our Voicesto

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Grassroots Organizations and Movement Building

Since the onset of the pandemic earlier this year, the rampant health inequities in this country have been laid bare. These health inequities are tied to the disparities that people of color face every day from the fact that people of color are more likely to live and work in crowded space; that people of color rely more on public transportation to get to places like school or work; that people of color represent a majority of essential workers in food, industrial, commercial, residential facilities and services; and that people of color are more likely to suffer from pre-existing health conditions that increase their risk of COVID-19. As the COVID-19 crisis shatters our collective disillusionment about racial inequities in our society by making them more apparent, we are reminded that this is not the only pandemic our communities are grappling with right now.

This summer, our nation witnessed nearly 16 million people across the United States participate in demonstrations in response to anti-Black violence and the killing of George Floyd, Rayshard Brooks, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and so many more. Through the work of the Black Lives Matter movement, Black community leaders, and grassroots efforts across the United States, wide scale peaceful protests highlighted a need for racial justice in this country. Sparking conversations about crossing borders, breaking barriers, and tearing down silos to lead us to a better future, around the globe.

“As the COVID-19 crisis shatters our collective disillusionment about racial inequities in our society by making them more apparent, we are reminded that this is not the only pandemic our communities are grappling with right now.”

(continued on page 3)
Dear Friends and Supporters,
I hope you and your loved ones are well. What a year this has been. We have lost over 235,000 people to coronavirus. As the COVID-19 pandemic swept our country, it shone a light on the pandemic of racial injustice that has been with us from the very beginning of this country. We saw millions of people engaged here and abroad in protests standing against anti-Black violence and demanding racial justice.

This year, our Movement Building grants will support grassroots organizations engaged in movement building work around COVID-19 and/or racial justice. If you know an organization doing good work on either of these issues, please recommend them for a grant. You can find the link on our website or social media.

Millions of people turned out to vote through their local, state and national elections; I hope that you are feeling uplifted given the increase in womxn’s representation in the US Congress with 134 seats secured, an amazing number of firsts throughout the country for womxn of color and that Vice President-elect Kamala Harris is the nation’s first womxn and womxn of color to hold the office. There is still much work to be done, but we should celebrate the victories along the way.

At BWF, we are uplifted by the energy, creativity and passion of our new Executive Director Natanja Craig-Oquendo who hit the ground running in September. She is on a listening tour and is inspired by getting to know the amazing womxn who are our grantees, founders, supporters and partners.

There is so much to be grateful for as well. Jackie Jenkins-Scott did an amazing job as our Interim Executive Director this past year; we are grateful that she is remaining as BWF’s Senior Philanthropic Advisor. We have had so many womxn supporting the work through service. We are grateful for our Programs, Development and Communications Interns, our Allocations Committee and Movement Building Panel members, and our Executive Search Committee.

Our deepest gratitude goes out to you; your support enabled us to expand our grantmaking in 2020. Please be bold in your giving, as the needs are greater now than ever. You can send a gift in the enclosed envelope or through our website’s donation page. Thank you for joining us in supporting womxn and girls working to create a more just world for all of us.

In Gratitude,
Claudia Thompson
Board Chair

“Our deepest gratitude goes out to you; your support enabled us to expand our grantmaking in 2020. Please be bold in your giving, as the needs are greater now than ever.”

The Boston Women’s Fund (BWF) was fortunate to have Jackie Jenkins-Scott as its Interim Executive Director this past year. Much was accomplished under Jackie’s leadership including new partnerships; expanding grantmaking; and securing Natanja Craig-Oquendo as BWF’s new Executive Director. At BWF’s first conversation of its Fall 2020 Series, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley acknowledged, “I’ve never met someone who is as intentional and uplifting of people as Jackie Jenkins-Scott. She is so generous, she has poured into so many of us; she has strengthened and inspired others by her example and by her intentional sisterhood and mentorship.” We could not agree more. Jackie, you are truly a special leader; we are grateful for all you have done and to have your continued guidance as BWF’s Senior Philanthropic Advisor.

