How would you distribute the gifts of hundreds of donors? Bread & Roses Community Fund puts its grantmaking decisions in the hands of people who are closest to the issues: community organizers, activists, and donors who have firsthand knowledge of how to make real change in the Philadelphia region.

The Community Grantmaking Committee (CGC) uses a consensus-based process to identify which groups are most qualified for grants and to inform Bread & Roses on how the grantmaking program can best meet the needs of activists in the Philadelphia region.

This spring, 14 new CGC members joined six returning members, representing a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences.

“I was looking for ways to practice my politics now that I’m not a full-time organizer, and participating in the CGC was a really good fit,” says new member Jennifer Jordan.

Serving on the CGC is a substantial time commitment. In this spring’s grant cycle, committee members split into teams to evaluate and interview more than 40 grant-seeking organizations. Final deliberations took place during an all-day meeting in June.

The process was intense, but both new and returning committee members approached it with dedication and enthusiasm. “It was challenging to realize how much impact we could have had if we had four times more money,” says Max Ray, new CGC member and longtime ACT UP member. “But it was really inspiring when we got to the end of the grantmaking process, and people literally got out their checkbooks and said, ‘I’m going to give more money this year.’”

Jordan echoes those feelings of hope: “I would come home at night after CGC interviews and feel like there’s good stuff happening in the world and that there’s a role I can play by helping to fund it. It was really meaningful to me.”
Dear friends,

I’m so pleased to introduce the 2014 Bread & Roses grantees. These groups and their members are advancing and delivering justice in our region every day, and I hope you’ll come meet them at our annual On the Rise event in a few short weeks.

As a donor, I feel proud to sustain the work of these community groups by supporting Bread & Roses. As you read through the enclosed list of grantees, I hope you feel proud too. These grants are made possible only through your support.

One of our proud donors, Leah Pillsbury, is profiled in this newsletter. She is a young person who both donates and fundraises for social change, and she was drawn to Bread & Roses because of our participatory grantmaking structure. I was delighted when she got more involved this spring by serving on the Tribute to Change planning committee.

The Tribute to Change took place in June in the penthouse of the National Museum of American Jewish History and was a wonderful success. Thank you all for sponsoring, attending, and supporting the event. It was a meaningful celebration of our conscience and freedom honorees and a great party as well. You can read more about the evening and see photos on page 3.

Finally, I am thrilled to present our new Community Grantmaking Committee (CGC) in this issue’s cover story. Fourteen new members joined six CGC veterans this spring to review grant applications, conduct interviews, and face the daunting task of selecting a limited number of grantees from a well-qualified pool. You can read more about each CGC member on our website, and I encourage you to get to know this dedicated, hard-working group of local organizers and activists.

In solidarity,

Casey Cook
executive director

DONOR PROFILE

Leah Pillsbury: Let Someone Else Decide

Every Sunday at church when she was growing up, Leah’s parents gave her and her siblings an allowance. That same morning, they were required to take a portion and donate it to the church. “Philanthropy was part of my life for as long as I can remember,” she says. “It was both a civic and religious duty. But it was also more than that: a responsibility for anyone who had something to give.”

Leah developed a career in fundraising in part because she wanted to move more money to movements for change than she could personally give away. However, she’s not interested in the power that comes with being a donor. “My ability to donate doesn’t mean that I am the best person to determine where the money should go. I most appreciate Bread & Roses’ commitment to participatory grantmaking.”

“Bread & Roses is a perfect entry point for someone who’s interested in supporting social justice work,” says Leah. “You can trust the Community Grantmaking Committee to direct your donation to groups doing good work that you might not have on your radar.”

Leah also highlights the accessibility of Bread & Roses’ funding to new and controversial groups: “As a fundraiser, I know how difficult it can be to win grants. On top of that, there are so few sources interested in supporting the more radical work that so many Bread & Roses grantees engage in.”

This spring, Leah served on the planning committee for the 2014 Tribute to Change. “I joined the planning committee to further support and promote Bread & Roses,” she says.

Leah concludes, “I want to inspire more people to give to Bread & Roses and to feel as proud of their participation as donors in movements for change as they would as activists. We can all be activists, but we can also all be donors in some way.”

Leah Pillsbury
Donor since 2007
Occupation Fundraiser
Why she gives “The involvement of activists in grantmaking decisions.”
The Future Fund supports organizations that are working on emerging issues or developing new approaches to social justice activism. These groups may employ a variety of strategies, including cultural work, media advocacy, and political education.

The Girls’ Justice League convenes girls and young women to identify issues and advocate for their interests. In July, they held an “activist summer camp” in which girls developed direct action campaigns.

Parents United for Public Education fights for full and equitable funding for Philadelphia’s public schools. Their new school-based training programs will help parents to push for fair education reform.

The Pennsylvania Student Equality Coalition (PSEC) is developing queer youth activists to pressure school districts to implement trans-friendly anti-discrimination policies in the Philadelphia suburbs. PSEC hopes these policies will provide a model for schools across the state.

