



GRANTS & NEWS

520 EIGHTH AVENUE, SUITE 1800 | NEW YORK, NY 10018

WWW.NORTHSTARFUND.ORG | @NORTHSTARFUND | SUMMER/FALL 2019

FINDING OUR OWN NORTH STAR



JEFFREY LEE


What is your North Star? Working towards freedom—collective liberation for all—requires us to have our fixed points of light, hope and love. My North Star is the collective community that powers our work, every day.

We are a community that radically reimagines the act of giving so that it's based on collective action towards a more compassionate, equitable future. From Community Funding Committee leaders to Giving Project grassroots fundraisers

to Finance Committee stalwarts—North Star Fund works because of ordinary—yet extraordinary—New Yorkers who do the actual work.

This issue of Grants & News shows you how we're doing it. **We're expanding partnerships in the Hudson Valley**, where we just made three-year grants to support emerging voices fighting for the rights of immigrants, workers and communities of color. **Our fifth year of Let Us Breathe Fund awards** support 18 Black-led organizing groups across New York City. These are just examples of how we move money for social justice while also building community power.

This fall, **we're continuing our celebration of #40YearsBold** with some terrific community-wide events. And we're going to be out and about working with our partners in philanthropy to change power dynamics in a field that has, for so long excluded our communities.

Being with the North Star Fund community has helped me stand in my own power. I hope you'll join me! 

Jennifer Ching,
Executive Director

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40 YEARS BOLD

TIMELINE PREVIEW



GARY SCHOICHIET



GEORGE COHEN

1979

North Star Fund is launched!

A group of young adults with wealth see a small but potent movement growing across the U.S.. People are starting foundations to support grassroots movements where the funding decisions are made by activists rather than the usual wealthy philanthropists. This group of friends pool their money and approach more friends and family to give as well. With a little over \$50,000 in donations, North Star Fund is born.

1989

North Star Fund Celebrates our Tenth Anniversary

By our tenth anniversary, North Star Fund has awarded close to \$2.5 million in almost one thousand grants. These grants funded issues as diverse as anti-apartheid organizing, AIDS activism, housing activism and seniors organizing.

1992

November Institute

North Star Fund convenes a weekly program to help people with wealth discuss the political concerns and responsibilities that accompany having access to more resources than they need.



2006

North Star Fund establishes the North Star News Prize for outstanding journalists of color.

Prize winners over the years include Rinku Sen (founder of Colorlines), Jeff Chang (author and culture maker), Farai Chideya (author and journalist) and Carol Jenkins (founding president of the Women's Media Center). ▶

SEE MORE ON OUR WEBSITE!

- ▶ Learn more about our work over the decades to change philanthropy and change New York.
- ▶ See which of the hundreds of activists that have served on our Board of Directors or Community Funding Committees are people you know!
- ▶ Check out our 40YearsBold Spotify playlist.

All on our website at northstarfund.org/40yearsbold!

CHANGING PHILANTHROPY

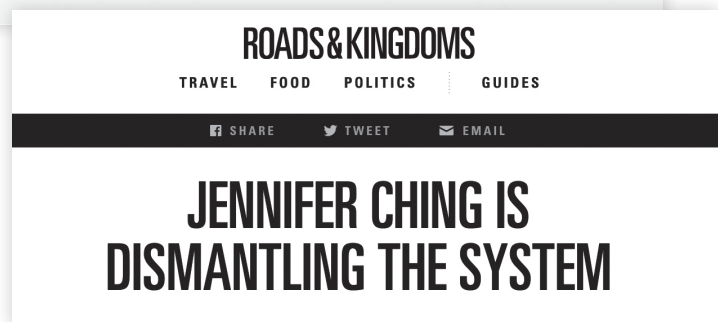
What will it take to bring more voices from communities most impacted by injustice into broader philanthropy? It's been an exciting year for this conversation, with publications like *Decolonizing Wealth and Winners Take All* highlighting how modern philanthropy often replicates the same inequalities at the root of the problems we seek to transform.

Alongside activists and authors like Edgar Villanueva and Anand Giridharadas, **North Star Fund has been making the case for what the field calls “participatory grantmaking”**—which encompasses many models of giving that expand decision-making beyond individual donors or foundation staff members.

