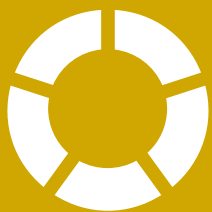




GRASS ROOTS FUND

2019 Annual Report



Fostering
Innovation
through Grants



Amplifying
Voices



Convening
Changemakers



Revolutionizing
Philanthropy

PRESENTED BY THE NEW ENGLAND GRASSROOTS ENVIRONMENT FUND, INC.

Welcome!

In the past few months of 2020, we have seen communities confronting the realities of both COVID19 and systemic racism. As this 2019 annual report looks back to work we are proud to share, we also realize it reflects a past reality and we are committed more than ever to confront and disrupt white supremacy culture and to center equity across all of our work going forward.

Thank you for taking the time to read.

2019 was another year of significant organizational growth and deepening programs, grounded in our Guiding Practice evolution. While distributing the highest number of grant dollars in our organization's history, as well as additional funds to make our processes and events broadly accessible to community members, we pushed ourselves to work more deliberately on opportunities to build a stronger community of practice of grassroots participants.

We believe it is critical that grant decisions are made collectively, by both those who donate money and by those who receive grants. The Grassroots Fund participatory grantmaking process transforms the traditional funder-applicant structure in which one person, or a small group of people, with money, make all the decisions. We believe in supporting those closest to environmental and social problems in determining their own solutions and seek to create opportunities for people and groups to work together, so that they may share their expertise and experiences. We believe that including a wide range of knowledge and lived experience leads to better funding outcomes, and we serve as an advocate for democratized, equitable grantmaking practices within the philanthropic sector.

In 2019, we had 242 volunteers join us as grant reviewers in order to weigh in and share their perspectives on where resources are most needed in the environmental movement in New England. This meant that each Grow and Young Leader grant application was assigned 10+ volunteer reviewers from a diverse range of lived experiences, and those readers raised questions and crafted funding recommendations that were reviewed by our grantmaking committees (members come from the pool of grant reviewers). By pooling our wisdom as well as our resources, we are creating resilient solutions across our region that are place-based and peer-reviewed. Building on the wisdom of these 242 readers to decide upon and distribute funds resulted in 225 grants totaling \$503,094.

In addition to our grant programs, our deep work over the past year through integrated gatherings and events has led to a marked increase in 'ambassadors' - grant applicants, awardees, readers and planning committee members. A key goal and growing outcome of our convenings is to create safe, thoughtful spaces that allow a diverse group of folks to come together to connect, learn and co-create across difference and commonality. Whether due to geography, lived experience, issue areas/challenges or approaches to problem solving, we believe creating these welcoming spaces that challenge old or biased thinking is critical to finding long-term, resilient solutions to our complex environmental and social justice issues. And we're hearing from participants that these are uncommon and deeply necessary spaces. With all our convenings we invest time and dollars to ensure our events, which move about New England, are accessible to all. This includes offers of childcare, interpreter services and travel stipends to help folks join events without geography or transportation creating a barrier.

We're deeply grateful for our participants, grantees, convening attendees and, of course, donors, all of whom are making this Grassroots Fund community ever-increasingly robust, welcoming and powerful. Not a participant (yet)? Please join us this year as a grant reader, planning committee member or grant applicant. Your lived experience is needed!

With great appreciation,


REV. MARIAMA
WHITE-HAMMOND
2019 Board President




JULIA DUNDORF
Executive Director



Guiding Practices

The Grassroots Fund's Guiding Practices inform our priorities in programming, grantmaking, and strategic planning. They are rooted in our commitment to undoing the systems that cause social and ecological harm. The Practices are drawn from the practices and protocols we hear about from grassroots initiatives across the region. As we continue to implement and evolve these practices, we know they are relevant for all work across the region.

Working alongside grassroots organizers across the Northeast, we are gathering and reflecting on the questions, directions and ideas for how to center equity & justice in all of our programs. The Guiding Practices introduce the 5 topics that continue to surface with each participatory review round through reader & organizer input.

The Practices ask us to consider how decisions are made and who we believe has the right or authority to make those decisions. We believe that these interventions are not only values-aligned, but also necessary to building resilient solutions to the multiple crises we face. Undoing the bias that prevents us from working with people of diverse perspectives is the best opportunity we have for creating a more socially and ecologically just world.

Centering Just Transition

Integrate ecological and social justice in your vision for your community.

Shifting Power & Decision-Making

Practice group governance that intentionally shares power.

Equity in Participation

Support the fullest involvement of all community members

Access to Resources

Transform the culture of sourcing and managing resources in your community

Rooted Communities

Set priorities informed by the whole community, rather than a limited group of people.

