



Voices for change

MRG Foundation

2014-2015 **Impact Report**

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I found my voice when I was 15.

I walked into my local Planned Parenthood and demanded to know why I didn't see girls who looked like me in their brochures or on their Teen Council. That early moment of asking hard questions and speaking my truth inspired me to work for reproductive justice and social change in Oregon.

This passion for storytelling is a continuous thread in my career and a key part of my work at MRG Foundation. Our work is rooted in funding, fueling, amplifying, and supporting community-based organizing across the state so that, together, we can create strong voices for social change.

MRG funds voices calling for change across Oregon. Over the past year, we've continued to elevate the stories of our grantees and throughout this report you will hear from dedicated activists like Laura, Khalil, Duncan, and others who are doing incredible work in our communities – work you helped fund through your support of MRG Foundation!

MRG uses its voice to push for political change. For the first time in our 40-year history, MRG endorsed a ballot measure. Measure 88 would have ensured all Oregonians, regardless of documentation, access to our roads to get to school and work safely. It also served as an important opportunity to elevate critical immigrant rights issues.

MRG listens to the voices of our grantees. After hearing from movement leaders about the critical need for responsive and accessible capacity building, we initiated an innovative partnership with the Meyer Memorial Trust to launch the Capacity Building Initiative. Through the CBI, we will be working with a cohort of ten grassroots groups to build their organizational leadership and help them reach their growth goals!

As we move forward into MRG's 40th year, I am bolstered by the evidence – in this report and in our communities – that our funding and support is yielding results. But we can't do it alone. MRG's voice joins those of activists, donors, community members, and philanthropy leaders to inspire Oregon's social justice movement.

Whether you are new to MRG, or a long-time supporter, I invite you to share your voice. I know that together you and I can be bold, innovative, and supportive of grassroots organizing to build a more inclusive Oregon for all.

Join us!



Portland Grantees

General Fund

350PDX \$9,000

Community Alliance of Tenants \$15,000

Groundwork Portland \$14,500

Living Stages \$7,000

OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon \$18,000

PassinArt: A Theatre Company \$8,000

PFLAG Portland Black Chapter \$10,000

Portland Jobs with Justice \$15,000

Portland Parent Union \$10,000

Right 2 Dream Too \$9,000

Voz Workers' Rights Education Project \$20,000

Travel & Critical Response Grantees

Community Alliance of Tenants \$2,000

Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice
\$2,000

OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon \$500

Portland African American Leadership Forum
\$2,000

Right 2 Dream Too \$200

Right 2 Survive \$1,000

Thanks to Kyle Weismann-Yee, Izzy Ventura, Kamala Kingsley, Taran Nadler Photography, and our grantees for photos throughout this report.

My motto is to be in service to others. Whatever type of work I do, I want to be in service to the community. My work as the Co-Director of PFLAG-Portland Black Chapter allows me to use activism to be in service to a community that is tied to the person I am, a person with intersecting identities.

PFLAG-PBC provides a voice to a community that finds strength in all of their identities and uses that strength to further the social and racial justice movement. In 2014, we stepped into a leadership role in the Freedom to Marry campaign with Oregon United for Marriage. We did this by galvanizing the Black community to address the racial wedge too often used by opponents of same sex marriage to undermine social and racial justice movements. We brought a new voice to the conversation, and intersectionality and inclusion to the movement.

MRG's funding has made it possible for us to realize our vision and stretch to become a Black LGBTQ organization that works at the intersections of oppression. It has also allowed us to do our work authentically, without having to shift our programming to follow the money.

> **Khalil Edwards**

Co-Director, PFLAG Portland Black Chapter, Portland



We bring a new voice to the conversation...

Khalil Edwards on the importance of diversity in today's movements.



I have been in the struggle alongside my community...

Laura Isiordia on building leaders who are most impacted by injustice.

For centuries, my community has been colonized. Being part of an oppressed community I've been told to think of myself as just another statistic. I have worked to dismantle this internalized colonization and now define myself as a survivor of domestic violence, former farmworker, proud single parent, and community leader.

At times, it was hard for me to fully understand the challenges I was facing. When I named them as injustices, I was inspired to work towards change. Since that moment in 1994 I have been in the struggle alongside my community in the Willamette Valley in hopes of overcoming the "-isms" that have been imposed on us.

