



New England Grassroots Environment Fund

<http://grassrootsfund.org>

2014 Annual Report

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2014 Letter from the (new) Executive Director



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I am pleased to present the 2014 annual report, and honored to be chosen as the Executive Director following in the footsteps of Cheryl King Fischer and so many extraordinary accomplishments over the last 18 years. In keeping with Cheryl's strong leadership, 2014 has been a phenomenal time of growth and vibrancy for the Grassroots Fund. Thank you for sharing in our success and for joining me in honoring Cheryl's dedication and support of real grassroots action.

At the outset of 2014, the leadership and transition team members stepped back to reflect on how this small but mighty organization can and must commit to our roots, maximize our assets, honestly address areas for improvement, and ultimately share our model, experiences and grantee successes for broader use. By the end of 2014 the leadership transition was formalized and we hosted our inaugural Seed and Songs Celebration event to honor Cheryl and the grassroots groups we serve. Other meaningful changes include:

- * Relocating the main office to a cost effective collaborative space at a revitalized mill in Newmarket, NH.
- * Setting up a satellite office in Burlington, VT as a collaborative office share with long-time partner, the Center for Whole Communities.

Within easy access of Portland, Concord, Boston and other New England hotspots of local action, our Newmarket office is staffed by Leigh Cameron, Energy and Climate Program Coordinator, Ally Philip, Program Administrator, and myself. I am pleased to share that Bart Westdijk continues as Program Director in Burlington, VT and lead on our local food efforts.

In addition, we have come to truly appreciate how interconnected and integral our four base program areas are: Stories, Tools, Dollars, and Collaboratives. This year's annual report shares our accomplishments and metrics in these respective "buckets".

Many efforts to maximize our impact have already been incorporated - such as our office move - and many more are in the works. These expansion goals include: increasing the grant pool to get more dollars into grassroots projects for lasting change and expanding our annual RootSkills Retreat to include more trainings and networking events to best support our grantees and local organizers on more topics, in new formats, and in more locations across New England in collaboration with many partners and thought leaders.



To energize and nurture long-term civic engagement in local initiatives that create and maintain healthy, just, safe and environmentally sustainable communities.

2014 Letter from the (new) Executive Director - cntd.



We are energized by the unprecedented volume of amazing, thoughtful projects that are shared with us addressing waste/reuse, community resilience in the wake of climate change impacts, creating a localized food vision and envisioning a 'new economy'. We've heard from tool libraries, community gardens, energy and climate groups, time exchanges, and herb gardens, anti-fracking groups and plastic bag ban campaigns.

We are continually reminded of the value and even urgency for the Grassroots Fund's resources and services. Recently one of our long-time grantees shared their story with us, which speaks to the "but for..." of small grants and resource programs such as the Grassroots Fund that can and do fund small start-up projects in our communities before they are eligible for traditional grants or donors. The Boston Area Gleaners (BAG) received their first grant of \$1000 in 2008 from the Grassroots Fund with a budget of about \$8000 and a loose group of volunteers without 501c3 status. Their Executive Director, Laurie "Duck" Caldwell emailed us to say, "I think BAG may be at the end of the road in terms of applying for grants with the Grassroots Fund; unless you have created another tier of grants, we have outgrown the budget requirements. So this makes me think about how instrumental the Grassroots Fund has been in our growth during a very formative period. I think when we first applied in 2008 our budget was around 8K, and in 2010 when I started and applied, we were at a tenuous 24K. Our budget for this year is pushing 200K, and we will soon have 4 employees. Wow." What makes BAG's story even more impressive is they are now seen as one of the regional go-to's for seeding other gleaning initiatives across New England. We ask ourselves the reverse impact question, "What would be the (negative) impact of BAG never having gotten off the ground. How many ripples would not have been started without their inspiration and leadership?"

Our collective work dedicated to inspiring, connecting, and supporting community-based environmental and sustainability projects through the lens of social justice and equity has never been so critical or urgent. Disparity, racial tensions, ecological devastation, climate impacts, apathy, disillusionment is all around us. It's easy to feel despair. But the burning desire and commitment to seek a new, balanced path is everywhere! In communities across New England – across the country – everyday leaders are seeking new approaches to these real challenges. And as mammoth as these problems may seem, the solutions bubbling up from our communities are elegant and far-reaching. This year's annual report highlights our work to support such lasting innovation and is dedicated to all of you – our community champions seeking to light that candle in the darkness. It's our privilege to partner with you along that path.

As we move through 2015 with renewed vigor, hope and strategies, we honor all of our funders, partners and most importantly grantees - all our stalwart, dedicated volunteers digging in right where they are to address local challenges and lasting solutions.

Julia Dundorf,
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julia Dundorf".



2014 Dollars



Total dollars granted:

\$251,117

Total number of grants:

120

Percentage requests approved:

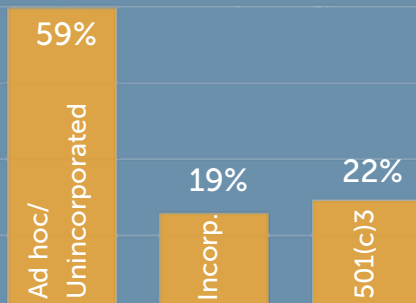
64%

Median grantee annual budget:

seed - **\$5,000**

grow - **\$19,000**

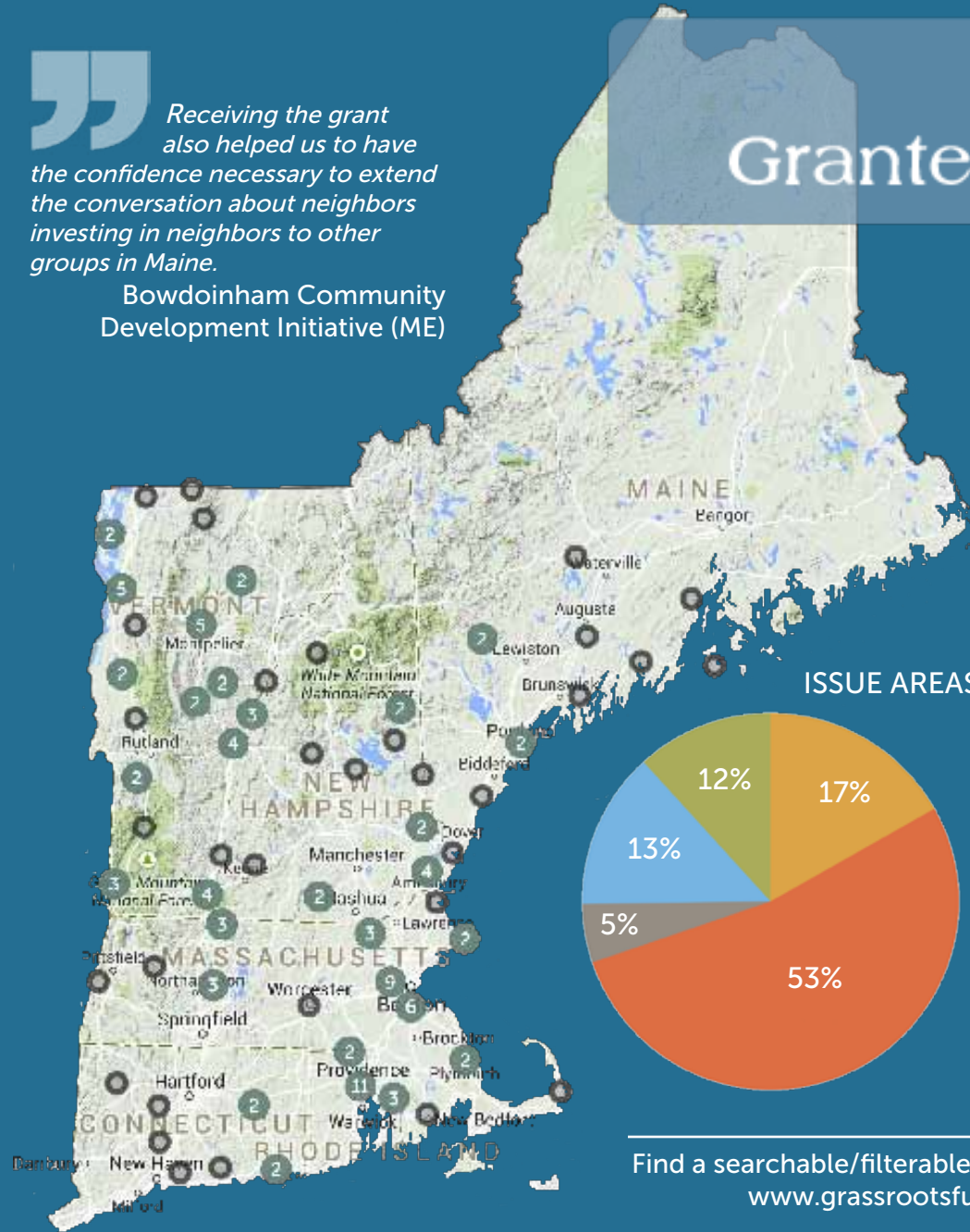
Grantee groups by tax status:



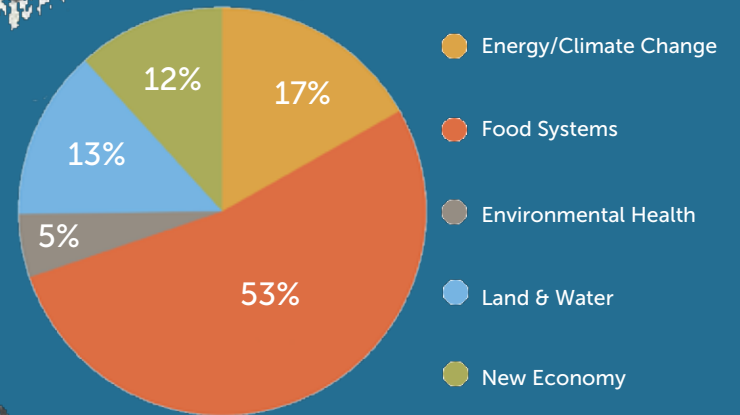
Receiving the grant also helped us to have the confidence necessary to extend the conversation about neighbors investing in neighbors to other groups in Maine.

Bowdoinham Community Development Initiative (ME)

2014 Grantee Map



ISSUE AREAS:



Find a searchable/filterable group map at:
www.grassrootsfund.org/stories/search

2014 Stories



FEATURE STORIES

The Grassroots Fund is so fortunate to talk - often on the phone - to many of the innovative, inspiring local leaders making change on the ground. From peecycling (yes, you read that right!) to revolving loan funds to urban gardens.

Our Feature Story section shares these stories. By building up an online library of inspiration, we seek to offer a tool that helps both individual leaders find their own 'spark' and help groups find additional inspiration for the work that is already happening.

Happy reading:

www.grassrootsfund.org/stories/feature-stories



Having our effort profiled as a Feature Story is now giving us much needed exposure. We feel that it is most important to get the word out to other communities that they can push back against the bottled water industry and against those townspeople who want to keep their plastic bottles of water because they are "convenient".

Concord On Tap (MA)



PEP (People Energizing People) TALKS

In addition to the written Feature Stories, we want to show the work that is happening all around us and highlight the tools that are helping local leaders implement their visions and plans for their neighborhoods and towns.

Our PEP Talk video library is filterable by state and by issue area to help users find videos that are most relevant. Working with our non-profit colleagues as well as with our grassroots network, PEP Talk videos bring forward those strategies and tools that can help move the region, and all its communities, towards increased sustainability and resilience.

Happy viewing:

www.grassrootsfund.org/stories/peptalks

To see more stories, visit: www.grassrootsfund.org/stories

2014 Tools



Online Resources

Each conversation with an applicant group includes the question, "what useful resources (websites or organizations) have really helped your group do its work?". We find that there are a lot of tools out there. We aim to help narrow down the options by building up a pool of vetted resources that are suggested to us by applicants - groups working on the ground that can speak to how a tool has helped them move their effort forward.

In addition to each group profile having Useful Resources posted directly on it, we also have a filterable section on our website (aptly named 'Tools') where users can narrow down and find both links to tools and to the groups that have already used those specific tools.



RootSkills Training Series

In addition to online resource sharing, the Grassroots Fund works with various facilitators to deliver a series of training opportunities. For example, Beth Tener, of New Directions Collaborative, facilitated a workshop on *Participatory Leadership - Working Together for Community Solutions* in November 2014.

The Grassroots Fund's vision for an expanded Training Series encompasses multi-day community of practice gatherings, the 2-day Networking & Training retreat, several 1-day trainings spread throughout the region, a growing number of webinars and locally-driven, Meet-Up type opportunities. The RootSkills series honors our strategic commitment to combine financial support with skill-based support to help address unique opportunities and challenges at the local level.