The Philadelphia Workers’ Association organizes day laborers in Northeast Philadelphia to negotiate with police and representatives from Home Depot. They hope to create a safe space to look for work and assemble to address common grievances.

The Racial & Economic Justice Fund supports groups that are engaged in direct-action community organizing in the Philadelphia region to promote racial and economic justice at the local, state, national, or international policy levels.

1 Love Movement unites immigrants to fight the discrimination and deportation practices that separate their families and damage their neighborhoods. They are addressing the intersection of the criminal justice and deportation systems and plan to take collective action.

ACT UP Philadelphia uses direct action to work toward an end to the AIDS crisis. They are mobilizing to ensure that Pennsylvania’s next governor makes AIDS treatments affordable and accessible for everyone in the state.

The Campaign to Take Back Vacant Land is a coalition of faith, labor, and community organizations that gives residents a voice in the redevelopment of abandoned properties. They are monitoring the creation of Philadelphia’s land bank to ensure that its implementation is fair.

DreamActivist PA is a group of undocumented youth who disrupt deportation proceedings through civil disobedience. They also connect with community allies and other immigrant advocacy groups to expose illegal detention procedures and fight for fair immigration reform.

Heeding God’s Call is a multi-faith coalition addressing the epidemic of gun violence in Philadelphia. They confront both politicians and individual gun shop owners to pressure them to better regulate gun sales in the city.

The Philadelphia Student Union organizes high school students to fight budget and staff cuts, lack of services, and unfair policies in the School District of Philadelphia. They are currently establishing new high school chapters and pressuring gubernatorial candidates to support more education funding.

POWER (Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower and Rebuild) is a cross-faith network of congregations that take action on issues affecting low- and moderate-income Philadelphians. POWER is focused on holding city council and the mayor accountable for enforcing the new living-wage standards for subcontracted workers that POWER helped win earlier this year.

The Restaurant Opportunities Center of Philadelphia helps restaurant employees take collective action against unfair employers. They are escalating their “Dignity at Darden” campaign to force the Darden Restaurant Group to improve working conditions in popular restaurant chains.
PHOEBUS CRIMINAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE
A partnership with the Phoebus Fund family foundation, the Phoebus Criminal Justice Initiative provides grants for criminal justice reform activism. Grantees target issues that include police accountability, racially biased sentencing, the growth of the for-profit prison industry, criminalization of youth, and the death penalty.

Books Through Bars distributes books and other publications to prisoners. They are establishing book clubs, volunteer forums, and partnerships with halfway houses to encourage collaboration across prison walls.

EXIT-US holds civic engagement and voter education forums for returning citizens, helping them challenge the unfair political and punitive systems that oppress them.

Heart to Heart: Comienzos East conducts workshops that help inmates develop spiritual, nonviolent, and community-based leadership skills through meditation and reflective discussion.

Hearts on a Wire is a transgender and gender-variant prison justice collective. Their Homecoming Project helps transgender returning citizens re-enter society as comfortable, accurate versions of themselves.

The Human Rights Coalition documents and exposes cases of torture, abuse, and inhumane conditions in Pennsylvania prisons. They are canvassing to talk directly with people in the community about prison abuse and reform.

Mothers in Charge brings together victims, families, and perpetrators of violent crime to break cycles of violence and criminalization. The group held their third national conference in May, convening anti-violence activists from around the country.

New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia organizes faith communities in Philadelphia to push for fair immigration reform. Having persuaded Mayor Nutter to end ICE holds in the city, the group is holding the city accountable for its promise while advocating for national reform.

The Pennsylvania Innocence Project litigates on behalf of those wrongfully convicted of serious crimes. They provide services to prisoners and their families while conducting research and legal advocacy to support systemic judicial reform.

Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity (PLSE) challenges legal and employment policies that keep formerly convicted people from earning an income. PLSE are developing an online platform to inform people of their rights and help them combat unjust policies.

Prison Radio gives a voice to those who are incarcerated, allowing them to expose prison conditions firsthand. They are identifying incarcerated correspondents in Pennsylvania to produce a series of several dozen broadcast essays.

Reconstruction Inc. convenes returning citizens, youth, and the families of incarcerated people to incubate a large-scale movement to end mass incarceration. Reconstruction is developing several new programs focused on grant writing, organizational development, and youth leadership.

Reunification Transportation Services provides bus trips to prison facilities in rural Pennsylvania so that Philadelphia residents can visit incarcerated relatives. They are mobilizing family members to become advocates for prison reform.

Witness to Innocence is an organization led by death row exonerees that advocates for an end to capital punishment. They are conducting outreach in Philadelphia’s low-income black and Latino neighborhoods to inform residents about race and class biases in death penalty sentencing.

X-Offenders for Community Empowerment organizes formerly convicted people to reduce recidivism, prevent violent crime, and help returning citizens access essential services. Their “Pardon Me” clinics teach people how to get convictions cleared from their permanent records.

The Youth Art and Self-empowerment Project (YASP) holds art and poetry workshops for youth incarcerated in adult jails. YASP is also working to repeal Pennsylvania Act 33, which allows youth to be charged as adults.

