- Abigail E. Disney and Pierre N. Hauser
- New World Foundation
- Richman Housing Resources
- Tani Takagi
- Katrina vanden Heuvel
- Maggie Williams

**$5,000 - $9,999**

- Anonymous (1)
- 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East
- Nisha Atre and Art Richardson
- Nancy Lewis
- Mary Tucker
- Flo Wiener and Rick Hobish

**$1,000 - $4,999**

- Anonymous (6)
- 1199 SEIU/Employer Child Care Corporation
- 21st Century ILGWU Heritage Fund

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**GRANTS**

- **JOANNE LUKOMNIK FUND FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM**
  - Physicians for a National Health Program/NY Chapter (PNHP)

- **KINDLING FUND**
  - Advancement Project
  - Equal Justice Initiative
  - Generative somatics
  - Hand in Hand: the Domestic Employers Association
  - Jews for Racial and Economic Justice
  - Make the Road New York
  - National Day Laborer Organizing Network
  - New American Leaders Project
  - New Georgia Project
  - NYS Civic Engagement Table
  - Prison Policy Initiative
  - Project South
  - Resource Generation
  - Sentencing Project
  - Southern Center for Human Rights
  - Ultraviolet
  - United Workers Congress Project

- **PALINDROME FUND**
  - Community Voices Heard

- **REN FUND FOR JUSTICE**
  - Faith in New York
  - Food Chain Workers Alliance
  - Global Greengrants Fund
  - In These Times
  - Solar One
  - United for a Fair Economy

- **TOM AND MICHELE SOLIDARIY FUND**
  - American Jewish World Service
  - Community Voices Heard
  - Doctors Without Borders
  - NYC Coalition Against Hunger
  - Picture the Homeless
  - Public Policy and Education Fund of New York
  - Safety Net Project

- **UNFETTERED FUND**
  - Astraea Foundation
  - Audre Lorde Project
  - Movement Strategy Center
  - Resource Generation
  - San Francisco Organizing Project
  - Third Wave Fund

- **ROSE AND SHERLE WAGNER FUND**
  - Ya-Ya Network

- **BARBARA ADLER ZELUCK FUND**
  - Association for Union Democracy
  - Center for Changes (Solidarity)
  - Center for Constitutional Rights
  - Labor Notes
  - Teamster Rank and File Education and Legal Defense Foundation

- **ANKYNS DONOR ADVISED FUND**
  - Center for Constitutional Rights
  - Democracy Now!
  - The Horns Project
  - MADRE

- **NYC VENTURE PHILANTHROPY FUND**
  - Corona Youth Music Project

- **KESI FOSTER, MARIA BAUTISTA AND LAWRENCE BOOKER AT 2015 COMMUNITY GALA**

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