Always working to identify and support the best grassroots community organizing in the region, Bread & Roses Community Fund is now taking part in efforts to strengthen the region’s Latino communities.

The Delaware Valley’s Latino population is growing, with a 45% increase since 2000 in the number of people in Philadelphia with Latin American roots, according to the most recent U.S. Census data. In the Norristown suburb of Philadelphia, one in three residents is Latino.

In December, Bread & Roses’ Community Grantmaking Committee (CGC) awarded $40,000 to local Latino-led and Latino-serving grassroots organizations. These grants were made possible by a generous gift from the Saba Chai Five Foundation and the support of thousands of individual donors.

The CGC awarded grants to six groups with strong track records in community organizing:

- **El Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas (CATA)** ($9,000 grant) will organize Mexican migrant workers at Chester County packing houses to fight for better treatment and working conditions.
- **JUNTOS** ($9,000 grant) will mobilize Latino immigrant families in Norristown, largely from Mexico, to protest police harassment and learn about their rights.
- **Ceiba** ($7,000 grant) a coalition of four Latino-serving organizations, will work to ensure that a city-run home repair program is fully accessible and inclusive of Spanish-speaking homeowners.
- **New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia** ($5,000 grant) will continue to organize faith congregations to take action on immigration reform through education, storytelling, and direct action campaigns.
- **PhilaPOSH** ($5,000 grant) will organize Spanish-speaking workers, who are often exploited due to their legal and economic status, to resist unsafe working conditions and labor violations.
- **Media Mobilizing Project** ($5,000 grant) is organizing with thousands of immigrant families, including Mexican and Central Americans, to overturn a recent law that prohibits undocumented immigrants from getting driver’s licenses in Pennsylvania.

In March, the Coalition for Healthy Families and Workplaces—of which Bread & Roses and many of its grantees are members—again moved City Council to pass a bill requiring businesses with at least six employees to offer paid sick leave. For the second year in a row, Mayor Nutter vetoed the bill. Despite this setback, coalition organizers are already planning the next phase of the campaign to guarantee sick time for all Philadelphia workers.
Dear friends,

One of the things that makes Bread & Roses Community Fund unique is that the grants we award are made possible by the generosity of thousands of people who pool their money together for real change.

Most of our grants at Bread & Roses are distributed by the Community Grantmaking Committee (CGC), a volunteer group of community organizers, activists, and leaders who identify the most effective grassroots organizing for racial and economic justice in our region. The CGC is in the midst of a grant cycle now, and is meeting with grant applicants throughout April and May.

In addition to the grants that the CGC awards, unique partnerships with other foundations help funnel even more support into local movements for social change.

A new grantmaking partnership was initiated this past winter with a $40,000 gift from the Saba Chai Five Foundation to support the Latino-led and Latino-serving organizations you read about in the cover story of this newsletter. I am hoping that more foundations—especially other family foundations—will partner with Bread & Roses, recognizing our unique ability to fund the grassroots organizations that are doing the most important and effective work in our region.

The Phoebus Criminal Justice Initiative is the result of a partnership that launched 13 years ago, when the trustees of a small family foundation asked Bread & Roses for help with their grantmaking. They wanted to support an area issue that was neglected. Together, the Phoebus Fund and Bread & Roses chose to support criminal justice reform efforts. Today, the Phoebus Criminal Justice Initiative enables trustees of the Phoebus Fund to work in partnership with Bread & Roses and community organizers to award grants to groups working to create real change in our criminal justice system.

But the most important partnership of all at Bread & Roses is the one that exists between the thousands of people building a movement for social change in our region. Whatever your role is—donor, mentor, organizer, activist—the fact is, real change will come from all of us working together. Thank you so much for helping to make that happen.

Sincerely,

Casey Cook, executive director

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MEET THE BOARD: RICK BARON

In the early 1970s, Rick Baron was among the group of activists who founded the People’s Fund, predecessor to today’s Bread & Roses. He has been involved as a donor, volunteer, and board member ever since.