MRG has been a key supporter of our work through their backing of CAPACES Leadership Institute, where I am working to redefine my identity and provide training and support to our community in Woodburn and throughout Oregon. At the institute we are conducting program evaluation and sharing our leadership development nationally. We are also launching RE-TURNO, a program that inculcates political consciousness in our youth leaders.

MRG allows us to be ourselves without fear. We share the same values and stick together when controversial issues arise because *el pueblo unido jamás será vencido*/the people united will never be divided.

> **Laura Isiordia**

Executive Director, CAPACES Leadership Institute, Woodburn

Willamette Valley Grantees

General Fund

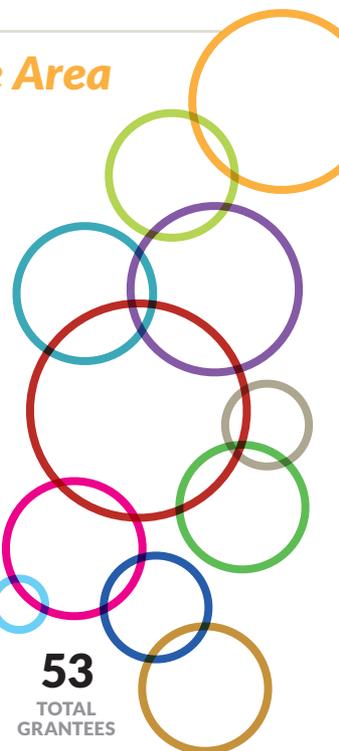
Lakota Oyate Ki \$6,000
Latino Club \$10,000
Unidos Bridging Community \$10,000
CAPACES Leadership Institute \$17,000
Community Alliance of Lane County \$12,000
Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality \$18,000

Travel & Critical Response Grantees

Voz Hispana Cambio Comunitario \$1,000

Funding by Issue Area

Economic Justice **15%**
Youth/Education **8%**
Environmental Justice **13%**
Housing/Homelessness **9%**
Human Rights **19%**
Civic Engagement **4%**
Immigrant Rights **8%**
Cultural Preservation **9%**
Criminal Justice Reform **6%**
Disability Rights **2%**
LGBTQ Rights **8%**





This is just the beginning...

Hannah Sohl on building a movement for climate justice.

I grew up in the Rogue Valley and have always appreciated the importance of clean rivers in our thriving communities.

After college, I traveled to British Columbia where Shell Oil was trying to develop a fracking operation, but was stopped by a diverse coalition working to protect their community's environment, economy, and culture. When I came back to Oregon, I saw the same thing: out-of-state corporations putting their profits ahead of the wellbeing of Rogue Valley communities. But it doesn't have to be that way!

In 2013, I got together with my community to create an art installation we took to Salem to highlight the impact of climate change and the need for action. After that initial event, we kept bringing people together, kept elevating climate change as a critical issue, kept working to activate Southern Oregonians. Every day it felt like there was more work to do, so we launched Rogue Climate to build on the forward momentum.

We'd only launched Rogue Climate when we got our first grant from MRG! Getting funding from MRG was the tipping point that allowed us to secure more funding partners, and build a strong movement for climate justice.

And this is just the beginning.