This program continues to develop at: www.grassrootsfund.org/tools/training



"In both webinars I attended, the presenters made some surprising and totally unexpected statements that exactly answered questions our fledgling organization was grappling with."

Bev Edwards,
Temple (NH)

Webinar series

Beyond the webinar topics offered through the Local Energy Solutions series (see to the right), the Grassroots Fund is collaborating with partners like the New England Resilience & Transition network to deliver webinars that introduce topics and organizing strategies that help volunteer leaders assess available tools and specific issue areas. These webinars reach a larger audience and facilitate important thinking and connections.

2014 Local Energy Solutions Webinar Topics:

- * February 19th - Group Net Metering 101
- * March 12th - Community Energy 101
- * May 14th - Energy Star Portfolio Manager Training Session
- * July 16th - Effective Community Engagement to Support Energy Projects
- * September 10th - Energy Efficiency Potential in Our Public Buildings
- * November 12th - Energy Efficiency 101: The LED and Heat Pump Technologies

To see more tools, visit: www.grassrootsfund.org/tools

2014 Collaboratives




NH Local Energy Working Group


During 2010/11 members of the Local Energy Committee Working Group as well as participants from other energy related committees and organizations met monthly to assess the needs, barriers, and opportunities in NH's communities to address local level energy issues and solutions. It became clear that despite numerous energy focused programs and funding streams to support such work, there is significant need for greater coordination and support to solve these complex issues. And some of our most creative solutions are coming from the ground up.

With this context in mind, the ad-hoc NH Local Energy Working Group (LEWG) was formed in September, 2011 building off the work of and replacing the NH LEC Working Group. The focus of the LEWG is to support and include the energy work of Local Energy Committees/Commissions, Municipalities and Schools. This is an open and inclusive ad-hoc group that welcomes new members willing to dig in on solving our energy issues collaboratively. The Grassroots Fund acts as the coordinator of this network with support from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Jane's Trust Foundation and the Putnam Foundation.

Learn more at: www.nhenergy.org



New England Local Energy Network



In May 2009 and July 2011, the Grassroots Fund brought together dozens of New England energy/climate practitioners to share their respective organizing and resource knowledge in Concord, NH and Sudbury, MA. As these participants worked on the ground to further climate change and energy solutions, there was clear recognition that great collaboration, coordination and sharing would not only avoid unnecessary redundancy but would also ultimately benefit New England's communities.

The goal of these convenings was based on the need to reduce barriers to local action while increasing the collaboration among groups supporting such action. Perhaps even more important, the time has come to help each other be as effective, efficient and coordinated as we can in the delivery of the support our organizations give to local-level energy and climate change action initiatives.

Thanks to the generous support of the Barr Foundation and the Putnam Foundation, the Grassroots Fund has served as the New England Local Energy Network coordinator since 2011.

Learn more at: www.nelocalenergy.org



www.foodsolutionsne.org

Food Solutions New England (FSNE) is a regional, collaborative network organized around a single goal: to transform the New England food system into a resilient driver of racial equity, food justice, health, sustainable farming and fishing, and thriving communities.

FSNE holds a bold vision - one that calls for our region to build the capacity to produce at least 50% of clean, fair, just and accessible food for all New Englanders by 2060.

FSNE brings together diverse individuals and organizations working across the food system to strengthen the regional food system. Annual New England Food Summits are one example of this effort.



www.neweconomy.net

The New Economy Coalition (NEC) is a network of organizations imagining and building a future where people, communities, and ecosystems thrive. Together, we are creating deep change in our economy and politics—placing power in the hands of people and uprooting legacies of harm—so that a fundamentally new system can take root.

The network advances change in three main ways. They convene and connect leaders to tackle common challenges in their work to build a new economy. They amplify stories, tools, and analysis, weaving a collective new economy narrative that can build shared identity, shift culture and policy, and promote a clear vision of the next system. They lift up the work of communities on the frontlines of interrelated economic and ecological crises who are organizing for transformative change, through the right relationships and direct support.

For more, visit: www.grassrootsfund.org/collaboratives

2014 List of Grantee Groups

ENERGY/CLIMATE ACTION PROJECTS

This issue area includes the following project types:

- * Carbon/Energy challenges
- * Climate resilience/Adaptation
- * Community shared solar
- * Commuter campaigns
- * Cooperative ownership
- * Electric vehicles/Charging stations
- * Energy audits
- * Energy barnraisers
- * Energy efficiency/Weatherization
- * Greenhouse gas/Energy inventories
- * No idling
- * Renewable energy
- * Renewable energy siting outreach
- * Residential solar/group purchasing campaigns
- * Walk/Bike campaigns

* **350MA-Berkshire Node**
(Berkshire County, MA) - \$700
For education to interact in public meetings with other environmental groups and for general organizational support directed at outreach, office expenses, tabling fees and events.

* **350Waldo** (Belfast, ME) - \$1,000
To help pay for the upcoming Tar Sands Exposed Tour, the Green Ribbon project, Rising Seas Staking project and outreach for the Wabanaki workshops and films

* **Ammonoosuc Regional Energy Team**
(Grafton County, NH) - \$1,000
To host a solar energy workshop that will highlight both residential and commercial solar systems in the community, that will explain how solar works, and will highlight financing options for solar systems and Net Zero construction.

* **Brattleboro Climate Protection**
(Brattleboro, VT) - \$1,500
To implement a Smart Commute transportation program, increase the Town of Brattleboro's purchase of green electricity, and reduce energy use in municipal buildings.

* **Dunbarton Energy Committee**
(Dunbarton, NH) - \$1,000
To support the Neighbors Warming Neighbors program and purchase a thermal camera that will show the energy leaks in homes.

* **Hollis Energy Committee**
(Hollis, NH) - \$1,000
To develop a solid, informative website for the Hollis Energy Committee that groups members will update, maintain and educate members about the goal to be fossil fuel free.

* **Mt. Washington Valley Citizens for Energy Efficient Communities**
(Mt Washington Valley, NH) - \$1,000
To revamp the groups website and for outreach materials and future community outreach meeting costs in support of the "MAKE a Difference" (Measure, Analyze, Knowledge, Evaluate) initiative that focuses on working with municipalities and sharing examples and success stories for weatherization, biomass projects, renewable energy and energy savings efforts.

