Dear friend of Bread & Roses Community Fund,

On April 8, 2020, Bread & Roses Community Fund launched the *Solidarity Fund for COVID-19 Organizing*, a rapid-response emergency fund to support community organizing efforts. Over the next year, the fund distributed **$810,000 to 83 grassroots community organizing groups** in the Philadelphia region; more than 20 were first-time Bread & Roses grantees. Your generous support enabled the *Solidarity Fund* to distribute more money than any other single Bread & Roses grantmaking program in our history.

The COVID-19 pandemic and its economic fallout are landing hardest on communities already targeted by systems of oppression—people of color, poor people, immigrants, people with disabilities, incarcerated people, people experiencing homelessness, and other marginalized communities. The *Solidarity Fund* provided rapid, emergency funds to groups working directly with these individuals.

Community organizers, accustomed to being nimble in the face of lean resources, are creating new ways to share space, break isolation, and nurture community cohesion.

The support of generous funders and individual donors made this urgent work possible. It allowed Bread & Roses to pivot quickly and support small grassroots groups that were struggling due to loss of revenue and were not eligible for emergency funds from other foundations. It also allowed Bread & Roses to support new movements that were emerging in response to the public health crisis.

The *Solidarity Fund* officially closed on March, 31, 2021. However, Bread & Roses continues to support the urgent needs of movement organizations through our monthly *Opportunity Fund* and our special *Neighborhood Equitable Recovery Fund*, a partnership with the City of Philadelphia Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity, that continues to move money to the communities hardest hit by the pandemic.

In solidarity,

Casey Cook
*Executive Director*
For the first time in its history, Bread & Roses made grants to unincorporated nonprofit groups doing community organizing.

Many groups were organizing exclusively in response to the pandemic around issues like extending paid sick leave to restaurant and domestic workers who are not normally eligible. These groups are not formally established nonprofit organizations, but still needed funds to continue their critical work.

Many grantees offered mutual aid to their members, providing material support like food and personal hygiene supplies.

Providing tangible support helped these grassroots groups build trust in their community organizing work. This is a critical movement-building strategy that will help them strengthen their movements going forward.
215 People's Alliance
ACT UP Philadelphia
African Family Health Organization (AFAHO)
Agape African Senior Center
Amistad Law Project
Ardella's House
Asian Americans United
Black and Brown Workers Cooperative
Coalition for Restaurant Safety & Health (CRSH)
Coalition to Respect Every Worker (CREW)
Comadre Luna Collective
Community Action Relief Project
Decarcerate PA
Faith in New Jersey
Free Migration Project
Free the Vulnerable
Germantown Housing Justice
Germantown Residents for Economic Alternatives Together (GREAT)
Girls Justice League
Girls Rock Philly
Goods & Services
Haitian American Voice
Healing Communities USA
Indigenous Peoples' Day Philly
Make the Road PA
March on Harrisburg
Mary's Daughter for the Formerly Incarcerated
Movement of Immigrant Leaders in Pennsylvania (MILPA)
National Institute for Healthy Human Spaces
Native American House Alliance
NEAR (Northeast Philadelphia Against Racism)
New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia
North Philly Peace Park
One Art Community Center
One Fair Wage PA
One Pennsylvania
Parapower
Pennsylvania Debt Collective
Pennsylvania Domestic Workers Alliance
Pennsylvania Prison Society
Philadelphia Area Cooperative Alliance
Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation
Philadelphia Coalition for Affordable Communities
Philadelphia Community Bail Fund
Philadelphia Jobs with Justice
Philadelphia Public School Notebook
Philadelphia Teamsters for a Democratic Union
Philadelphia Unemployment Project
Philly Hub of Liberatory Academics
Philly Neighborhood Networks
Philly Thrive
Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign
Popular Alliance for Undocumented Workers' Rights
POWER (Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower, and Rebuild)
Power Street Theatre
¡Presente! Media Cooperative
Prisoners' Lives Matter Project SAFE
Put People First! PA
Racial Justice Organizing Committee
Restaurant Opportunities Center of Pennsylvania
Right to Redemption
Sappho and LaRoyce Foundation
Sisters Returning Home
SOL Collective
Spiral Q Puppet Theater
Stay True Philadelphia
The Village of Arts & Humanities
The Womanist Working Collective
UC Green
Unincarcerated Minds
Urban Creators
Urban Tree Connection
VietLead
We R.E.I.G.N.
Wholistic.art
Why Not Prosper
William Way LGBT Community Center
Women Who Never Give Up
Women's Community Revitalization Project
Women's Medical Fund
Woori Center
Youth Art & Self-empowerment Project (YASP)
$810,000 distributed in grants to 83 grassroots community organizing groups.