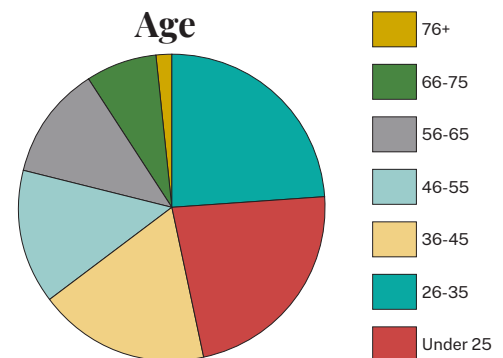
Our Participatory Process: How it Works

We believe it's critical that grant decisions are made collectively, by both those who donate money and by those who receive grants. In 2019, we had 242 Grant Readers reviewing our Young Leader and Grow grant applications, many of them past or present grantees themselves. Grant Readers come to this process with a wide range of volunteer and lived experiences, and add breadth and depth of knowledge to decisions about resource allocation. We ask readers to self-identify across a number of demographic characteristics and below is an overview of our 2019 reader pool.

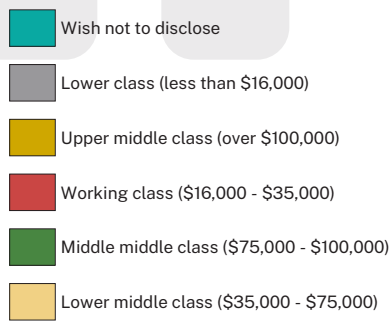
Race/Ethnicity



Age



Socioeconomic Class



Grassroots Fund staff complete due diligence phone calls with each applicant, drawing from the feedback and scores given by at least 10 Grant Readers. That information gets passed on to our 15 person Grantmaking Committee - a selection of Readers from across states and demographics of our region. This committee reviews the scores, deliberates on reviews that are on the cusp of various funding levels, and makes final recommendations.

An opportunity to practice addressing bias in decision-making

A core part of our work with Readers and Grantmaking Committee members is to talk about how our biases show up throughout our work. Reviewing applications offers a great opportunity to practice disrupting bias and call each other in as we make decisions about how to allocate resources. In collaboration with CQ Strategies, we are learning together how the anchoring effect, confirmation bias, survivorship bias and blind spot bias impact how we view things, and what we can do to pay attention and stay conscious of the impacts.

This ongoing work is truly at the center of what the Grassroots Fund is about. In addition to piloting this process within our grantmaking practices, we serve as an advocate for democratized, equitable grantmaking practices and believe that this model has the potential to revolutionize traditional power dynamics throughout the philanthropic sector.

Join us: <https://grassrootsfund.org/amplifying-voices/make-decisions-on-grants>

Convening Changemakers

We're building networks. We're strengthening grassroots movements by making powerful, intersectional connections between a broad spectrum of individuals, groups and organizations all working toward common goals, encouraging cross-issue conversations and supporting them as they develop solutions to big problems.

2019 WEBINARS AND CONVENINGS

6 **ROOTSKILLS WEBINARS** were offered in 2019, with topics based on our Guiding Practices, like Just Transition, Shifting Power, and Access to Resources.

2 **CATALYST CONVENINGS** in Boston, MA, and Hartford, CT - brought together close to 100 people for networking and world-cafe style conversations.

150 **PARTICIPANTS** joined in 2, day-long RootSkills Workshops in Brattleboro, VT, and Providence, RI.

4 **POP-UP OFFICE** trips met in 14 different communities, with 90 community groups and over 100 individuals. Over half of the individuals at the pop-up offices were new to the Grassroots Fund.

LOWERING BARRIERS, OPEN CALLS AND CO-CREATING AGENDAS

30+ **DIVERSE AND TALENTED PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS** guided development of learning objectives and decision-making on workshop proposals as we collectively put together the agenda and offerings.

46 **RESPONSES** to open call for workshop proposals ahead of 2 day-long RootSkills Workshops in Brattleboro, VT, and Providence, RI

\$41K **IN FINANCIAL SUPPORT** was provided in the form of scholarships, expense reimbursements, childcare, and language interpretation. More than 165 participants throughout our RootSkills offerings received support of this kind.

FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS:

“ *I think this is one of the most useful and important workshops I have attended in recent years!*

(Regarding sliding scale pay) I love your transparency! Thank you for being thoughtful.

(Regarding Flash Talks) Hearing directly from community members and organizations about their work was an awesome way to ground us for the day exploring a variety of topics they might be indirectly or directly revolved around and interacting with.

I am rethinking how power presents itself in not only my meetings, but how I come into spaces, how I perceive situations, and how I feel better equipped to adjust where necessary.

I met several folks working on housing and environmental justice issues in my area who I hadn't connected with before, so starting those partnerships was really valuable.

(Something I am now re-thinking) Restructuring power in a non-western/ non-white framework.

(Eval from presenter) I would have never considered this opportunity if Tess didn't reach out. Again, I am thankful first to Rashida and now Tess for being engaging and supportive in this work with Grassroots Fund grantees. I am truly appreciative of all they do and willing to pull potential when they see it in their grantees, such as myself.