* **Plainfield Energy Team**
(Plainfield, VT) - \$1,000
To help with material expenses to make the Town Hall and Opera House more efficient and once again available for Town meeting, public hearings, performances of music, play, dance, etc.

* **Project Atlantic**
(Brattleboro, VT) - \$1,000
For outreach materials, travel costs and stipends for students and the coordinator as part of outreach efforts to help the community understand its future energy options.

Saco Ossipee Rivers Heating Alliance
(York & Ossipee County, ME) - \$1,000
To support the John Berry Energy Efficiency Day/Energy Fair funds will be used for ads promoting the event, local food and follow up activities.

* **Seacoast Area Renewable Energy Initiative** (Portsmouth, NH) - \$2,500
To continue and expand community outreach efforts, public forum offerings, and hands-on skill share workshops on smaller scale solar energy applications and to develop new partnerships for education and training on solar and energy efficiency technology.

* **Sullivan Energy Committee**
(Sullivan, NH) - \$1,000
To hire an energy auditor and to make a prioritized list of recommendations to the selectmen for action to present to the town at the March election.

* **Sunderland Energy Committee**
(Sunderland, MA) - \$1,000
To pilot a Smart Homes program, funds will be used for canvass, coordinator stipends and outreach materials.

* **Town of Norwich, Vermont--Energy Committee** (Norwich, VT) - \$600
To increase home weatherization and solar installations funds will be used for a postcard mailing to all homes in town, outreach materials and food for a large outreach event.

* **Vinalhaven Energy Club**
(vinalhaven, ME) - \$2,500
To research, construct, and install solar hot air collectors and install interior storm windows to help offset the need for primary heat sources in Island residences.

* **West Roxbury Saves**
(Roxbury, MA) - \$1,000
To hire a solar consultant to begin the work of developing a solar garden in West Roxbury and to conduct general outreach.

* **Weybridge Energy Committee**
(Weybridge, VT) - \$1,000
To support a Button Up Day of Action and a workshop for residents to attend and to replace traditional incandescent light bulbs in the Weybridge town hall with LEDs.

* **Wilton Energy Committee**
(Wilton, NH) - \$1,000
To help fund an energy audit of the town hall, and use the audit to present to the Selectmen and the Budget Committee a prioritized list of actions and help write up warrant articles for the 2015 Town Meeting.



Not only does the Grassroots Fund provide funding for grassroots projects, it also connects groups with each other to mutually benefit the common good. During a grant review phone conversations, the Fund's staff suggested Vinalhaven Energy Club (VEC) contact Seacoast Area Renewable Energy Initiative in Portsmouth, NH. SEAREI had received over 100 solar hot air panels and wanted to sell some of them as a fundraiser. With the help of a Grow grant, VEC was able to purchase 10 panels for \$100 apiece. VEC will fix up the panels, which measure approximately 6x3 feet, and install them on houses around Vinalhaven. "It wasn't even winter yet, but one week last fall four people called spontaneously to thank us for what we had done in terms of weatherization," according to the group's contact person.
Read more online in our Feature Stories section.

2014 List of Grantee Groups - cntd.

FOOD PROJECTS

This issue area includes the following project types:

- * Community farms
- * Community gardens
- * Community composting
- * Community Supported Agriculture
- * Community Supported Fisheries
- * Eat Local guides
- * Farmers' Markets
- * Farm-to-School
- * Food coops
- * Food councils
- * Food shelves
- * Gleaning
- * Grow-a-row
- * Permaculture
- * School garden
- * Supply/Demand coordination

* African Alliance of Rhode Island (Providence, RI) - \$2,000

To pilot a youth-led CSA bike delivery project as a way to diversify revenue for gardeners and engage youth in local food system work while adding capacity to meet increased demand for local African produce.

* Alan Day Community Garden (Norway, ME) - \$2,500

To cover roughly half of the material costs for an open-air outdoor classroom/ farmer's market shelter/ community gathering space, and a coordinator stipend to cover the extra time/labor spent facilitating the youth leadership program as part of the building project.

* Backyard Growers (Gloucester, MA) - \$1,500

To enhance and expand the Schoolyard Garden Program.

* Barrington Community Garden (Barrington, NH) - \$1,000

To increase local food production the group will purchase wooden raised bed kits for the new community garden..

* Boston Area Gleaners (Waltham, MA) - \$2,000

To transfer and streamline internal financial systems as part of a broader strategic goal to scale programming and to spark and support gleaning efforts in new regions of the state.

* Boston Food Forest Coalition (Boston, MA) - \$600

To pay a coordinator stipend to a member in charge of the biweekly permaculture work party/workshops at the Boston Nature Center site.

* Brandon Free Public Library Seed Library (Brandon, VT) - \$1,000

To start up a Seed Library that will place heirloom seeds in the hands of the community, strengthen the food system in town, increase seed saving and build community and a more sustainable food base.

* Brick Store Museum Victory Garden Committee (Kennebunk, ME) - \$500

To start up a new Home Front Victory Garden which is a joint project of the Brick Store Museum, eight master gardeners and the Kennebunk Community Garden.

* Bridgeport Community Garden Project (Bridgeport, CT) - \$1,000

To support basic garden start up costs for the new garden plots - including compost, raised beds and seedlings - to increase fresh local produce options in Bridgeport.

* Chelsea Farm to School (Chelsea, VT) - \$2,500

For a garden coordinator that will focus on the summer growing period and basic garden needs of the Chelsea school and community garden that will increase local good production.

* Community Harvest of Central Vermont (Berlin, VT) - \$1,000

To support the official pilot year of gleaning at the Dog River Farm in 2014 that will allow the group to get the systems down and pieces and connections together to enable expansion in 2015

* Community Resource and Waste Water Advisory Commission (Glocester, RI) - \$1,000

To make improvements to the garden in an effort to increase the harvest.

* Dexter Community Garden (Providence, RI) - \$1,500

To fund an irrigation system installation and reclaim a 3,000 sq ft garden that will allow various micro-enterprises to expand their local food business.

* Dorchester Community Food Co-op (Dorchester, MA) - \$1,500

To support the 2014 season of Fresh Fridays, a key community outreach tool, as the group works to create a permanent store for the coop in Dorchester.

* Down to Earth Community Garden (St Albans City, VT) - \$1,000

To purchase materials including lumber, roofing, nails and hinges to construct a new tool shed and replace one that was damaged beyond repair during Tropical Storm Irene.