Our 40-year experience with community organizers leading our grantmaking has shown that widening the circle of people who participate in philanthropy creates stronger and longer-lasting outcomes. We've blogged about it through the #DisruptPhilanthropy movement, are an active member of the Trust-Based Philanthropy Network, and are participating in funder collaboratives that promote and expand participatory grantmaking. But don't take our word for us—get involved and see for yourself! ▶

ATTENTION FOUNDATION PEERS!

Do you work at a foundation and want to learn more about how to make changes in your current practices? This October, we'll be moderating a funder workshop at Exponent's 2019 CONNECT conference on how to engage community voices in grantmaking. In November, we'll be co-hosting a community foundation workshop at CHANGE Philanthropy's 2019 Unity Summit. Come and find us—let's talk!



JUST FOR FAMILY FOUNDATIONS

Are you a family foundation trustee? This winter, we're launching a funding collaborative for Next Generation donors (ages 20-35) who are trustees in a family foundation or work with family members to manage giving. The six-month program will include peer learning focused on building individual leadership and knowledge about effective social justice philanthropy practices, as well as a grantmaking collaborative directly supporting grassroots work.

Participants will meet with North Star Fund trainers, philanthropy leaders and grassroots activists. They will build their race equity, anti-oppression and social justice giving strategies; while also strengthening skills specific to their roles as directors, trustees or managers of family giving.

Want to learn more? Contact helen@northstarfund.org.



ADELANTE STUDENT VOICES

#100Sistas

\$45,000
over 3 years

A collective of women of color fighting food scarcity in low-income communities through political education, direct action and community service in southwest Yonkers.

ADELANTE Student Voices

\$45,000
over 3 years

A network of professionals and undocumented high school students in upstate New York that prepares youth for college and places undocumented youth into social justice internships across the Hudson Valley.

Birth from The Earth

\$15,000

A grassroots birth advocacy network supporting Black mothers with breastfeeding and doula training in Yonkers.

Columbia County Sanctuary Movement

\$45,000
over 3 years

An immigrant rights and deportation defense movement in the city of Hudson that provides leadership opportunities and political education for local residents.

Community Governance and Development Council

\$45,000
over 3 years

A Black and Latinx-led organization fighting gentrification in Southwest Yonkers with an incubator space for local entrepreneurs and social justice startups that hosts #100Sistas, Yonkers Sanctuary Movement, and Birth from The Earth.

Evergreen Garden

\$45,000
over 3 years

A youth-of-color led gardening project to address food sustainability and food sovereignty in a low-income community in Sullivan County.

BUILDING MOMENTUM IN THE HUDSON VALLEY

2019 marks our third year supporting incredible grassroots organizing in the Hudson Valley, where local residents take the lead in designing strategy and fighting for the rights of diverse communities to stay—and thrive—in the rapidly gentrifying towns that dot the region. We've brought our unique model of philanthropy to the region, as volunteer grassroots organizers with deep experience in the Hudson Valley select our grantees and provide strategic guidance to our work as a funder and ally to local social justice movements.

We're excited to support the vibrant power of New Yorkers taking on housing access, anti-immigrant and anti-LGBTQ violence, food security and other issues. Here are our 19 latest Hudson Valley grants—three-year awards totaling \$655,000, with \$275,000 moving into these communities in 2019.



RISE UP KINGSTON

Freedom Food Alliance

\$45,000
over 3 years

A Black-led network of organizers and farmers whose Victory Bus and community supported agriculture (CSA) projects connect Harlem families with food sovereignty work in the rural communities where their loved ones are incarcerated.

Grace Immigrant Outreach

\$45,000
over 3 years

The leading resource for Latinx immigrants in Dutchess County, empowering the community through Know Your Rights and deportation-preparedness workshops.

In Our Own Voices

\$10,000

Albany's people-of-color-led LGBTQ+ service and advocacy center, organizing community members for the removal of policy, practices and norms that criminalize and oppress LGBTQ+ people.

Kite's Nest

\$45,000
over 3 years

The city of Hudson's youth leadership and political education center offering everyday education that weaves in opportunities for local engagement on social justice and environmental stewardship.

MHAction

\$10,000

A national organization with an active Sullivan County presence building the leadership of manufactured home residents fighting for healthier living conditions and affordable housing terms.

HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY FUNDING COMMITTEE

Callie Jayne
Diana Sánchez
Emma Kreyche
Gloria Martínez
Guisela Marroquín
Jalal Sabur
Rae Leiner
Sandra Cuellar Oxford

Newburgh LGBTQ+ Center

\$45,000
over 3 years

A people-of-color led community hub for LGBTQ+ organizing, education and advocacy that's currently fighting a new law that punishes low-income tenants for landlord negligence.

Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson

\$15,000

A group of Hudson Valley grassroots leaders deep in the struggle for immigration justice and fair treatment by utility companies while also leading the successful fight for municipal IDs.

Rise Up Kingston

\$45,000
over 3 years

A Black-led base-building organization in Kingston mobilizing local residents to address inequities in housing and education by taking on local political decision-making to make it more responsive to community needs.

Schaghticoke First Nations

\$10,000

A grassroots organization of Schaghticoke leaders, convening families that have been displaced from their ancestral land to reclaim their cultural and spiritual practices and to secure land for their future.

Staley B. Keith Social Justice Center

\$10,000

An intergenerational Black-led community resource organizing for social and racial justice through their court advocacy program and grassroots civic engagement in the city of Hudson.

Underground Center

\$15,000

An environmental and economic justice organization in Saugerties fighting for alternative and non-exploitative models of living.

VOCAL-NY

\$30,000
over 3 years

A statewide grassroots membership organization building power among low-income people affected by HIV/AIDS, mass incarceration and homelessness through leadership development and direct action.

Worker Justice Center of New York

\$45,000
over 3 years

The premier legal services and grassroots advocacy organization for farmworkers and other low-wage workers in upstate New York.

Yonkers Sanctuary Movement

\$45,000
over 3 years

A vibrant local community that educates and mobilizes immigrants and allies in Yonkers to keep immigrant families safe from detention and deportation. ▶



KITE'S NEST



SUPPORTING BLACK-LED ACTIVISM IN NEW YORK

North Star Fund’s Let Us Breathe Fund moves resources to Black-led and multiracial organizations and movements fighting police violence and structural racism in New York City. These grants total \$160,000 for 18 organizations, and bring the total grantmaking for this fund to over \$860,000 since its inception in 2015.

Originally, the fund supported local activism spurred by the death of Eric Garner, with a focus on rapid response actions demanding reforms in policing and criminal justice. But our commitment to organizing for Black liberation is longer term and we want this fund to adapt as the local circumstances shift. The fund continues to invest in long-term organizing to reimagine community safety and build economic sustainability in Black communities for the long haul. Here are the 2019 Let Us Breathe Fund grantees:

African Communities Together

\$10,000 A mutual aid and civil rights organization for African immigrants organizing for policies that keep families together and meet the needs of asylum seekers, including language access and just immigration policies.

Black Alliance for Just Immigration

\$5,000 A racial justice and migrant rights organization expanding the voices of Black immigrants in the immigration debate, anchoring the Safety Beyond Policing coalition, and lifting up the needs of Black immigrant women.

Black LGBTQ+ Migrant Project

\$10,000 A one-of-a-kind gathering space for Black LGBTQ immigrants to find community and safe space, practice healing and wellness, and develop strategies to combat detention and deportation policies.

Black Trans Media

\$15,000 A powerful cultural organizing home for Black transgender people to create safe spaces and lift up their stories on their own terms, through videos, murals, and cultural events.

Black Youth Project 100 Education Fund

\$10,000 A national activist member-based organization of Black 18- to 35-year-olds with a strong New York City chapter organizing to prevent public housing residents from losing their homes when family members are arrested.

Brooklyn Movement Center

\$15,000 A Black-led organization confronting gentrification in Central Brooklyn by organizing around fresh food access, environmental justice, street harassment, police accountability and citizen journalism.

Communities United for Police Reform

\$5,000 The city-wide coalition that won historic changes to “stop and frisk,” now pushing for greater police transparency when police officers harass, injure or kill residents, and an end to “broken windows” policing.