> **Hannah Sohl**

Director, Rogue Climate, Phoenix

Southern Oregon Grantees

General Fund

Disabled United in Direct Empowerment (DUDE) \$8,500

Komemma Cultural Protection Association \$9,000

Multicultural Association of Southern Oregon/ KSKQ Radio \$9,000

Lotus Rising Project \$8,000

Red Earth Descendants \$6,000

Rogue Climate \$10,000

Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice \$7,500

Rogue Valley Oregon Action \$20,000

Unete Center for Farmworker Advocacy \$9,000

Travel & Critical Response Grantees

Lotus Rising Project \$700

Rogue Climate \$2,000

Funding by Region

Portland Metro **32%**

Coast **6%**

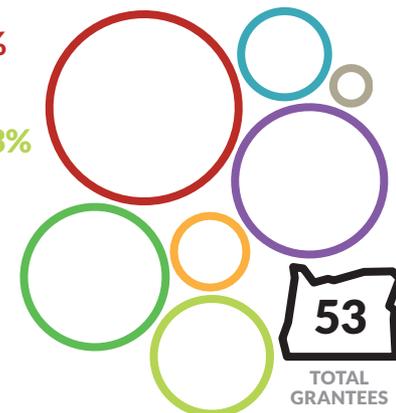
Willamette Valley **13%**

Southern **21%**

Central **8%**

Eastern **2%**

Statewide **19%**



Statewide Grantees

General Fund

Beyond Toxics \$8,000

Civil Liberties Defense Center \$17,000

COFA Alliance National Network \$9,000

Common Cause Oregon \$15,000

Northwest Workers' Justice Project \$14,500

Red Lodge Transition Services \$9,000

Rural Organizing Project \$15,000

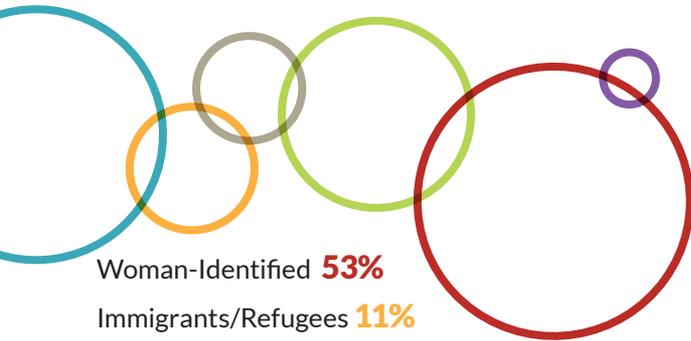
Spect-Actors Collective \$8,000

Travel & Critical Response Grantees

Northwest Workers' Justice Project \$1,000

Oregon Action \$900

Organizational Leadership



Woman-Identified **53%**

Immigrants/Refugees **11%**

Low Income **25%**

People Living with Disabilities **2%**

People of Color **45%**

LGBTQ People **8%**

Community is what brings me to this work.

The Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) emphasizes community organizing and leadership development in advancing social justice for Oregon's fast growing Asian Pacific Islander population. We empower our leaders to be strong advocates for themselves and their communities.

MRG funding helped us jumpstart much of our work. With MRG's support for our Asian Pacific Parent Leadership Empowerment (APPLE) initiative, we worked alongside the Vietnamese community to create the state's first Vietnamese dual language immersion program. Thanks to the success of this initiative, we received support from larger funders like the Kaiser Permanente Community Fund and the Gates Foundation and contracts with Portland Public Schools. With this success APANO is now working to pay it forward.

By developing APANO chapters throughout the state, and using our experience and partnerships, we hope to support growing organizations to build a strong network of API groups across Oregon.

Even though we have graduated from MRG's General Fund Program, we are honored to continue to work alongside them to grow the social justice movement.

> **Duncan Hwang**

Associate Director, Asian Pacific American
Network of Oregon (APANO), Portland



APANO is now working to pay it forward...

Duncan Hwang on how experienced organizations can support emerging groups.



I give because I know that time is not money...

Linda Reymers on her history with MRG as a donor, volunteer, and activist.

I have been a part of the MRG community for much of its forty years.

I have been a grantee, grantmaker, donor, and grants program director. Although I appreciate the opportunity to volunteer my time with MRG and its grantees, I donate because I know that time is not money.

I give because MRG does things differently. They fund groups that are often unlikely to receive traditional funding, and confidently support emerging groups and issues through their activist-led grantmaking.

By bringing together activists from a wide range of issues and communities they are able to share the movement's breadth and momentum, a sense that is difficult to experience from any one community's vantage point.

I have stayed involved with MRG over the years because of the dynamism of the organization. MRG consistently increases the number of grants given and the amount of dollars awarded, while implementing innovative new strategies.

It's been wonderful to witness MRG's growth and development first hand. I love how I can now go to MRG events and not know everyone there. There's a whole new generation of activists joining those of us who have been around the block, creating vital intergenerational exchange and an ever-growing community.

> **Linda Reymers**

Donor, Volunteer, and Past MRG Staff, Eugene

Central/Eastern Oregon Grantees

General Fund

- Central Oregon Jobs with Justice \$8,000
- Human Dignity Coalition \$8,000
- Oregon Rural Action \$18,000
- Women's Civic Improvement League/KPOV \$15,000

Travel & Critical Response Grantees

- Central Oregon Jobs with Justice \$900

Coast Grants

General Fund

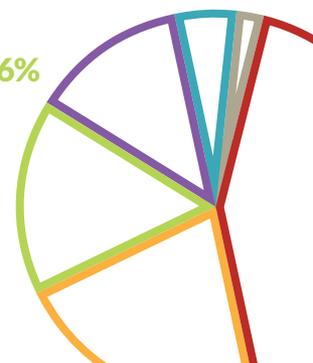
- Confederated Tribes of the Lower Rogue \$8,000
- Lower Columbia Diversity Project \$2,000

Travel & Critical Response Grantees

- Confederated Tribes of the Lower Rogue \$800

MRG Expenses

- Grassroots Grantmaking **43%**
- Community Education **21%**
- Donor-Advised Grantmaking **16%**
- Fundraising **13%**
- Administration **5%**
- Capacity Building Initiative **2%**





I like giving through my MRG donor-advised fund.