* Epiphany Community Garden (East Providence, RI) - \$800

For garden and education materials and for activities support, use of funds will include trellis materials to make efficient use of the space, fertilizer, workshop and community outreach materials in the form of networking, posters, and brochures, etc.

* Farmers Feeding Families Swansea, MA) - \$1,000

To grow vegetables for two emergency housing facilities that house up to 90 families.

* Fenway Garden Society (Boston, MA) - \$2,000

To support garden infrastructure through increased storage capacity and new garden signage, which is part of a broader re-branding initiative to establish a cohesive graphic identity and engage visitors and gardeners.

* Friends of Boulder Knoll (Cheshire, CT) - \$1,800

For general support for the FBK educational programs and for the Food Insecurity project which has the objective to increase production by 300% in 2014.

* Friends of the Milton Free Public Library (Milton Mills, VT) - \$1,000

To expand and improve its new Learning Garden site, as well as related educational programming, as a highly visible and accessible gateway to local food in the community.

* Garden Time (Cranston, RI) - \$1,000

To start up an herb garden at the Moran medium security correctional facility on Cranston, RI. Funds will be used for compost, soil amendments, seeds, plants mulch, tools and reference books.

* Gardens at New Creation (Kingston, NH) - \$1,000

To clear land for a vegetable garden, funds will be used for initial excavation work to clear and level the garden site and to spread a pile of loam.

* Gardens for Charlestown (Charlestown, MA) - \$1,000

To purchase native plants and planters for the border gardens, plant and tree markers, a garden map and to support the Tend and Tell workshop.

* Gate City Community Gardens (Nashua, NH) - \$1,000

To improve and level the garden, funds will be used for a low 1 1/2 ft retaining wall and for hardscaping, landscaping, and irrigation materials.

2014 List of Grantee Groups - cntd.

*** Goshen Green Garden**
(Goshen, CT) - \$1,000

To start up a community garden where produce will be donated to the local food pantry and soup kitchen and garden workshops will be held.

*** GROW Windham**
(Windham, CT) - \$2,000

To establish a community farm in a partnership with the local commercial kitchen, using produce to pilot a mobile market project and to use the kitchen to create value-added local products.

*** Grow-Up Community Garden**
(Woonsocket, RI) - \$600

For basic garden upkeep needs including loam, compost, rain barrels, fencing and wood to replace old railroad ties that were used as dividers in the garden.

*** HANDS (Helping and Nurturing Diverse Seniors)**
(Burlington, VT) - \$1,000

To support an elder gardening initiative at Ethan Allen Residence, in an effort to connect elders with local youth and to support the improvement of mental as well as physical health of residents.

*** Harbor Place Community Gardens**
(Shelburne, VT) - \$1,000

To develop this new project - a community garden at Harbor Place - by providing the tools to transform the space from yard to productive land.

*** Haston Library (Franklin, VT) - \$600**

To support the preschool garden and introduce more families to growing, preparing and eating local produce,

*** Hearty Meals for All**
(Somerville, MA) - \$1,500

To support food costs and leadership stipends for the newly launched Family Meals program, which brings healthy meals and community building to two sites in Boston that serve as community support agencies.

*** Hilltop Montessori Middle School**
(Brattleboro, VT) - \$1,000

To plan, plant and harvest a new garden and manage a new on site composting system at the Hilltop Montessori, Middle School for a Micro Economy Project.

*** In the Garden**
(Bennington, VT) - \$1,000

To purchase locally sourced tools for participants to use in garden workshops that will increase local food production and to strengthen partnerships and collaboration with the Morgan Spring Community Garden and its leadership team.

*** John Winthrop Middle School**
(Deep River, CT) - \$1,000

To pay for the initial fencing and construction of raised beds and/or tools and seeds.

*** Kennebec Local Food Initiative**
(Gardiner, ME) - \$1,500

For support to accomplish outreach and marketing goals and training prior to opening the Co-op storefront.

*** Lakes Region Food Network**
(Laconia, NH) - \$1,000

To hold 4 cooking demonstrations using affordable local ingredients at the Laconia, NH Farmers' Market in 2014.

*** Maple Leaf Children's Center**
(Thetford, VT) - \$750

To build four raised garden beds that children between the ages of 2-7, their families and the Centers staff will plant, tend and harvest.

*** Morgan Spring Community Garden**
(Bennington, VT) - \$1,000

To construct a new composting system in partnership with MT Anthony Union Middle School.

*** Neighbor to Neighbor**
(Pelham, MA) - \$1,000

To purchase a water tank, lumber and the service of the Goat Girls for land clearing for garden beds in a new community garden.

*** Newmarket Community Garden Group**
(Newmarket, NH) - \$1,000

For support and materials to expand the garden beyond the grid of individual plots to incorporate beds that are used communally.

*** Nolumbeka Project**
(Greenfield, MA) - \$1,000

For resources that support garden development, including soil amendments, fencing and possibly a coordinator stipend or garden shed.

Northshire Grows
(Manchester/Dorset, VT) - \$2,000

To continue Northshire farmer and food business outreach, to develop institutional markets for Northshire area schools and to explore viability of a Southern VT food hub.

*** Nubian United Benevolent International Association**
(Boston, MA) - \$1,500

To support core infrastructure such as seeds, water, and transportation for Seed & Yield,

an urban New American gardening programs located at several growing sites

*** Planting More Project**
(Milton, MA) - \$750

For the construction of two raised garden beds and for start-up materials to introduce kindergarteners to growing food. Some of the garden produce will be used by the classes and the rest donated to local families in need.

*** Project VISION (Rutland, VT) - \$1,000**

To support the start up of a new community garden in Rutland next to the VT Farmers & Food Center, funds will be used for materials like topsoil and compost.

Community Harvest of Central Vermont, a gleaning project in the Montpelier (VT) area inspired and supported by fellow grantee group Salvation Farms and the VT Gleaning Collective, recovered 28,156 pounds or 84,468 servings of produce, with that produce being donated to 13 recipient sites. Approximately 6,000 people with limited access to healthy fresh local food in the community received the donated produce. In addition to receiving a grant, CHCV is working with the Grassroots Fund through the fiscal sponsor program. As the fiscal sponsor for CHCV, the Fund is helping the group find additional grants and donations from the community.

Read more online in our Feature Stories section.