LEARN MORE
Thanks to your support, these communities are able to organize and respond to injustice. **Learn more about these grants and more on our website, northstarfund.org.**



GWEN CARR

COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR POLICE REFORM



PICTURE THE HOMELESS

Community Voices Heard

\$5,000

A powerful force in East Harlem organizing public housing residents for safe, affordable housing, and creating a statewide Black women’s political agenda that will drive voter engagement efforts.

Equality for Flatbush

\$5,000

A lean anti-gentrification powerhouse activating long-term residents in Brooklyn around issues of housing, workers’ rights, and police violence.

Faith in NY

\$5,000

A multi-faith network of more than 70 religious congregations training local clergy to educate and mobilize congregants across issues such as affordable housing, over-policing, immigration reform, and an accurate census.

FIERCE

\$5,000

A Bronx-based grassroots organization of LGBTQ youth of color leading a community conversation around both bullying of LGBTQ youth of color in schools as well as harassment and murder of LGBTQ youth by the police.

Girls for Gender Equity

\$5,000

An intergenerational grassroots organization that centers the voices and experiences of girls, young women and LGBQ/TGNC (transgender and gender nonconforming) youth of color addressing discriminatory school discipline policies.

Justice Committee

\$10,000

A powerful community of families who have lost loved ones to police violence who, alongside their allies, are winning changes to NYPD policies and holding cops accountable in the courts and the streets.

Million Hoodies Movement for Justice

\$5,000

A chapter-based national movement organized in response to the killing of Trayvon Martin that organizes youth and survivors of gun violence to promote community safety in Black and Brown communities, especially from the police.

Picture the Homeless

\$15,000

A citywide, multiracial organization led by homeless New Yorkers pushing the city’s imagination and policy to create permanently affordable housing and end police harassment through direct action, participatory action research and coalition building.

Release Aging People in Prison

\$15,000

Currently and formerly incarcerated people working to end mass incarceration and promote racial justice by reforming the punitive NYS Board of Parole and securing the release of elders from prison.

UndocuBlack Network

\$10,000

A multigenerational network of currently and formerly undocumented Black people that fosters community, facilitates access to resources and works for policy change such as the preservation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for refugees.

Urban Youth Collaborative

\$10,000

A powerful coalition of youth-led organizing groups working to end the school-to-prison pipeline by winning funding for restorative justice practices in schools and creating Student Success Centers that give youth a path to college. ▽

LET US BREATHE FUND COMMITTEE

Darian X
Ejeris Dixon
Janis Rosheuev



NEHA GAUTAM

RESPONDING TO EMERGING ISSUES

North Star Fund makes Rapid Response grants year-round to respond to urgent threats or breaking opportunities. Rapid Response grants support our grantees to move decisively in key moments in order to bring campaigns to the final steps of victory.

Our Rapid Response grants in the first half of 2019 supported several mobilizations of New Yorkers to advance campaigns years and decades in the making, from real rent reform and education justice to drivers licenses for all.

Green Light NY: Driving Together Coalition

\$5,000

...for the final push for a bill that will enable all immigrant New Yorkers to obtain drivers licenses. Awarded May 2019. *Thanks to the hard work of organizers that mobilized hundreds of people across the state to the Capitol, the Green Light bill was signed into law in June 2019.*

IntegrateNYC

\$5,000

...to amplify a students' policy platform to end school segregation as the mayoral administration prepared final recommendations on school diversity in June. Awarded April 2019. *The Board of Education, together with the mayor, has largely adopted the students' demands, announcing the 5Rs of #RealIntegration becoming a citywide blueprint.*

Movement for Justice in El Barrio

\$2,500

...for lobbying the federal government in D.C. in response to budget increases for the Department of Homeland Security. Awarded May 2019. *As of August 2019, the agency received their budget without making additional oversight commitments, but public pressure to end the inhumane treatment of migrants at the southern border, especially asylum seekers, continues to grow.*

New York City Coalition for Educational Justice

\$5,000

...for development of a communications strategy highlighting the importance of culturally responsive education in public schools, as right-wing media publish unrelenting attacks on anti-bias trainings for New York City teachers. Awarded May 2019. *As of August 2019, this campaign is ongoing.*

NYC Veterans Alliance

\$2,500

...to mobilize veterans to oppose the federal ban on transgender military service, in effect as of April 12. Awarded April 2019. *As of August 2019, this campaign is ongoing.*

Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP)