“I believe that Bread & Roses is one of the most focused and innovative funds supporting progressive action in Philadelphia,” Rick says.

Rick’s early activism was part of a generation’s fight for civil rights and against the Vietnam War. “It is hard to communicate today how much these issues dominated the lives of people who were in their 20s then,” he says.

Rick lives with his wife in Chestnut Hill and works at Temple University promoting community inclusion for individuals with mental health conditions. “The struggles of people with mental health conditions emerge from economic and social justice inequities,” he says. “Those are the same issues we face at Bread & Roses.”

Rick is one of three members of the board of directors who also serve on the Community Grantmaking Committee (CGC). In April, the CGC began meeting and interviewing local groups who have applied for funding.

“I find the engagement of a new generation of activists, some of whom are working on important and emerging issues that have never been explored before, to be very encouraging,” Rick says. “They are continuing the work that so many of my contemporaries still think of as among the most important parts of our lives.”

As they contemplate the future of Bread & Roses, members of the board of directors rely on Rick as a link to the organization’s past. The commitment to Bread & Roses shown by Rick and others like him has resulted in over $10 million in grants awarded to support community organizing in the Delaware Valley.
Town hall meeting brings together labor and community organizers

Just before he was assassinated, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was working to strengthen ties between the civil rights movement and the fight for economic justice. Bread & Roses Community Fund honored this legacy by hosting a town hall meeting in January to highlight successful community-labor partnerships in our region.

“Too often we categorize ourselves as separate from each other—union and community,” Andi Perez, executive director of Youth United for Change, says. “It is up to us to build a unified movement to improve the quality of life in our communities.”

“It’s crucial that labor and community groups find common ground, but that doesn’t always happen automatically. We must get organized and work together.”

Earlier this year, Youth United for Change decided to work with the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers to offer a community-based plan for improving public schools. Through this collaboration, which includes additional founding members Action United and Philadelphia Student Union, the Philadelphia Coalition Advocating for Public Schools was born.

The town hall meeting highlighted this joint venture and provided a history of past community-labor partnerships. After the panel, participants broke into small groups to generate more ideas for alliances that could help make the region a better place for everyone.

As one attendee reported in a follow-up survey, “It’s crucial that labor and community groups find common ground, but that doesn’t always happen automatically. We must get organized and work together.”

To learn more about the ideas that emerged from these discussions and see more pictures from the event, visit www.breadrosesfund.org.

2013: A hard year to raise money?

According to a recent article in The Chronicle of Philanthropy, 2013 is projected to be “one of the worst fundraising years in five decades.” A variety of economic conditions are at fault, including high unemployment, rising health insurance costs, and concerns about the stock market. The bottom line is that both Bread & Roses and the grassroots organizations we fund may face significant challenges raising the funds needed to keep fighting for real change. Household budgets have tightened all over the Delaware Valley, but support for community organizing is more critical now than ever. You can pitch in right away by making a donation at www.breadrosesfund.org.

It’s the most wonderful time of the year: New grants and scholarships

Thanks to the support of thousands of individual donors, Bread & Roses grants and scholarships will soon be awarded to some of the many recent applicants now under consideration.

- The Phoebus Criminal Justice Initiative committee interviewed 14 groups in March that are working to bring real change to our criminal justice system.

- In June, the awardees of the Lax Scholarship will be announced from among an applicant pool of 21 gay men in the Philadelphia area.

- In April, the Community Grantmaking Committee began interviews with some of the 39 organizations that submitted applications to the Racial & Economic Justice Fund and Future Fund.

After the flurry of applications coming into the office, the grantmaking committee of activists, organizers, and other stakeholders begin their lengthy deliberations. Shelley Smith, who participated in the Phoebus Criminal Justice Initiative applicant review process in March, says, “With so many social justice challenges, we are proud to offer grants to organizations making real change.”
Rapid-response grantmaking
Planning is important, but some of the best community organizing happens on the spur of the moment. In addition to supporting ongoing community organizing, Bread & Roses provides grants of up to $500 for unbudgeted expenses to grassroots organizations through the Opportunity Fund.