Youth United for Change (YUC) organizes Philadelphia students to end the school-to-prison pipeline. They are pressuring public officials to implement a variety of improvements, from accelerated school oversight to cafeteria nutrition programs.

OPPORTUNITY FUND
Offered monthly, Opportunity Fund grants are intended for unforeseen projects that are not part of an organization’s ongoing work. These activities are frequently in response to rapidly emerging issues and may include demonstrations and rallies, coalition activities, conferences/forums, and outreach materials.

For a full list of Opportunity Fund grantees, visit the Bread & Roses website at http://breadrosesfund.org/about/grantees/opportunity-fund-grantees/.
Celebrating Movement Building at the 2014 Tribute to Change

In a prison infirmary, a nurse refuses to force-feed a prisoner who is on a hunger strike.

In the conference room of a large private foundation, a young grassroots organization decides not to take funding that requires “toning down” their direct action tactics.

In a faculty lounge, a teacher speaks up when he hears a colleague make a racist joke about a student.

Behind closed doors, a person’s character is truly revealed. Choosing to act on your conscience in the face of injustice is morally righteous but often lonely. At the Tribute to Change on June 24, hundreds of Philadelphia-area changemakers gathered to publicly celebrate brave people who have taken enormous risks to demand freedom.

The Citizens’ Commission to Investigate the FBI received the Paul Robeson Lifetime Achievement Award for breaking into the FBI office in Media, Pa., in 1971 to uncover evidence of FBI surveillance and intimidation.

The Trailblazer Award was presented to Sue Osthoff for her pioneering work protecting the legal rights of survivors of domestic abuse who face criminal charges.

Mia-lii Kiernan received the Emerging Leader Award for building a grassroots movement for immigrant justice.

This year’s Community Empowerment Award went to Decarcerate PA for their fight to shrink the prison system and expand community institutions that actually keep people safe.

The Philadelphia chapter of Resource Generation received the Robin Hood Was Right Award for organizing to transform philanthropy and for leveraging their collective power to make lasting structural change.

Each of these honorees has made hard decisions that were unglamorous, unpopular, or risky. At the Tribute to Change, the Philadelphia social justice community recognized and applauded these choices. However, honorees’ fights against deportation, mass incarceration, government surveillance, and unfair sentencing are far from over. Bread & Roses gives grants to grassroots organizations that carry out the fundamental daily work of organizing, dissenting, and resisting. The 2014 Tribute to Change raised more than $50,000 for Bread & Roses’ grantmaking programs to fund movements for change in the Philadelphia region.

A video about the 2014 Tribute to Change is being produced by Media Mobilizing Project and will be aired on PhillyCAM and posted on the Bread & Roses website, www.breadrosesfund.org.

“No matter how brave and righteous a whistleblower may be, there also needs to be an engaged citizenry ready to give their courageous acts wind under their wings. Each of the 2014 Tribute to Change honorees is blowing the whistle on injustice, and they are all demonstrating leadership that demands our attention and support.”

Danielle Brian, 2014 Tribute to Change emcee and executive director of the Project on Government Oversight
In March, the Youth Art and Self-empowerment Project (YASP)’s film *Stolen Dreams II* won the award for best documentary at the Philadelphia Youth Media Collaborative’s Mashed Media Awards. *Stolen Dreams II* describes the problems facing youth incarcerated in adult jails. YASP is arranging more screenings of the film to support their campaign to overturn Act 33, which allows youth in Pennsylvania to be tried as adults.

Members of YASP pose with the award they received for their documentary about youth incarceration.

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**Bread & Roses community fund**

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**FROM THE frontlines**

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**Funds and Programs**

- Racial & Economic Justice Fund
- Future Fund
- Phoebus Criminal Justice Initiative
- Opportunity Fund
- One Percent Fund
- Donor-Advised Programs
- Jonathan Lax Scholarship Fund
- Barbara Smith Community School

**Grants in Action**

**Mothers in Charge**, a Phoebus Criminal Justice Initiative grantee, held their second national conference in Philadelphia in May. This year’s conference brought antiviolence activists from all over the U.S. to Philadelphia to draw the connection between political activism and personal healing for relatives of gun crime victims.

Shortly after being selected for a Phoebus Criminal Justice Initiative grant in March, the Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity settled a lawsuit with Sunoco that pressured the company to voluntarily change its hiring policies to comply with Philadelphia’s “Ban the Box” law.

**Parents United for Public Education** mobilized parents to successfully resist the School District of Philadelphia’s plans to remove two elementary schools, Edward T. Steel and Luis Muñoz Marín, from community control. During the campaign in May, parents collaborated with teachers and helped to redefine their common vision of public education.

Thanks to voter mobilization work conducted by Philadelphia Organized to Witness, Empower and Rebuild (POWER), Philadelphia passed a referendum in May to extend the city’s base wage of $10.88/hour to all workers on city contracts — a huge victory for more than 1,500 low-wage workers in the city.

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