\$5,000

...to expand organizing into Long Island in preparation for an expected backlash to changes to the Board of Parole that make it more fair-minded and rehabilitation-focused. Awarded April 2019. *As of August 2019, this campaign is ongoing.*

Street Vendor Project

\$5,000

...to support the training and mobilization of street vendors for an April City Council hearing on a bill to increase the number of vendor licenses. Awarded February 2019. *As of August 2019, this campaign is ongoing.*

Upstate/Downstate Housing Alliance

\$10,000

...to support a historic, statewide mobilization of 1,500 tenants to Albany to expand rent regulations as they faced expiration this June. Awarded May 2019. *The package of rent protections—some of the strongest rent protections the state has seen—was passed within weeks and then signed by Governor Cuomo.* ▽



WALTER HERGT

UPSTATE/DOWNSTATE HOUSING ALLIANCE



PAROLE PREPARATION PROJECT



THE WOMEN'S ORGANIZING NETWORK

GRANTS TO BUILD LEADERSHIP: CAPACITY BUILDING 2019

North Star Fund's commitment to movement building means **supporting organizations to grow, to evolve and to build individual leaders.** We have a long commitment to capacity building which enables both individuals and organizations to develop new skills and capabilities.

Capacity building support can take many forms: strategic planning, staff skills development, communications support, data management. It's not "sexy" work, but it helps organizations and leaders to be ready to respond to the challenging, changing environment that is social justice movement building.

Many of our grantees who start out as small grassroots organizations grow into powerhouses in part through a commitment to capacity building. **We deliberately keep our capacity-building flexible** and allow grantees to self-determine the best investments in their own growth.

In 2019, we took a one-year break from our biggest investment in capacity building, our Movement Leadership Program, so that we could evaluate the last seven years. **This year, instead of Movement Leadership grants with a year-long leadership development program, we offered one-time \$5,000 grants** to organizations for specific needs they've identified in areas including development, communications and strategic planning.

We made 26 of these grants to current grantees listed here:

- African Communities Together
- Audre Lorde Project
- Brooklyn Movement Center
- Carroll Gardens Association Domestic Workers Union
- Columbia County Sanctuary Movement
- Faith in New York
- Flanbwayan Haitian Literacy Project
- Global Action Project
- In Our Own Voices
- Jahajee Sisters Empowering Indo-Caribbean Women
- Justice Committee
- Million Hoodies Movement for Justice
- Movimiento por Justicia del Barrio
- New York State Youth Leadership Council
- Newburgh LGBTQ+ Center
- Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson Education Fund
- NY Teamsters for a Democratic Union
- Parole Preparation Project
- Picture the Homeless
- Rise
- Rockaway Youth Task Force
- Street Vendor Project
- Teachers Unite
- Tenants and Neighbors
- The Women's Organizing Network
- Worker Justice Center of New York

VICTORY ROUNDUP

North Star Fund has dozens of grantees running campaigns on issues affecting hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers. We share up-to-date news of grantee progress and victories on our Facebook page and on Twitter, and periodically we publish round-ups of victories on our website. Here are some highlights from the first half of 2019. Check out our website for even more organizing victories.

IMMIGRANT JUSTICE PROGRESS

The mother of Columbia County Sanctuary Movement's co-founder, Elsa Martinez now has status and is no longer under threat of deportation. CCSM celebrated her resilience and their collective power.

After nearly 19 months in detention, **Abdikadir Mohamed is finally free to go home** thanks to a campaign by a coalition of organizations including UndocuBlack Network. ▀



FRANCIS MONTOYA

LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES

Following years of intense lobbying and pressure, **Governor Cuomo has signed the New York State Dream Act into law**, making financial aid and scholarships available to New Yorkers entering college without penalizing them for their immigration status. Many grantees have worked on that for years including New York State Youth Leadership Council.

The Green Light Coalition also won big this year with the passage of **the Green Light Bill, which allows all New York residents, including immigrants, to obtain state drivers licenses.**

A housing coalition made up of organizers and advocates from across the state **won a landmark deal for rent protections in the state** that ensures a better launching pad for future housing justice fights.