A typical Opportunity Fund proposal might request support for a last-minute rally, a new coalition, emergency travel to Washington, or other responses to a rapidly emerging issue. Recent Opportunity Fund grantees are:

The 11th Ward Civic Education Initiative of 2013
AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) Philadelphia
Arway Recovery
Camp Sojourner Girls’ Leadership Camp
Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas (CATA)
Decarcerate PA
Elements Organization
Filadelphia Latin American Film Festival
Global Education Motivators
Heschel-King Festival
Media Mobilizing Project
Metropolitan Community Church of Philadelphia
National Alliance of Women Veterans
Norris Square Neighborhood Project
Northwest Neighbors of Germantown
Occupy Philly Labor Working Group
Ollin Yoliztli Calmecac
Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition
Philadelphia Martin Luther King Jr. Association for Nonviolence
Philadelphia NOW Education Fund
Philadelphia Student Union
Philadelphia Unemployment Project
Prometheus Radio Project
SMART (Single Mothers are Really Trying) Inc.
South Kensington Community Partners
Teacher Action Group
Way of the Spirit Ministries International
X-Offenders for Community Empowerment

The deadline for Opportunity Fund grant applications is the first of every month. Learn more at www.breadrosesfund.org.

Not without a fight: Grantees push back on public school closures
While over a thousand people were rallying outside School District of Philadelphia headquarters in March, members of the Philadelphia Coalition Advocating for Public Schools—including Bread & Roses’ grantees Youth United for Change, Philadelphia Student Union, JUNTOS, Media Mobilizing Project, and Occupy Philly Labor Working Group—participated in a civil disobedience action inside the building. Nineteen protestors were arrested for blocking entry to the School Reform Commission meeting, where a vote was held to close 23 public schools. A trial is expected in May. Meanwhile, students, parents, teachers, school workers, and allies are planning the next phase of their campaign to save public education.

Grants, continued from page 1
“JUNTOS’ campaign represents the heart of good community organizing and hints at the potential of this group to build power statewide,” CGC member Fred Ginyard says. “Their campaign grew out of an urgent need and was clearly developed by people most affected by police harassment.” JUNTOS will use their grant to hire a community organizer to open a Norristown office.

CATA has a strong track record organizing migrant Latino farm workers and plans to expand their reach to include workers at Chester County meat and vegetable packing facilities. “CATA is being led by young, energetic leaders who are absolutely amazing,” CGC member Molly Frantz says. “Despite significant risk, they are doing whatever it takes to win.”

The six groups who received funding through the Latino Organizing Fund are building power for a growing population. “There was a lot of talk about the power of the Latino electorate during the last election,” says Will Gonzalez, executive director of Ceiba, which has been working for change in eastern North Philadelphia. “But the real magic happens after we vote leaders in and have to hold their feet to the fire to make real change.”

Grantees were selected because of their commitment to grassroots community organizing as well as racial and economic justice. Their dedication to collective action helps cultivate the next generation of Latino leaders fighting for real and lasting social change in our region.
Hillary Blecker wants to create more dialogue between people and communities in the Delaware Valley. “Whether we’re talking about police brutality or schools closing down, the fact that we rarely talk to people with other opinions means we don’t challenge our own thinking,” she says.

Hillary’s full-time work is at PhilaPOSH, where she creates opportunities for meaningful exchange through trainings for labor and immigrant rights groups. She’s also the co-founder of the Philadelphia Trainers’ Collaborative (PTC).

PTC brings together educators, organizers, and trainers to strengthen facilitation skills and share organizing tips. In three years, Hillary and co-founders Jess Levy and Susan Kim have built a network of 400 stakeholders and turned PTC into a member-run cooperative. PTC programs are co-sponsored by Bread & Roses, which is how Hillary began to learn more about the organization.