Fostering Innovation through Grantmaking

We're supporting changemakers who face systemic and structural barriers to traditional funding. We're investing in community groups and organizations working across a broad range of environmental and social justice issues that traditional funders often overlook, and encouraging them to take creative approaches to challenging existing systems.

SEED: \$250 - \$1,000 grants with rolling deadlines and review process of 4-6 weeks. Focused on groups and projects that are new and need early support to gain momentum.

GROW: \$1,000 - \$3,500 grants with deadlines in March & September and a participatory decision-making process. Focused on established projects and groups looking to broaden and/or deepen their impact.

YOUNG LEADER: up to \$7,500 grants, offered once yearly through a participatory decision-making process. Focused on projects giving meaningful leadership roles to people under 25 years of age.

OTHER: occasionally the Grassroots Fund collaborates with partner organizations on specific partner grants or pilots new programs.

FISCAL SPONSOR: the Grassroots Fund acts as a fiscal sponsor for a limited number of grantee groups who seek additional financial support but don't (yet) have a tax exempt status.

Our grant programs are focused on community-based, local initiatives. For the Grassroot Fund that means that:

- *The group is doing local, grassroots work in CT, ME, MA, NH, RI or VT.*
- *The group is volunteer-driven or has no more than 2 full-time paid staff.*
- *The group has an annual operating budget of under \$100,000.*
- *The group does not need to have formal tax status or a fiscal sponsor."*

Grant applications to the Grassroots Fund are evaluated by staff, community members and fellow applicants against our guiding practices.

Financial Results

2019 was the Grassroots Fund's largest year in terms of dollars going directly to grassroots organizers through the grantmaking program. We received support from 29 foundation and donor funds as both general operating support and restricted funding. Compared to 2018, we saw growth in our individual donor support. Where fees were charged, our events and gatherings had a sliding scale structure which allows participants to self-identify and offers transparency to all.

On the expense side, we directly approved over \$520,000 in grants to 225 groups. Our fiscal sponsor program continues to be a resource for unincorporated projects looking to bring in additional dollars (often awaiting confirmation on 501(c)3 applications).

Four Pop-up offices, 6 RootSkills webinars & 2 trainings, as well as 2 Catalyst Convenings in Connecticut and Massachusetts convened 200 changemakers across the region. Workshop presenter honorariums, childcare, language services, nutrient-rich, local food, travel expense reimbursements were some of the ways we attempted to lower barriers to participation.

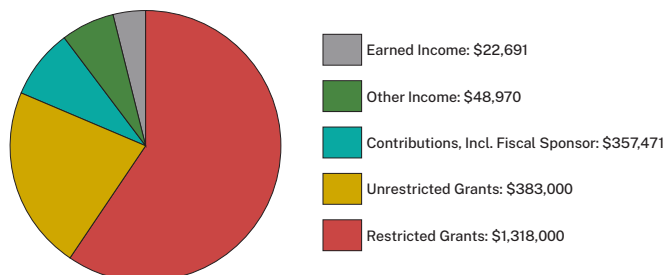
Over 240 readers helped read through 2019 Grow and Young Leader applications and 37 grantmaking committee members joined our 2-day retreats with ample time to explore bias in decision making.

**Note: as per board policy, the Grassroots Fund directs 2% of income to a restricted reserve fund.*

2019 FINANCIALS:

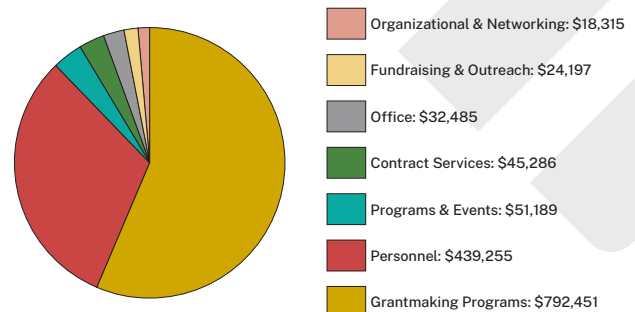
INCOME:

Foundation grants: \$1,701,000
 Contributions: \$92,601
 Sponsorships: \$13,800
 Fiscal Sponsor Contributions: \$264,871
 Program fees: \$8,890
 Other income: \$48,970
 Temporary restricted net asset transfer: (\$500,232)
TOTAL INCOME: \$1,629,900
NET INCOME: \$226,722



EXPENSES:

Grantmaking programs: \$792,451
 Programs & Events: \$51,189
 Fundraising & outreach: \$24,197
 Personnel: \$439,255
 Contract Services: \$45,286
 Organizational & Networking: \$18,315
 Office: \$32,485
TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1,403,178



Thank you to our Donors!