BWF Board and Staff
Grassroots Organizations and Movement Building (continued from pg 1)

As we look at this historical moment and the movement for racial justice, it is important to highlight the work of grassroots organizations and acknowledge their role in helping to develop and build movements. Grassroots organizations support movements by building a base. They engage individuals and the communities most affected by the issue/s; develop alliances, collaborate and create networks that share a collective vision and commitment; foster leadership among its base; and work on systems of change. Grassroots work takes place in local policy creation, within school systems and through working with partners to pass legislation like the MA Domestic Workers Bill of Rights. These organizations increase their power by bringing large numbers of people to the table and mobilizing them to respond to issues; their efforts and their numbers impact decision makers.

We are reminded that when it comes to driving change and rallying people, our communities have historically referred to work done by grassroots organizations. This link between grassroots organizing and movement building is best seen in the legislative reforms instituted by state and national governments. In the 1950s and 1960s, grassroots initiatives organized tens of thousands of activists, in the face of brutal repression, and mobilized to demand that the government mandate desegregation in public facilities and guarantee the right of Black Americans to vote. Neither the Civil Rights Act of 1964 nor the Voting Rights Act of 1965 would have happened had it not been for the behind the scenes grassroots organizing. Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson ultimately responded—but only when they had no choice, and only when pressure from Black activists—and grassroots protests—compelled them to act.

The Boston Women’s Fund (BWF) recognizes the crucial role that grassroots leaders and organizations play in movement building. In 2020, BWF expanded its reach by launching a Movement Building grant program. Honoring its roots of taking its lead from the community, organizations are put forward for the grant through a simple recommendation process. A Movement Building Panel of diverse womxn review the organizations and decide which organization/s should receive a grant.

In 2021 BWF will continue its recommendation based Movement Building Grants. During the past 9 months, COVID-19 and the wide scale push for racial justice have exposed and magnified the inequities in our society. In order to be responsive to both, BWF’s 2021 Movement Building Grants will focus on grassroots organizing around the dual pandemics of COVID-19 and/or racial injustice. BWF recognizes that during these trying times our community relies on the support of grassroots leaders and organizations; we seek to emphasize the deeper impact their work has on our communities. BWF welcomes you to visit our website and social media and recommend an organization for a Movement Building Grant.

“As we look at this historical moment and the movement for racial justice, it is important to highlight the work of grassroots organizations and acknowledge their role in helping to develop and build movements.”
Q: Your work in the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors has been community centered and focused on the grassroots. How did this come to be a focus for you?

A: My care and love for the community started with my activist parents. My mom was fierce. She was a social worker by day and a community activist at night helping people with applications, teaching English, encouraging people to vote, and so much more. My mother really had love for her community. I grew up in Villa Victoria surrounded by womxn who had fought for the spaces we lived in. The organizing stories were embedded in our community. That’s incredibly powerful. Between my parents and Villa Victoria, activism has always been a part of my life. I carry that with me. When I think of the change making I saw in the community, it was always at the grassroots level. I have a deep, deep respect for larger organizations, but the truth is when I reflect on where they were, at least in my own personal journey, I didn’t see that kind of direct service or direct change happening at that level.

I started my career in the corporate sector and quickly realized I wanted to be closer to my community and in partnership with them in their fight for liberation. I was considering starting a nonprofit, when I met Robert Lewis, Jr., currently the founder of the Base. I joined his team at the Boston Foundation (TBF) because of his vision for philanthropy. It was much different than my experience was; I wanted to be a part of that change. I started out as an Executive Assistant and worked my way up. When I was asked to create a grassroots strategy for TBF, I was thrilled. Though TBF is a community foundation, many people in the community were unaware of TBF. I spent 80% of my time in Boston looking for leaders doing incredible work and helping them understand the philanthropic sector. Working at TBF was an incredible experience and opportunity and I still consider TBF as part of my work family. However, the Boston Women’s Fund (BWF) feels like home.

Q: Why does BWF feel like home to you?