The **SWEAT bill, which protects against wage theft**, passed in the senate and assembly. This victory is the result of workers organizing and demanding elected officials take action to stop the wage theft epidemic. Over \$1 million is lost to wage theft every year in New York state. ▀

EDUCATION WINS

Mayor de Blasio cited Integrate NYC's 5Rs of Real Integration while announcing the adoption of policy recommendations made by the School Diversity Advisory Group to create integrated, equitable schools.

As part of their Dignity in Schools campaign, Teachers Unite was able to organize to win **\$41 million for social workers in schools to support students.**

Thanks to hard work from the folks at the Urban Youth Collaborative and many other groups, the New York City Mayor's Office announced a **new citywide initiative to bring restorative practices to all NYC middle schools and high schools.** ▀

WHO WE ARE



NORTH STAR FUND BOARD MEMBERS

NEW FACES AND THANK YOUS

Staff Changes: This summer we welcomed Ivan Rosales, our new Finance Director, and Maya Reyes, Development Coordinator. Our Hudson Valley Program Director Mayra Hidalgo Salazar has left us to join the leadership team of United We Dream.

Board Changes: Mark Reed has stepped down after several diligent years as treasurer. Natasha Pallan has assumed the role of board treasurer this summer. Andy Goldberg has also stepped down after years of service.

Hudson Valley CFC: Callie Jayne has joined this spring!

Let Us Breathe CFC: Darian X and Janis Rosheuvel joined for the first time this year. Meanwhile, Ingrid Benedict and Kesi Foster have cycled off after years of service. (Kesi continues his role as NYC CFC co-chair).

BOARD

- Alvarez Symonette
- Amber Guild
- Asa Johnson
- Candis Tolliver
- Christine Parker
- David Ryan Alexander
- Gonzalo Mercado
- Holly Fetter
- Jennifer Ching, *Executive Director*
- Jennifer Flynn Walker
- Kesi Foster
- Lisa Steglich
- Maggie Williams
- Marjorie Fine, *Chair*
- Michael Waterman, *Secretary*
- Natasha Pallan, *Treasurer*
- Nisha Atre
- Pierre Hauser, *Vice-Chair*
- Susanna Blankley

STAFF

- Adam Liebowitz, *Community Food Funders Director*
- Angbeen Saleem, *Digital Communications Coordinator*
- Catherine Eusebio, *NYC Program Officer*
- cori schmanke parrish, *Deputy Director*
- Elz Cuya Jones, *Deputy Director*
- Helen Stillman, *Donor Program Director*
- Ivan Rosales, *Finance Director*
- Jennifer Ching, *Executive Director*
- Jodi Sh. Doff, *Operations Manager*
- Kathleen Pequeño, *Communications Director*
- Kofo Anifalaje, *Development Director*
- Leyana Dessauer, *Program & Development Associate*
- Maya Reyes, *Development Coordinator*
- Seun A. Owolabi, *Development Manager*



DANIELLE PEARCE

NEW YORK CITY COMMUNITY FUNDING COMMITTEE

- Alejandra Ruiz | Anthonine Pierre | Cathy Dang | Jawanza Williams
- Kesi Foster, *Co-Chair* | Krystal Portalatin | Leah Obias | Ligia Gualpá
- Rob Robinson | Shatia Strother | Susanna Blankley, *Co-Chair*





NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
NEW YORK, NY
PERMIT #03096

520 EIGHTH AVENUE
SUITE 1800
NEW YORK, NY 10018-4170

T 212-620-9110
F 212-620-8178

NORTHSTARFUND.ORG

JOIN US AT UPCOMING EVENTS



DANIELLE PEARCE

40th Anniversary Theater Night

Join us to see Anna Deavere Smith's
Fires in the Mirror.

**Thursday, October 24 at the
Signature Theater**

MORE INFO: maya@northstarfund.org

People Power Lab

Learn more about the critical
campaigns our grantees are
working on.

**Wednesday, November 20 at
The People's Forum**

MORE INFO: helen@northstarfund.org

#40YearsBold Comedy Night

Celebrate 40 years of grassroots or-
ganizing with laughter and community.

**Wednesday, December 4 at
Carolines on Broadway**

MORE INFO: elz@northstarfund.org

Power UP!

As the year winds down in
December, North Star Fund
powers up!

Check our website for the details.

MORE INFO: kofo@northstarfund.org



NEHA GAUTAM