Annual Fund Donors

Ahmad Abojaradeh
Susan B Abrams
Agaric.Coop
Edwin & Marilyn Andrews
Anna B. Stearns Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Anonymous (7 listings)
Susan Arnold
Marya Axner
Cimbria Badenhausen
Barr Foundation
James Barrett
Stephanie Beck
Ben and Kim Roberts Giving Fund, a donor-advised fund of Fidelity Charitable
Andrea Benson
Pia Bickford
Bottomline Technologies, Inc.
Raymond Boudreau
Martha Brezina
Aria Brickner-McDonald
Dea Brickner-Wood
Broad Reach Fund of Maine Community Foundation
Jennifer Brockway
Mark Brown
Hunter Brownlie
Lisa Brukilacchio
Richard Butz
BYOB York
Sara Canuel
Andrea & James Chandler
Cliff & Heidi Chase
Susan Chase
Brian Cherne
Marilyn Chiarello
Elizabeth Claggett-Borne & Jonathan Vogel-Borne
Clark R Smith Family Foundation
Cloud Mountain Foundation
Andrea Cohen Kiener
Russell Cohen
Anonymous
Lucy Congleton
Pamela Corcoran
Kyle Costello
Cunion Salem Family Fund, a donor-advised fund of Fidelity Charitable
Kathleen Damon
Jeffrey Dana
Alicia Daniel
Larry Dansinger
Glorianna Davenport & Evan Schulman
Susan Davies & Richard Talkov
Mary Davis
Sarah DeLuca
Jean Devine
Marianne Dimascio
Sarah Doucette
Claire & David Dundorf
Julia & Chris Dundorf
Erika Easter
Peter Edwards
Elmina B Sewall Foundation

Etienne Dutilh Family Fund, a donor-advised fund of Fidelity Charitable
Aline Euler
Cuff Gates
Judy Fallows
Heidi Feinstein
Lesley Fernow
Fidelity Charitable
Findlay-Freeman Fund, a donor-advised fund of Fidelity Charitable
Sally Fodero
Alyssa Frank Reichman
Friedman-Lauenstein Family Fund, a donor-advised fund of Fidelity Charitable
David Gaby
Miriam Goldstein
Ariel Goodman
Hannah Goodman
Granite United Way
Jennifer Gray
Michelle Greco
Tom Green
Greg Horner
Liam Grenier
Griffiths-Wennrich Family Fund, a donor-advised fund of Fidelity Charitable
Olivia Griset
Elizabeth Hagens
Phil Hammerslough
Nancy Hazard
KC Henry
Herz Fund, a donor-advised fund of ImpactAssets
David Hills & Catherine McLaughlin-Hills
Peter Hofman
Caroline Horner
William & Lucie Huckabay
Jaroslav Hutar
Hayat Imam
Leo Immonen
Impax Asset Charitable Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
Cynthia Irvine
Island Foundation, Inc.
Christine James
Jane K Lannon Revocable Trust
Jane's Trust
Jane's Trust Foundation
Thaddeus Jankowski
Joe & Carol Wishcamper Fund, a donor-advised fund at the Maine Community Foundation
Betsy Johnson
Dewitt Jones & Victoria Bok
Sandra Jones
Christel Jorgenson
Josephine A. Lamprey Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
Colin Keegan
Sarah Kelley
Joseph & Amy Kiefer
Dennis Kiley
Jennifer Kimball
Leslie Klinefelter
Alphonse Knight

John Kondos
Andee Krasner
Jacqueline & John Kremer
Jonathan Krones
Dawn Lake
Karen Lau
Lawson Valentine Foundation
Rachel Lazerus
Edward Leach
Richard Legault
Michel Legendre
Alicia Lehrer
Ron Lemieux
Living Springs Foundation
Tim MacDonald
Macrae Broadbent Family Fund, a donor-advised fund of Fidelity Charitable
Dave Madan
Mark & Diana McNabb Charitable Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
Lisa Martin
Lori Martin
Amy Mason
Jennifer McConathy
David & Janice McKenzie
Seth McNally
John Mejia
Molly Messenger & Josh Arnold
Beth & Russ Milham
Ron Miller
Catherine Mills
Minglewood Trust
Clay Mitchell
Morrill Family Foundation
Stephen Morris
Amy Moses
Byard Mosher
Isa Mujahid
Justin Munroe
Samantha Musher
Poa Mutino
David Myers
Uli Nagel
Network For Good
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
Emily Nink
Emily Nordhoff
Buck OHerin
Onion Foundation
Benjamin Paloff
Patagonia Works
Mary Phillips
Chief Pijaki
Jeffrey Pillet-Shore
Anne Pinciario
Dean Plummer
Micaela Porta
Renee Portanova
Delilah Poupore
Lisa Prescott
Leah Prunte
Putnam Foundation
Verena & Spencer Putnam
R Faulkner Charitable Donation of UBS Financial Services Inc.
Noah Rae-Grant