It gives me the time and privacy to do research on where I want to give.

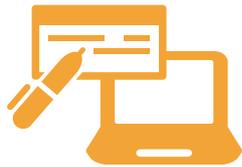
> DA Fund Donor

MRG's donor-advised funds allow donors to deepen and widen the impact of our vision and values by supporting specific social change organizations throughout the U.S. Last year, DA Fund donors designated over \$230,000 to create a more just and joyful world. Donor anonymity is assured and grants are monitored. MRG staff is also available to provide donors with background information on specific organizations or interest areas.

Donor-advised Fund Grantees | 1,000 Friends of Oregon | American Friends Service Committee | Backbone Campaign (The Other 98%) | CAPACES Leadership Institute | Cascadia Wildlands | Catholic Charities | CAUSA of Oregon | Center for Constitutional Rights | Center for Food Safety | Center for Intercultural Organizing | Central City Concern | Columbia University School of Nursing | Community Alliance of Lane County | Corporate Accountability International | Crag Law Center | De La Salle North Catholic High School | Democracy Now Productions Inc. | Earthjustice | Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon | Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide | Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting, Inc. | Foundation for National Progress (Mother Jones) | Health Care for All Oregon - Education Fund | Heart of America Northwest | High Country News | High Desert Journal | Independent Media Institute | Inner Court Family Center | Jesuit Volunteer Corps NW | Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center | Komemba Cultural Protection Association | Lake County Library | Lake County Resource Initiative | Latino Community Association | Lomakatsi Restoration Project | Lotus Rising Project | Multnomah County Library Foundation | Native American Youth & Family Center | New Israel Fund | Open Meadow Alternative Schools | Oregon Center for Public Policy | Oregon Climate | Oregon Environmental Council | Oregon Foundation for Reproductive Health (NARAL) | Oregon Natural Desert Association | Paisley Public Charter School | Peace Development Fund | Pelican Harbor Seabird Station Inc. | Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN) | Portland Piano International | Red Lodge Transition Services | Reed Institute | Resist, Inc. | Rogue Climate | Ruckus Society | Rural Advancement Foundation International | Rural Organizing Project | S.T.A.R.S. Mentoring Program | Sisters of the Road Café | St. Andrew Nativity School | St. David of Wales Episcopal Church | Street Roots | The Waterston Writing Prize | THRIVE | United for a Fair Economy | Virginia Garcia Memorial Foundation | Voz Workers' Rights Education Project | Water Watch | Western States Center | Willamette Farm and Food Coalition | Willamette Valley Law Project

Fund the world you want to live in by supporting MRG Foundation's work.

You can contribute in the following ways:



Write a check or give online

Send a check to our office or give online through our website.



Become a monthly donor

Join our simple and automated monthly giving program that allows you to enter your information once and support MRG all year long.



Donate stock or appreciated IRA

You can give stock or distributions from your IRA. Please contact MRG office or visit our website for stock gift information.



Establish a donor-advised fund

Open a donor-advised fund with MRG Foundation. MRG DA Fund holders are able to nominate grantees throughout the U.S. to be the beneficiaries of their support.



Include MRG in your will

Become a supporter for life! MRG staff and advisors are available to help you identify and develop long-term vehicles to support your progressive charitable goals throughout your lifetime and beyond. Please contact us!

To volunteer or give a gift up to \$1,000 contact **Ranfjs Giannettino Villatoro, Grassroots Giving Director** ranfjs@mrgfoundation.org

For gifts over \$1,000 or for information about donor-advised funds, donating stock, and planned giving contact **Carol Tatch, Major Giving Director** carol@mrgfoundation.org

MRG Foundation

Igniting social change. Advancing social justice.

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**Join MRG Foundation
as we enter our 40th year
of building a just and
vibrant Oregon and as we
plan our next 40 years!**