2014 List of Grantee Groups - cntd.

*** Revive the Roots**

(Smithfield, RI) - \$2,000

To increase variety and size of a permaculture forest garden by getting equipment including a sprinkler irrigation system, growing mediums and soil amendments and plants.

*** Riverside Community Garden**

(Providence, RI) - \$1,000

To strengthen the garden infrastructure and deter vandalism, the garden will purchase fencing, supplies and new plant materials.

*** Smithfield Community Garden**

(Smithfield, ME) - \$1,000

To support the new community garden's basic needs of materials including compost, and loam, wood for garden beds and to increase access to local organic food in the community.

*** South Boston Grows**

(Boston, MA) - \$2,000

To support summer garden-based nutrition education programs for youth living in 3 Boston housing developments, expanded to include tree planting activities and education.

*** St. Mary's Community Garden**

(Portsmouth, RI) - \$500

For general garden support to include seeds, lime, garden trellises and/or tilling with the goal of doubling production this year.

*** STAR Program, Northfield High School**

(Northfield, VT) - \$2,500

To support the Star garden program and construct a small 8 X12 greenhouse that will greatly increase local food production at the Northfield school.

*** Stone Soup Artist and Activist Collective and Community Resource Ctr**

(Worcester, MA) - \$900

To purchase materials including a heater and shelving for a new community Aquaponics Greenhouse project.

*** The Garden at 485 Elm**

(Montpelier, VT) - \$1,000

To start up a new community garden that will provide surplus produce and herbs to the Migrant Justice project and local soup kitchens, funds will be used for garden fencing and garden materials.

*** The New Garden Society**

(Bridgewater, MA) - \$1,000

To support the Winter Horticulture Institute and outdoor garden programs twice a week at two correctional facilities through the growing season, funds will be directed to program supplies and materials.

*** The Waysmeet Center: Cornucopia**

Food Pantry (Durham, NH) - \$2,500

To fund a Food Rescue Internship position to develop a coalition committed to rescuing and redirecting food in the seacoast of NH that would otherwise go wasted and bring it to local food pantries instead.

*** theMOVE**

(Metro-Boston, MA) - \$2,000

To increase and diversify organizational funding capacity and knowledge base of its constituents and to increase sharing and convening participation with partner groups, funds will be used for staffing and materials.

*** Tinmouth Wellness Committee**

(Tinmouth, VT) - \$2,000

To support the summer garden program which engages local youth in gardening, cooking, nutrition, physical wellness, and local food systems.

*** Upper Valley Apple Corps Project**

(Hartford, VT) - \$500

To expand their tree planting programs and plant both fruit and nut trees this spring, to evaluate trees they planted in the past and prune as needed and to offer workshops in pruning and permaculture and discuss planting herbs around the fruit tree base when the trees are first planted.

*** Urban Greens Food Co-op**

(Providence, RI) -- \$2,000

To support a part-time Member Loan Program Coordinator for a 3 month period with a stipend to help increase support and funding for Urban Greens Food Coop.

*** Waldoboro Farmers Market**

(Waldoboro, ME) - \$1,000

To start up a new farmers market in the community, funds will be used for a market coordinator.

*** Westminster Center School Garden**

(Westminster, VT) - \$750

To build a hoop house to extend the growing season for the school garden, the school mostly plants and harvests spring and fall plants.

*** White River Junction Community Garden**

(White River Junction, VT) - \$1,000

To offer a stipend to the garden coordinator/ intern as well as pay for some of the materials for the garden, including seeds, plants, tools, compost and mulch.

*** Young Farmer Network**

(Providence, RI) - \$2,000

To support new farmers in Greater Providence and beyond by providing materials and scholarships for workshops.

*** VCIH Herb Garden Committee (Montpelier, VT)**

- \$1,000

To start up a herb garden that will increase herbal growing skills for community members. Funds will be used for compost, a stipend for the garden coordinator and other basic garden needs.



Picture this - inmates, who are serving life sentences without the chance for parole, tenderly caring for a vegetable garden.

Thanks to two women with Garden Time, Inc., that's exactly what has been happening at the Rhode Island Adult Correctional Institution (ACI) in Cranston for the past several years. The group isn't satisfied with 'only' helping inmates while they're incarcerated. They plan on applying for a large federal grant next year to start an organic farm where people who are looking for a job after being released from prison can find work and help them transition back into the real world and hopefully cut down on recidivism rates.

Read more online in our Feature Stories section.

2014 List of Grantee Groups - cntd.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROJECTS

This issue area includes the following project types:

- * Air pollution
- * Hazardous waste
- * Herbicides/Pesticides



- * Incinerators
- * Landfills
- * Power plants

* Barrington Waterways Protection Committee (Barrington, NH) - \$1,000
For a second town-wide mailing to educate residents about the Community Bill of Rights that would prohibit resource extraction and disposal.

* Democracy Working Group (Greenfield, MA) - \$750
To reduce plastic in the waste cycle the group will purchase high quality reusable cotton cloth shopping bags from a local business and add their logo "Do something drastic cut the plastic!" to the bags.

* No Fracked Gas In Mass (Cummington, MA) - \$1,000
To inform residents how individual property owners, groups (including local land trusts) and towns can intervene in the FERC permit process and how to organize non-binding resolutions opposing the proposed gas pipeline.

* North Branford Citizens Against Bulk Propane Storage (North Branford, CT) - \$1,000
To go towards legal and expert witness support in a case against a proposed 60,000 gallon bulk propane storage facility adjacent to wetlands and residential properties.

LAND & WATER PROJECTS

This issue area includes the following project types:

- * Anti-sprawl/Big box
- * Community forest/Sustainable forestry
- * Green space
- * Groundwater

- * Land conservation
- * Recreational trails
- * Smart growth
- * Surface water
- * Wildlife

* Bath Community Forestry Committee (Bath, ME) - \$2,000
To provide protective equipment for the street trees maintained by BCFC.

* Bradford Conservation Commission (Bradford, VT) - \$1,000
To conduct a natural resources inventory of Bradford, in order to inform its strategy and the community about resource conservation, and areas of unique & critical habitat.

* Building A Strong Hardwick (Hardwick, VT) - \$1,000
To pay an engineer, to complete an Aqua CAD Study to show that the proposed Dollar Store

site is truly in a wetland and the siting of a store there will increase flooding and impinge on the wetland.

* Citizens of Alexandria Rights Effort (C.A.R.E.) group (Alexandria, NH) - \$500
To support outreach efforts about the proposed rights based ordinance to include printing, postage, guest speakers, travel costs, rental fees and food.