A: A pivotal moment for me was at a meeting in my early days at TBF. The conversation was on the cliff effect — which is when you are receiving public assistance and your income surpasses the threshold set by the federal poverty guidelines. My colleagues, they have report upon report from prestigious research institutions. We are digging in. I’m sitting there and reflecting on how odd it is that we’re having this conversation based on reports. This was an awakening for me. I realized that I was an untapped expert in that room; I understood the problem through my own lived experience; I had insights that the reports could not provide. I realized we were doing a disservice by leaving out those who have actually had experiences in the welfare system, who could give us some insight and perspective on how this could be done better. I was struck by the absence of the voices of those that were ultimately impacted.

From the start, BWF centered the voices of those closest to the issues to ensure what’s impacting their lives is what we’re focusing on. I never thought that my own thoughts and values would align so directly with an organization, the way it does with BWF. I am someone who believes strongly in honoring your roots. I love BWF’s history and its legacy. From the beginning it was a model of participatory and trust based philanthropy, things trending now 38 years later. A community meeting grew the idea for BWF. We still center community spaces and follow the community’s lead. BWF has always engaged differently with its grantee partners; I heard this from every grantee. These are all things I believe in. They not only make us better as an organization, but make the sector better. That is why BWF feels like home to me. It’s like a collaboration or a colliding of both my personal values and my professional values, in a way I didn’t believe was possible until I came here.

Q: What is your hope for BWF?

A: Our founder Kip Tiernan said, “It is our hope that in establishing a fund directed by womxn for womxn, we will be creating a mechanism that will contribute to the collective empowerment of womxn. Further, through funding projects designed by womxn to serve womxn, we hope the fund will build stronger bonds among us in a shared struggle toward transforming our lives and our society.” This resonates with me.
We want to always be in a space where we are honoring and learning from our past, committed to the present, but always looking to the future. To do that we need a broader platform with many more voices informing and building the work. BWF works to engage a broad range of diverse womxn in its work; this is tied to our target constituencies of womxn and girls: elders, girls, immigrants and refugees, the LBTQIA+ community, low-income womxn, womxn of color, and womxn with disabilities. I want to ensure that the spaces that we create consistently have this range of voices. For me this not just a job. When we talk about the issues related to girls and womxn, we’re talking about us, our daughters, and our mothers. I see myself in this work, and I see a myriad of womxn that I love and respect in this work. My hope is to create a broader platform, to make space for more voices that work to collectively build BWF, and that all womxn will see themselves in our work.

With this hope in mind, we will be launching a #IAMBWF campaign; this isn’t just a fundraising campaign. It is an affirmation, an expectation, and an invitation. Part of the beauty of BWF is that we have touchpoints with so many different communities, with so many different womxn and girls. When people see our logo, when they hear our story, I want them to see themselves in our work, that a part of them is represented in who we are and what we stand for. So, #IAMBWF is for people who have been with us for a long time, or for a week. BWF is an organization that is here for the needs, the wants, and the creativity of womxn and girls, specifically those that are often ignored. It is also an invitation to those who do not see themselves in our work to help us make sure that their voices, their thoughts, and their concerns are also reflected in our organization. So #IAMBWF is about reflection, but it’s also about accountability. It’s about all womxn. Every day in our work we will challenge ourselves to think about what that means, how we show up, and what that looks like and how that feels for the communities that we love and are partnering with.

Q: Given the pandemic, you are on a virtual listening tour and have met with present and past grantee organizations; what has stayed with you from those conversations?

A: I realized that during this pandemic, our first responders include our smaller grassroots leaders and organizations who opened up their doors when so many were closing. I’ve learned how nimble our grantees are. They’re able to quickly pivot to respond to emerging and urgent

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I Have A Future

I Have A Future builds the power of youth across the state through leadership development, direct public action, and policy change. IHAF’s leadership and constituents are reflective of those most affected by the issues of youth unemployment and youth criminalization, and young women of color from Boston. IHAF strives to empower youth voices, and educate young people on the impact of social issues.

IHAF has continued to empower, educate, and organize youth throughout the pandemic, despite its challenges. With the utilization of the Zoom platform, IHAF was able to reach more regionally diverse groups of youth. Through the accessibility of online training and workshops, IHAF has extended its reach beyond the Boston area.