Leadership by race among Solidarity Fund grantees:
- 82% of grantees are BIPOC-led (Black, Indigenous, People of Color)
- 46% of BIPOC-led grantees are Black-led
- 14% of grantees are white-led
- 4% Undisclosed
34 grantees were pushing for health equity

20 grantees were using media to amplify community voices

15 grantees were expanding equitable public spaces

17 grantees were demanding decarceration

39 grantees were creating or upgrading digital infrastructure

18 grantees were demanding workers’ rights

33 grantees were engaging people in political education

15 grantees were organizing young people

17 grantees were advancing justice for immigrants

18 grantees were dismantling disparities for women and trans people

35 grantees were meeting people’s needs through mutual aid

15 grantees were expanding equitable public spaces

17 grantees were demanding decarceration

18 grantees were dismantling disparities for women and trans people

Icons by Weltenraser, Jacopo Bonacci, supalerk laipawat, Giorgio Uboldi, Vectors Point, Adrien Coquet, Path Lord, Dmitry Vasiliev, lastspark, Rachel Healy, Studio Fibonacci, Yu Luck from the Noun Project
UrbanCreators launched a Neighborhood Market and Free Breakfast Program to feed community members during the pandemic. In six months, they distributed 65,000 pounds of fresh produce, and provided masks, hygiene products, diapers, and other critical supplies. A weekly Mobile Market traveled to five locations around North Philadelphia.

In response to increased food insecurity in its community, One Art Community Center grew more food at its One Art Oasis, planted new seedlings on roofs and parking lots, and grew food for several community farms and greenhouses that had to shut down because of COVID-19.

One Pennsylvania successfully pushed for passage of the Emergency Housing Protection Act, which extends the city’s eviction moratorium, waives late fees, and creates an eviction diversion program during the pandemic. They organized a digital town hall with 300+ people and 12 elected officials, held socially distanced car rallies, and testified virtually in City Council.

Asian Americans United helped combat anti-Asian violence, which rose sharply because the virus’ origins in China. They held online community forums and helped draft anti-racist curricula for public schools. They also distributed 14,000 masks and gloves; provided in-language COVID-19 education and resources to undocumented community members; and offered educational webinars about the Census, mail-in voting, and legal rights for ICE detainees.

Amistad Law Project led the fight to convince Gov. Tom Wolf to release people who are medically fragile from prisons during the pandemic. Through their efforts, 118 people were released in 2020—an action that may well have saved their lives.

“This grant affirms the work of artists. Bread & Roses trusts that the stories we share will have a big impact on the city.”

Power Street Theatre
Solidarity Fund grantee
To meet the urgency of the moment, Bread & Roses developed a streamlined approach to its grantmaking process that allowed us to rapidly move money to community organizing groups on a weekly basis.

The review committee was comprised of Giving Project alumni and board members who represented diverse communities and were familiar with Bread & Roses’ social justice lens and community-led grantmaking process. This enabled the committee to make decisions quickly and move funds faster.

Community groups completed a simple, four-question application outlining their proposed use of funds. Applications received by Monday at 9:00 am were reviewed and selected on Friday afternoon of the same week. For the first time ever, funds were distributed electronically, making money available to grantees more quickly, safely, and accessibly.

“It’s amazing how quickly so many groups responded with innovative ideas for continuing their movement work and supporting their communities when the pandemic hit.”

Farrah Parkes
*Solidarity Fund review*
“Bread & Roses has been a lifeline for our programs. We are grateful for the support they are providing that allows us to provide political education and support Philly girls as they develop their organizing skills around issues that impact their daily lives.”

— We R.E.I.G.N.

“COVID-19 forced us to reinvent many of the ways we organize... We learned how to combine socially distant and safe in-person organizing activities with online organizing meetings and trainings. The successful campaign for the Essential Workers Bill of Rights showed the role we can play in building strategic labor-community alliances and the potential power these coalition campaigns have to win broader victories and protections for all working people.”

— Philadelphia Teamsters for a Democratic Union

“With your help, we transitioned One PA’s worker organizing and leadership development to a virtual space while further building our base and supporting Philadelphia’s workers in this challenging period. We couldn’t have done this without you. Thank you!”

— One Pennsylvania

“The COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing school district shutdown has shined a light on the longstanding inequities in our education system. Your support enabled us to keep our community informed while giving a voice to public school parents and students.”

— Philadelphia Public School Notebook

“While we will continue to push for earned media coverage, we recognize the unique utility of being able to tell our stories the way they need to be told and how that can be a powerful leadership development tool.”

— Amistad Law Project

“Over this grant period, we learned a lot very quickly about organizing remotely. We learned that despite the limitations we could still be creative, resilient, and effective and that we could build momentum virtually. These skills will be of great value not only as COVID-19 continues to demand social distancing, but well into the future as online organizing becomes another tool in our repertoire.”

— Philadelphia Coalition for Affordable Communities

“This funding came at just the right time to allow us to make the changes in infrastructure, technology, and training to continue to build power as an organization of directly impacted faith leaders that organizes the faith community to build coalition between the faith community the criminal justice reform community, and directly impacted people to enact comprehensive justice reform.”

— Healing Communities USA

“We want to thank Bread & Roses Community Fund’s Solidarity Fund for supporting our community work. We identified three goals to inform and educate our neighbors about COVID-19. We achieved all three.”

— Why Not Prosper

“Since we were no longer able to conduct [in-person] outreach, individual CREW member organizations were providing that information to their own members but did not have the ability to put that information out to the general public. We sought funding to experiment with text-banking, as well as Facebook and Instagram ads.”

— Coalition to Respect Every Worker
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