“I really wanted to give a pot of money somewhere, and I didn’t exactly know where to give it,” Hillary says. “I realized I could trust Bread & Roses to support the grassroots organizing that I care about.”

Hillary is a member of Resource Generation, an organization that provides opportunities for young people with wealth to leverage their privilege for social change movements. “There are lots of people on the left who have money, but many have difficulty being honest about it,” she says. “Resource Generation helped me understand that I have a story to tell about class too.”

Through the Resource Generation network, Hillary is helping to create a cross-class giving circle to support housing justice work. “The foreclosure crisis shed light on the effects of predatory investment in housing and land development. We want to provide opportunities for donors to take part in collective learning and funding for the fight for housing. And we are looking for donors to join us!” she says.

Hillary grew up in Margate, N.J., and now lives in West Philly. Her interest in social justice started early. “I was always someone that asked why a lot. I wanted to understand the root causes of why there were haves and have-nots,” she says.

Hillary’s commitment to creating dialogue, training trainers, and contributing annually to Bread & Roses Community Fund is helping to build a movement for real change in our region. Thank you, Hillary!

**Heeding God’s Call**

“The Newtown incident got the attention of a large group of people who weren’t paying attention. And that’s a good thing,” Bryan Miller, executive director of Heeding God’s Call, says. “But our focus is on the daily violence that occurs in cities.”

In 2012, 331 people were murdered in Philadelphia, the vast majority by illegal handguns.

*Racial & Economic Justice Fund* grantee Heeding God’s Call brought attention to illegal gun sales at Colosimo’s Gun Center in 2010, resulting in the store’s closure by the U.S. Attorney’s Office. But the group’s goal is not to close gun shops but to get store owners to follow the rules.

“There is a very highly organized illegal distribution system that can be stopped with some basic advocacy and common-sense changes to the law,” Bryan says. “We make grassroots change happen by focusing on the critical juncture where guns leave gun shops and end up being illegally resold.”

Heeding God’s Call is now targeting Delia’s, a gun shop in Northeast Philadelphia. The store’s management has not signed a voluntary code of conduct aimed at stopping straw gun purchases. Bob Fles, coordinator of a Heeding God’s Call chapter in Northwest Philadelphia, says, “The postcard campaign is meant to stir the stew, be just enough of an annoyance, day after day, to remind the owner of the volume of people out there who care about his business practices.”

Heeding God’s Call includes people of all faiths from over 70 area congregations. “Historically, if you look at issues like civil rights, suffrage, and abolition, people of faith lead the way,” Bryan says.

With the support of Bread & Roses stakeholders, Heeding God’s Call is building a movement against gun violence. To learn more or get involved, visit www.heedinggodscall.org.
Media Mobilizing Fund received an Opportunity Fund grant to attend a convention at the Vermont Workers’ Center in September. MMP gained valuable skills by learning about successful campaigns that promote the dignity of all people.

The Philadelphia chapters of the National Organization for Women and the Coalition of Labor Union Women, Opportunity Fund grantees, created a handbook and held trainings this winter about running for election board or committee person as part of an effort to encourage community and civic group members to run for local office.

One Percent Fund grantee Decarcerate PA joined Opportunity Fund grantee Philadelphia Student Union and Fight for Philly to take over the state house in Harrisburg during Governor Corbett’s budget address in February. The group demanded halting the construction of a new state prison in Montgomery County and more investment in schools, not prisons. In 2011, Governor Corbett decreased education spending by over $1 billion and increased prison spending.

After pressure from groups including Phoebus Criminal Justice Initiative grantee One Love Movement, Philadelphia City Council adopted the Resolution on Comprehensive Immigration Reform in February. In testimony at the hearing, One Love’s Mia-Lia Kiernan said, “Our federal government will have to respond to its failures in lawmaking as more and more local governments take a stand.”

Philadelphia Coalition Advocating for Public Schools rallies against school closures in March (p. 4).