IHAF aims to shed light on the oppression faced by Black and Brown communities through organizing workshops for youth where they can create podcasts, newsletters, or zines relating to pertinent social issues. IHAF also focuses on legislative approaches towards racial equality and economic justice tied to youth employment. An IHAF youth leader explained, “We are sending emails and making calls about police reform bills that are in the process of being decided on; for our upcoming training we’re teaching youth leaders about outreach and putting together actions; we’re having conduct outreach on the Justice Reinvestment Act.”

Northeast Center for Tradeswomen’s Equity

The Northeast Center for Tradeswomen’s Equity (NCTE) is a Massachusetts-based, non-profit organization dedicated to helping women find careers in the union building trades. NCTE’s work is more than a campaign; it is a movement with a big goal to have 20% women in the building trades by 2020. NCTE has partnered with female trade workers and built alliances with unions, construction contractors, the MA Gaming Commission and others to raise awareness about the benefits of a career in the trades. NCTE’s Build a Life That Works campaign connects women seeking a career in trades to information, training programs, apprenticeships, career fairs, and more resources.

Throughout Covid-19, NCTE had to make compromises to their usual method of signing up workers. Because most apprenticeships were paused during the first half of 2020, NCTE shifted to online registration. This program change has worked well. Close to 2000 women have completed the online survey; of those women, about 600 of them were “shovel ready” meaning they could begin work immediately.

NCTE protects tradeswomen in Massachusetts by informing them of their rights. The Center also pushes back against discriminatory practices within construction jobsites to address reports of harassment and imminent safety issues posed to women workers. In addition to working within specific communities, NCTE has been working within the organization to further equality by appointing more women of color to their board and uplifting unheard voices. The NCTE monthly information sessions are now being organized and led by a woman of color from the trades. NCTE aims to expand education around race and gender externally, in the community, as well as internally, within leadership positions themselves.

“NCTE’s Build a Life That Works campaign connects women seeking a career in trades to information, training programs, apprenticeships, career fairs, and more resources.”

“IHAF strives to empower youth voices, and educate young people on the impact of social issues.”
Association of Haitian Women Inc.

Founded in 1988 to amplify Haitian women’s voices, the Association of Haitian Women Inc. (AFAB) is a community-based grassroots organization committed to providing the necessary tools for Haitian women to improve their social, economic, and political status. AFAB also advocates for social justice education throughout the Haitian community, and provides several programs to assist women with domestic violence prevention, housing advocacy, and both adult and children’s education services.

As with many organizations facing the impacts of COVID-19, AFAB faced an increase in demands for support from its members particularly around domestic violence, mental health support, housing and employment. In response, AFAB adjusted their programs to support their members and reflect the increased and expanded needs brought on by the pandemic.

AFAB has been committed to nonstop advocacy work since a year after its creation. They not only serve Haitian women, but also Latinx and African-Americans who also face social injustices. AFAB collaborates with different racial justice organizations to raise consciousness around language translation and interpretation as necessary social services.

Cambridge Women’s Center

The Cambridge Women’s Center (the Women’s Center) is a Cambridge-based resource for women founded in 1971. It is the oldest community center for women in the United States. Since its beginning, the Women’s Center has aimed to provide a safe and supportive community space for all women. Programs and services are free to all, offering opportunities for support, healing, empowerment, and education. The Women’s Center provides a supportive community space for all women based on autonomy, mutual respect, and personal initiative.

Although the Women’s Center physically closed for the pandemic, group attendance was higher than ever on the remote helpline and in virtual groups, one of which was made specifically for COVID-19. Since August, the Women’s Center reopened with a limited amount of in-person services including laptop access, grab-and-go food bags, and socially distant outdoor community space.

The Cambridge Women’s Center has a committee called the IDEA Committee (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accountability in Action) that is composed of Black, Indigenous, and other women of color, along with members of the LGBTQIA+ community. The IDEA Committee is committed to learning from the experiences of the community at the Women’s Center and holding each other accountable when it comes to diversity and equity. Their goal is to foster empowerment within members of the community who otherwise would not be heard at board meetings, or other decision making spaces. Additionally, the Committee seeks to educate the community on important topics such as transgender rights, antiracism, and policing.