* Green Cambridge (Cambridge, MA) - \$500
To convert food shipping barrels to rain barrels for low income residents to collect rain

EXTREME ENERGY EXTRACTION PARTNER PROGRAM

In 2014, the Grassroots Fund worked with a funding partner to pilot a program to support anti-fracking activists in New England, New York, and Pennsylvania.

Through this program, we are researching the role of such activists in the larger movement to create a carbon-free energy future to help mitigate the growing impacts of climate change. We seek to better understand and strategically participate in supporting northeastern grassroots activists driving a carbon-free energy movement.

water off of roofs to prevent peak run off from storms and provide an alternative to tap water for watering lawns and gardens.

* Herring Ponds Watershed Association (Plymouth, MA) - \$500
To distribute educational and colorful booklets along with offering other family friendly activities to families with young children.

* Mascoma River Local Advisory Committee (Canaan, NH) - \$1,000
To hire a person to coordinate the first Mascoma River Local Advisory Committee annual meeting, the theme of the conference is collaboration and building partnerships among the community and non-profit groups in the Mascoma River Watershed.

* Monponsett Watershed Association (Halifax, MA) - \$500
To educate residents on ways to reduce phosphorous levels in two ponds (West and East Manponset) to improve their water quality.

* New Bedford CPA Education Group (New Bedford, MA) - \$1,000
To provide information about the benefits of a Community Preservation Act in New Bedford, funds will be directed toward website development and office materials.

* Orleans Pond Coalition (Orleans, MA) - \$500

To start up a pilot project at Boland Pond, due to its declining water quality and its visibility in their community and hold community meetings that will engage residents, funds will be used for outreach materials and a 3D pond watershed model for events.

* Responsible Growth Hinesburg (Hinesburg, VT) - \$1,500
To help fund the testimony of a historic preservationist and a landscape architect in an effort to oppose a large grocery store and parking lot on a parcel designated by the Hinesburg Official Map as a site for community facilities.

* Riverside Park Conservancy (New London, CT) - \$1,000
To bring in an expert on organic landscaping authority to create a plan for the Thames River watershed and to present a public workshop on Landscaping for Clean Waterways.

* Smart Growth for Bristol (Bristol, VT) - \$1,500
To pay the expenses of the Supreme Court case to oppose the development of a gravel pit.

2014 List of Grantee Groups - cntd.

* Smart Growth for Fairlee
(Fairlee, VT) - \$1,000

To oppose a proposed Dollar Store in the small rural community of Fairlee, VT.

* Storm Surge; The Merrimack Valley Coastal Adaptation Workgroup
(Newburyport, MA) - \$500

To host a speaker series about how to mitigate the effects of sea level rise due to climate change. Funds will be used for speakers, a coordinator stipend and materials.

* Strafford Conservation Commission
(Strafford, VT) - \$900

To hold a two day training that will teach residents and conservation members how to identify and analyze wetlands and will increase skills of residents to help produce a Strafford Wetland Inventory.

* Strafford Energy Committee
(South Strafford, VT) - \$1,000

To start up a new Strafford Edible Pocket Park to be located on a town athletic field, funds will be used for fencing, supplements, benches, picnic tables and pathway materials.

* Urban Pond Procession
(Providence, RI) - \$1,500

To edit a professional video, which represents the multi-faceted elements of Urban Pond Procession and the way they work together.

provide greater capacity for fundraising, strategic planning, and board development.

* Kearsarge Time Bank
(New London, NH) - \$1,000

To help support the launch of the new Time Bank, funds will be used for outreach, an orientation potluck of new members and for postal fees.

* New HOPE Time Exchange
(Providence, RI) - \$550

To support four of the Exchange's core cabinet group members to attend the 2014 Global Exchange Gathering.

* Northfield Tool Lending Library
(Northfield, MA) - \$500

To purchase new and used yard and garden tools to add to the current inventory for loan to residents of Northfield.

* Portland Tool Library
(Portland, ME) - \$600

To start up the first of its kind tool library in Maine, the group will lend basic tools for homes, gardens and kitchen equipment for food preservation, funds will be directed to pay for low cost rent until memberships increase.

* Southeastern Mass. Time Exchange
(Greater New Bedford area) - \$600

To have key Southeastern MA Timebank "Kitchen Cabinet" members attend the Global Exchange Gathering, which will increase their knowledge and skills.

* Sustainable Middlesex (Southern Middlesex County, MA) - \$1,000

For the Sustainable Middlesex Preparedness Panel event, aiming to inform and guide communities on emergency preparedness as intense storm events increase due to climate change, funds will be directed to media and food costs and custodial services for the site.

* The Resilience Hub / Portland Maine Permaculture (Portland, ME) - \$2,000

To fund the continued work of the Resilience Hub Permaculture Network including permablitz events focused on neighborhoods or city blocks in the Portland, ME area.

NEW ECONOMY PROJECTS

This issue area includes the following project types:

- * Buy local
- * Community loan funds
- * Community resource/Sustainability Center
- * Community swaps
- * Film/Speaker series/Study circles
- * Emergency preparedness
- * Local currencies
- * ReSkilling
- * Time banks
- * Tool sharing libraries
- * Zero waste

* BALE (Building A Local Economy)
(South Royalton, VT) - \$2,000

To build both face-to-face and online opportunities for people to connect and engage as the next stage in the "Why Build A Local Economy" series.

* Cape Ann TimeBank
(Gloucester, MA) - \$360

To support an expanded annual meeting to be held on March 8th.

* Center for an Ecology-Based Economy (Norway, ME) - \$1,000

To start up a pilot Bike Lending Program in the town of Norway, ME. Funds will be used for bike repair parts and paint.

* Exeter NH Transition Town
(Exeter, NH) - \$400

To offer four seasonal events including insulation, solar energy, supporting increased bike use by highlighting bike racks and re-skilling for the harvest.

* Full Barrel Cooperative Brewery & Taproom (Burlington, VT) - \$1,000

To develop the concrete, explicit vision, mission, and values for the project, and to integrate feedback on proposed bylaws.