Scott Reed
Carolyn Reeves
Ress Family Foundation
Rhode Island Foundation
Robert Ringer
Kathleen Robbins
Ed Roberts
Andy Robinson
Loretta Roby
Johanna Rosen
Alan Rozycki
Bonnie Rukin
Sam Kendall and Cathie Zusy, a donor-advised fund of Fidelity Charitable
Michelle Sanborn
Deborah Schimberg
Cheryl Schnitzer
Susan Schroeter
Pamela Schwartz & Joel Feldman
Jonathan Scott
Shawn Selleck
Anonymous
Megan Shore
Jenny Silverman & Robert Follansbee
Jeanine Silversmith
Singing Field Foundation
Charles Spurgeon
Jeffrey Stein
Roger & Mona Stephenson
Lynda Sudlow
Peter Swift
Tacooma Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
Rick & Sheila Taintor
Alyson & Brandon Tanguay
Debbie Tatro
Elizabeth Tener
John Tener
The 1772 Foundation, Inc.
The Betjemann Family Trust of 2016
The Cabin Foundation
The Ford Foundation
The High Meadows Fund
The John Merck Fund
The Pitcairn Donor-Advised Fund of National Philanthropic Trust
The Robert Gerber Trust
The Sandy River Charitable Foundation
The Seth Sprague Educational And Charitable Foundation
The Stare Fund
Three Friends Charitable Fund, a donor-advised fund of Fidelity Charitable
Vidya Tikku
Sasha Tracy
Sophy Tuttle
Rick Wackernagel
Ann Fowler Wallace
Jeff Waller
Elaine Wang
Barbara Ward
Alan Weiss
Rev. Mariama White-Hammond
Johanna White
Mimi White

Wilkinson Foundation
Janet & Freddie Wilkinson
Carol & Joe Wishcamper
You Have Our Trust Fund of New
Hampshire Charitable Foundation

Annual Fund Honor and Memorial Acknowledgements

In the name of Annetter, from
Heidi Feinstein
In the name of Audrey Irvine-Broque,
from Cynthia Irvine
In the name of Bill Burtis, from
Liam Grenier
In the name of Bruce F.
Hammerslough, from
Phil Hammerslough
In the name of Camp Ramah Alumni,
from Ariel Goodman
In the name of Diana Carpinone,
from Thaddeus Jankowski
In the name of Global Children,
from Elizabeth Hagens
In the name of Janet Wilkinson,
from KC Henry
In the name of Joyce MacGovern,
from Robert Ringer
In the name of Julia Dunderf,
from David Hills & Catherine
McLaughlin-Hills and Jacqueline &
John Kremer
In the name of Lucie and John
Hagens, from Elizabeth Hagens
In the name of Mike, from
Mimi White
In the name of Sam Musher &
Jon Woodward, from Brian Cherne,
Kyle Costello, Miriam Goldstein,
Benjamin Paloff, Alyssa Frank
Reichman, and Jeff Waller
In the name of The "Lets Ban
Polystyrene" team, from BYOB York
In the name of Thom Linzey of
CELDF, from Cimbria Badenhausen
In the name of Winslow Ladue,
from Peter Swift

Fiscal Sponsor Donors

Boston Climate Action Network:
Ben Antenore
Kevin & Deborah Block-Schwenk
Edith Buhs
Doris Burford
Matthew Cardarelli
Ava Cheloff
Janet Connors
Tim & Sally Dean
Anonymous
Michael Felsen
Sarah Freeman
Marjorie Greville
Alison Haight
Elizabeth Harris
Edith Henderson &
George B Henderson II
Linda Hirsch
Sara Hohenstein
Nancy Hood
David Klafter & Suzette Abbott
Stefanie Komorowski
John Kyper
Rachel Medanic

Aterah Nusrat
Joel & Martha Pierce
John Pierce & Katherine Lacher
Michael Prokosch
Hyunsun Roh
Jacqueline Royce
Daniel & Dinah Satinsky
Sara Sezun
Howard Shrobe
Diane & John Spears
The Jamie Pullen & Michael Blasnik
Fund, a donor-advised fund of
Vanguard Charitable
The New World Foundation
Gregory Thole
Robert Triest
David Webster
Cora Weissbourd

Friends of Salter Grove:

Trent Batson
Dziedzic Charitable Fund, a donor-
advised fund of Schwab Charitable
Lynn McCauley
Palmieri Charitable Trust
Ray Renzi
State of Rhode Island &
Providence Plantations

Jewish Climate Action Network:

Katy Allen
Howard & Deborah Bernstein
Betsy & David Teutsch Tzedakah
Fund, a donor-advised fund of
Fidelity Charitable
Fred & Lucinda Davis
Mirele Goldsmith
Jack Gorman
Judith Mabel Gift Fund, a donor-
advised fund of Fidelity Charitable
Karen Blumenfeld & Andrew
Nierenberg Fund, a donor-advised
fund of Fidelity Charitable
Elan & Sarra Riesman
Jacob Sapon
David Schreiber
Schwab Charitable
David Strauss
Judy Weiss

Maine Foodscapes:

Newman's Own Foundation

MassEnergize:

William Calder

Meadowscaping for Biodiversity:

First Parish in Waltham
Judy Record Conservation Fund
Anne & Frederick Paulsen
RTN GoodWorks Foundation
The Willow Tree Fund, a donor-
advised Fund of Fidelity Charitable
Elizabeth Wilczek