* G.A.L.A. (Global Awareness Local Action) (Ossipee, NH) - \$2,000

To hire a part time staff member to assist the director in daily program demands to

New England Resilience & Transition (NERT) Network



Across New England, grassroots groups working on community resilience, the transition to a new economy, permaculture, renewable local energy, food justice, sustainability, environmental justice, time banking, and more have been connecting with each other to share stories, lessons, best practices and inspiration. A group of resilience-building rockstars have come together to form a "Regional Organizing Committee" (aka the ROCKers) for New England Resilience & Transition. The ROCKers is an open, flexible, and transparent group. Its purpose is to enhance local resilience in the New England region.

Learn more at: www.nertnetwork.wordpress.com

2014 Financials

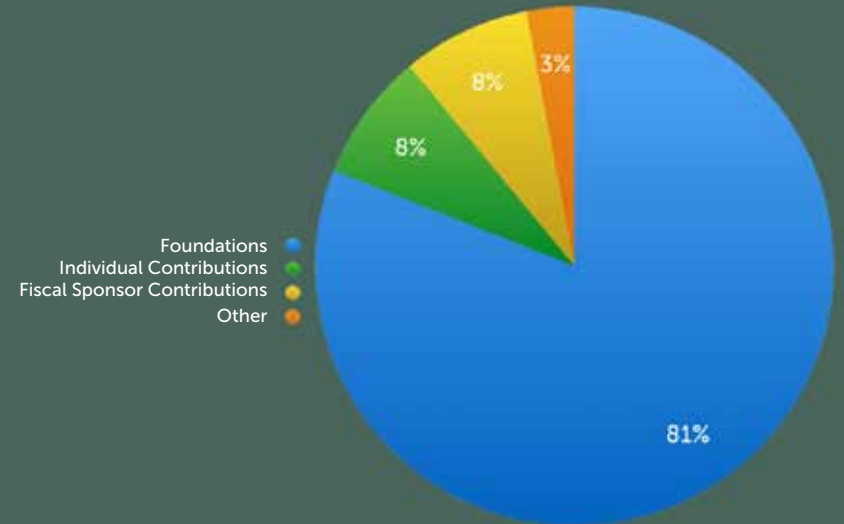
Income

<i>Foundations</i>	
Restricted	- \$706,286
Unrestricted	- \$171,000
<i>Contributions</i>	- \$69,188
<i>Fiscal sponsor contributions</i>	- \$72,226
<i>Other income</i>	- \$29,496
<i>Less Transfer to Deferred Assets</i>	- (\$298,000)
TOTAL INCOME	- \$750,197

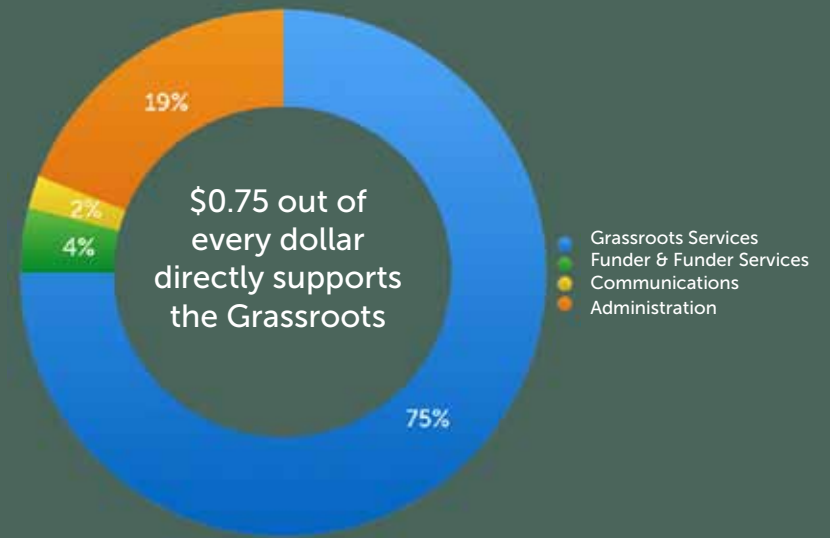
Expenses

<i>Grantmaking</i>	
Seed grants	- \$69,270
Grow grants	- \$99,800
Harvest grants	- \$17,000
Fiscal Sponsor grants	- \$63,047
Partner grants	- \$2,000
Total Grantmaking	- \$251,117
<i>Grassroots Fund Events & Meetings</i>	- \$13,119
<i>Travel</i>	- \$16,279
<i>Personnel</i>	- \$365,490
<i>Contract Service Expenses</i>	
Event planning	- \$13,526
Program support/stipends	- \$29,325
Transition support	- \$18,300
Website/sCMS	- \$27,575
Workshop trainers	- \$3,400
Other Contract Service Expenses	- \$13,763
Total Contract Service Expenses	- \$105,890
<i>Organizational & Networking</i>	- \$7,731
<i>Office Expenses</i>	- \$23,295
TOTAL EXPENSES	- \$782,920
NET INCOME*	- (\$32,723)

2014 Income by Category



2014 Expenses by Category



* The 2014 reduction in assets (\$32,723) was covered by carry-over funds from the start of the year (the Fund started 2014 with \$300,000 in the bank to help cover the first months of the year).

2014 Donors & Foundations

The following individual donors provided support in 2014:

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Karen Barker
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Kate & Bart Westdijk
Claire Wheeler
Christoph Wienands
Richard & Donna Wright
Cathy Zusy

The following foundations provided support in 2014:

- Anna B. Stearns Charitable Foundation
- Barr Foundation
- Harris & Frances Block Foundation
- Jack & Dorothy Byrne Fund
- Cloud Mountain Foundation
- Community Foundation of Southeastern MA
- Island Foundation
- Jane's Trust Foundation
- Johnson Family Foundation
- Lawson Valentine Foundation
- Morrill Family Foundation
- New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
- Normandie Foundation
- Putnam Foundation
- Rhode Island Foundation
- Seymour & Sylvia Rothchild Family Charitable Foundation
- Adelard A. Roy & Valeda Lea Roy Foundation
- Seth Sprague Educational & Charitable Foundation
- Singing Field Foundation
- Stiffler Family Foundation
- Sudbury Foundation
- Wilkinson Foundation

Seeds & Songs of Change Concert Sponsors:



CALEDONIA SPIRITS, INC.



Learn more: www.grassrootsfund.org/tools/events/seeds-songs-of-change

Thank you!

to everybody involved in making 2014 a very engaged year!

Inspiring * Connecting * Supporting

local projects creating healthy, just, safe and
environmentally sustainable communities

through



Grants

Stories



Webinars/Workshops

Tools/Resources



www.grassrootsfund.org