North Country Alliance for Balanced Change:

Fred Anderson
Susan Argetsinger
Keith Ashton
Cheryl & Steven Bianchi
Thomas Cobb
Edward Craxton
Paul Damiano

Majka & Peter Doucette
Peter Doucette
Laura Dow
Anna Doyle
Elise Drake
Eames Partnership
Facey Charitable Fund at
Schwab Charitable
Adam Finkel & Joanne Booth
Emelyn Gilmore
Griffiths-Wennrich Family Fund,
a donor-advised fund of Fidelity
Charitable
Robert Grosholz
Marilyn Johnson
Dennis & Jo-Linda Keith
Gardner & Patricia Kellogg
Claire Lupton
Martha McLeod
Nancy & Wayne Morrison
Chris Sundman
David Sundman
Mildred Thayer
The Mary Lou Krambeer Fund, a
donor-advised fund of Vaguard
Charitable
The Rust Foundation

Summer of Solutions Hartford:

Joseph Clifford Barber
Ben & Jerry's Foundation
Bennett's Books
Berkshire Bank Foundation, Inc.
Blue Eart Compost Inc
Hartford Foundation
Haymarket People's Fund
Allison Holst-Grubbe
Makaela Kingsley
Paypal Charitable Giving Fund
Robert F. Schumann Foundation
SeedMoney
Beth Tener
The Betty Knox Foundation, Inc.
William Caspar Graustein
Memorial Fund

Sustainable Seacoast:

Alison Flemer and family

The Muddy Water Group:

Jonathan Cohn
Robert Coughlin
Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC
H James
Jacqueline Royce
The Jane Roche Charitable Fund,
a donar-advised fund at Schwab
Charitable
The Peaked Hill Fund - a donor
advised fund of Vanguard
Charitable

Time Trade Network of Greater Newburyport:

Susan Aloviseti
Sacha Fossa
Barbara Gard
Brian & Peggy Greenberg
Lynette Leka
Elizabeth Marcus
Deborah Mousley
Lucy Riddell
Bonnie Sontag
Heidi & Austin Spinella

Barry Spiro
Kathleen Stark
Francisco & Linda Villalobos

Fiscal Sponsor Donors Honor and Memorial Acknowledgments

Boston Climate Action Network:
In the name of Paul Eldrenkamp
of Byggmeister, Inc. from Linda
Hirsch
In the name of Becky Pierce & Mike
Prokosch, from Nancy Hood, and
from Joel & Martha Pierce
In the name of Lin and Lior, from
David Webster
In the name of Jaya Mathur, from
Sara Hohenstein
In the name of Katheryn Holland,
from Rachel Medanic
Friends of Salter Grove:
In the name of George B. Salter
and his great-grandson Peter J.
McCauley, from Lynn McCauley
Jewish Climate Action Network:
In the name of Janet Green's mother,
from Howard & Deborah Bernstein
North Country Alliance for
Balanced Change:
In the name of Roger and Sarah
Doucette, from Peter Doucette
In the name of Thomas Cobb,
from Thomas Cobb
Summer of Solutions Hartford:
In the name of Jennifer Roach,
from Makaela Kingsley
In the name of Taylor, from
Allison Holst-Grubbe
The Muddy Water Group:
In the name of Jackie Royce,
from Jonathan Cohn
In the name of Elissa L. Abruzzo,
from Robert Coughlin

Wedding gifts that give
back! Sam Musher and
Jon Woodward, longtime
donors and grassroots
organizers from the Boston
area, wanted to offer a
wedding gift registry that
aligned with their values.
They asked their guests to
make donations, including
to the Grassroots Fund,
in honor of the occasion.
Donating in someone's
name is a wonderful way
to build awareness of our
regional work while honoring
or remembering someone
special, or a special occasion.
Thanks, Sam and Jon!

Meet 6 of the Grassroots Fund Grantee Groups from 2019

RURAL ASPIRATIONS PROJECT BAR HARBOR, ME

WARNER PUBLIC MARKET WARNER, NH

Living Economies / Grow

In many rural communities, hubs of local connection have waned, and opportunities for local commerce have been replaced by big box stores with no intentions of building community wealth or connection. The owners of the cooperatively-run Warner Public Market sought to challenge that trend by creating a welcoming platform for gatherings, educational workshops, and small-scale makers and growers. They aim to provide access to local food, knowledge, culture, and creative exploration to their rural community. By evaluating sustainability and community benefit with a triple-bottom line philosophy, they hope Warner Public Market will be able to support everyone: producers, consumers, and employees.

DAWNLAND HERITAGE GARDEN AND SEED LIBRARY AT STERLING COLLEGE CRAFTSBURY COMMON, VT

Food / Grow

The Dawnland Heritage Garden is a partnership between agricultural and indigenous groups, who came together to address the erosion of agrobiodiversity that has been accompanied by a loss of cultural and culinary knowledge associated with food and seed varieties native to Dawnland, the traditional Abenaki name for Vermont. The garden serves to rematriate Dawnland seeds in Vermont, especially those important to Abenaki customs and celebrations. In 2018, the garden's first year, all crops were given back to Abenaki Helping Abenaki and Seeds of Renewal, and the seeds were saved to plant in the 2019 season. During the second year of growth, seeds will be incorporated into the Dawnland Heritage Seed Library, the first seed library in Vermont that specifically highlights the importance of rematriating native seeds in Vermont and sharing the stories of Dawnland seeds.

LEARNING CORRIDOR COUNCIL CLEAN UP THE INCINERATOR NEW HAVEN, CT

Environmental Health / Grow

The Learning Corridor is an effort to build community through placemaking and recreation in a low-income community in the neighborhood of Newhallville. Once a thriving working-class community, the loss of the area's major employer, Winchester Repeating Arms, during the 1980s set the neighborhood into economic distress, which was exacerbated by the housing collapse of 2008. In Newhallville, 90% of children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, and residents suffer from disproportionate levels of obesity, type-2 diabetes, asthma, and other chronic diseases. In response, the Learning Corridor has transformed a three-block section of the Farmington Canal Heritage Greenway into a vibrant space for community-building, family-friendly festivals and events – a space where community members are able to utilize the Greenway as a unique recreational asset promoting fitness, physical activity and a healthy lifestyle for all ages and ethnic backgrounds.

Land & Water / Young Leader
The Rural Aspirations Project works to expand educational opportunities in rural Maine that develop and honor community while stimulating the innate curiosity of students and teachers. To do this, they offer responsive professional development for teachers and administrators to build local capacity and honor local heritage. Our

Young Leaders grant supported their newest initiative, the Maine Forest Collaborative, which aims to bring schools and communities together to design programming that empowers all students to actively contribute, as citizens and stewards, to the vitality of our forest communities today and into the future.

PITTSFIELD BAGSHARE PITTSFIELD, MA Environmental Health / Seed

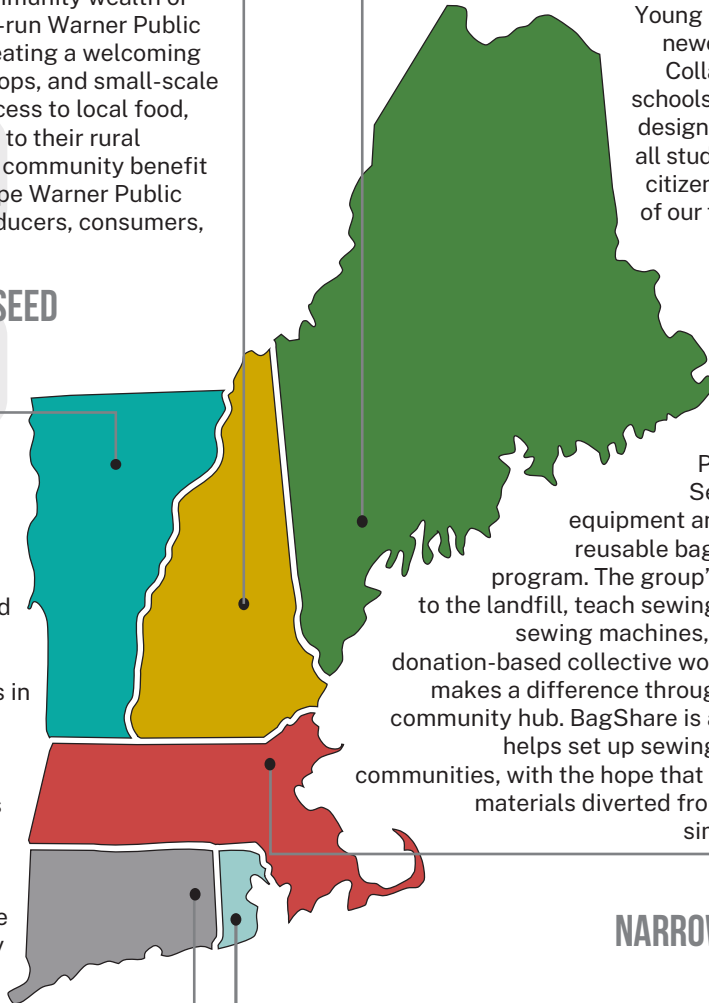
Pittsfield BagShare received a Seed grant in 2019 to purchase equipment and materials needed to create reusable bags for a community bag-share program. The group's purpose is to prevent waste to the landfill, teach sewing, start sewing centers, repair sewing machines, and introduce the concept of donation-based collective work that builds community and makes a difference through the creation of a BagShare community hub. BagShare is a regionally run resource that helps set up sewing and distribution hubs within communities, with the hope that the reusable bags made from materials diverted from landfills will complement a simultaneous bag ban initiative.

NARROW RIVER PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION Saunderstown, RI

Land & Water / Seed

Narrow River Preservation Association has been protecting the brackish tidal inlet for 50 years. Despite this, the group realized that they did not have documentation of the indigenous history and uses of the land they preserved. They used a Seed grant to support a partnership with the Tomaquag Museum, an indigenous-run museum dedicated to broadening perspectives about indigenous culture and perspectives. Through their partnership, they co-hosted a kayak tour of Narrow River focused on historical and current indigenous practices of that land and water, and deepened their understanding of indigenous and environmental justice.

Learn the stories of the groups we've funded and get involved with their work at:
<https://grassrootsfund.org/guiding-practices/community-stories>



Participants

Participatory Grantmaking Committees

Grow, Spring

Tarshire Battle
Cris Blackstone
Jennifer Brockway
Aileen Castillo
Kat Champigny
Kendra Dawsey
Michelle de Lima
Paige Heverly
Colin Keegan
Michél Legendre
Vanessa Liles
Oliver Scholes
Sandeep Bikram Shah

Grow, Fall

Kimberly Acosta
Austin Bryniarski
Jeuji Diamondstone
Nicole Feleo
Diana Fontaine
Melissa Guillet
Sabrina Hunte
Amanda Jacir
Michelle de Lima
Daniel MacPhee
Tonisha Pinckney
Aubrey Porter
Vignesh Ramachandran
Oliver Scholes
Brian Watson

Young Leader, Spring

Kimberly Acosta
Claude McLaughlin
Paige Nygaard
William Oppenheimer
Amaryst Parks
Marissa Patterson
Listch Prinston
Vignesh Ramachandran
Samir Richard
Danielle Smith
Kenda Tucker
Farzana Zubair

RootSkills Workshops Planning Committees

Brattleboro, VT

Geraldine Vatan - 350VT/Mother Up Montpelier
Francis Manga - Association of Africans Living in VT
Chris Wood - BALE (Building a Local Economy)
Jacqueline Ward - High school teacher
Marilyn Chiarello - Edible Brattleboro
Kile Adumene - Equity Leaders Fellowship (NH)
Betsy Hands - High Meadows Fund
Abel Luna - Migrant Justice
Ann Garland - NH Upper Valley Democrats
Shaina Kasper - Toxics Action Center
Sarah Brock - Vital Communities
Libby Weiland - VT Community Garden Network
Marie Emerson - Wild Wescogus Blueberries

Providence, RI

Tarshire Battle - Restoration Urban Farm of New England
Sara Canuel - Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council
Janice Falconer - Impact RI
Sebastian Interlandi - Southside Community Land Trust
Vanessa Liles - PT Partners
Catarina Lorenzo - Alliance to Mobilize Our Resistance
Jeanine Silversmith - Rhode Island Environmental Education Association
Dena Haden - Co-Creative Center

Meet our board and staff:

<https://grassrootsfund.org/about-us/our-team>



PARTICIPATE

You know what we do. Maybe you've already joined us as a grantee, program participant or a donor. Will you choose to engage in other ways?

This is *OUR* Grassroots Fund.

We encourage meaningful participation. We are working within our organization and alongside our constituents to challenge the basic structure of problem solving, and hold and create space for the voices that must guide us into the future. Here are a few ways we'd gladly welcome your unique experiences, talents and leadership.



BECOME A GRANT REVIEWER

Be an application reader and add to the diversity of perspectives in our grant review process.



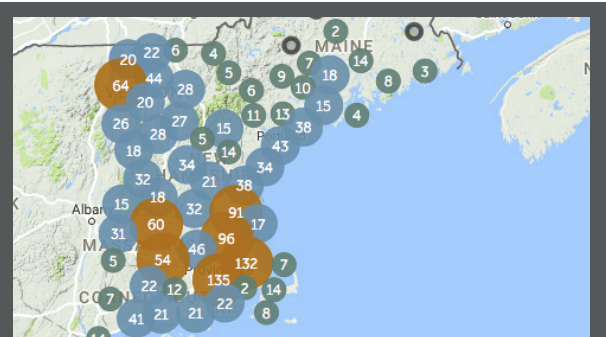
JOIN A COMMITTEE

Join a planning committee for a RootSkills event or a Catalyst Conversation gathering.



BECOME A TRAINER

Share your experience and wisdom as a grantee or subject specialist during a RootSkills webinar or event.



HOST A HOUSE PARTY

Introduce our work to your network and your community by hosting/co-hosting a house party.

Are you ready? The next step is to visit the webpage below, share your preferences, and we'll be in touch soon. Welcome!

Interested, but still not sure? Please, reach out anyway. We'll work with you to tailor your involvement according to your geography, your time available, and your interests.

NEW ENGLAND GRASSROOTS ENVIRONMENT FUND, INC. • P.O. BOX 611 • NEWMARKET, NH 03857

<https://GRASSROOTSFND.ORG/AMPLIFYING-VOICES>

CONNECT@GRASSROOTSFUND.ORG • 603-905-9915