“AFAB adjusted their programs to support their members and reflect the increased and expanded needs brought on by the pandemic.”

“The Cambridge Women’s Center provides a supportive community space for all women based on autonomy, mutual respect, and personal initiative.”
Eastern Woodlands Rematriation Collective

The Eastern Woodlands Rematriation Collective (Eastern Woodlands) mobilizes folks at the grassroots level to rematriate food and political systems. Eastern Woodlands prioritizes the return of Indigenous women, two-spirits, and youth to traditional territories and relationships with the earth. Co-Director, Kristen Wyman explains that “As a collective, it’s not about one person dominating or making decisions over our work, it’s about really learning from each other.”

Eastern Woodlands is working to address the needs brought on by COVID-19, including an increase in demand for both medicine and wellness. As colder seasons approach, the organization is working to accommodate all extended families fighting health challenges by expanding their community apothecaries. They believe deeply that, “Our plants are our support, we need them to survive, and COVID is revealing that.” The Collective has hope that the youth of this generation will change the way we listen and engage, instead of simply carrying the burden of their past.

Eastern Woodlands understands that all struggles are connected in some way and hopes to work more intersectionally. They work to bridge the common struggle between Indigenous women of Greater Boston and other marginalized folks at the grassroots level regionally, nationally and internationally.

Matahari Women Workers’ Center

The Matahari Women Workers’ Center is a membership-based grassroots organization that organizes and develops the leadership of immigrant women and women of color employed in low-wage industries, particularly domestic work. It has grown from a case management organization into the largest non-union community organization representing women workers in Massachusetts.

During COVID-19, Matahari with local and national partners established funds including the MassUndocuFund to distribute pandemic aid to undocumented workers. There’s an even greater need during the pandemic to provide support and education around workers’ rights. There is also a greater public awareness of essential workers. Matahari’s Executive Director, Monique Tu Nguyen, states that, “Even though the pandemic has been...really unnecessary and painful - for organizers, I think this is our portal to [transformation].”

Matahari works tirelessly to uplift the voices of essential workers, particularly in Black and Brown communities, who are dying from COVID at a disproportionate rate. Led by women of color and immigrants, Matahari fights for personal and societal transformation, along with human rights and social justice.

Women Encouraging Empowerment Inc. (WEE)

Women Encouraging Empowerment Inc. (WEE) works to educate, advocate, protect and advance the rights of immigrants, refugees, and low-income women and their families through organizing, leadership development, and service delivery. WEE Executive Director, Olga Tacure states, “We encourage [our members] to reach their potential as leaders or to engage in their communities. Because that’s key. When we don’t get engaged, and we’re not aware of what’s going on in our city, we always are left out. And we are the ones who suffer the most when these issues are made not thinking of us.”

During the COVID-19 crisis, WEE is providing online classes and services. They continue to work on navigating Zoom to provide classes and strive to keep members involved. Additionally, WEE has long-term goals to hear more stories from people of color, to break down societal barriers for growth, to participate in the community and to find space for greater representation in places of power. Tacure reflects that, “English classes are everywhere. But we are different because we help people to engage in their community; to participate; to start attending those school committee meetings; or those city council meetings.”

“When we don’t get engaged, and we’re not aware of what’s going on in our city, we always are left out.”
Essex County Community Organization (ECCO)

The Essex County Community Organization (ECCO) is a diverse, multifaith network of 39 congregations. ECCO strives to promote racial and social justice, works collectively towards justice for all, and makes decisions democratically. Through its Women’s Leadership Group, ECCO seeks to advance the power of immigrant women. African American and Latina women leaders worked together to envision and build the Shine Together Co-operative. It is a women’s worker owned cleaning co-operative, and is the first of its kind on the North Shore of Boston. The purpose of the Co-operative is to create a beloved economy, a community-based alternative to economic systems that push immigrant women and those living in poverty to the margins of our society.

ECCO has worked tirelessly throughout COVID-19 to provide for the community including raising funds for direct relief to individuals, creating a grocery delivery mutual aid network and offering emotional solidarity through community support. The Women’s Leadership Group addressed the loss of cleaning jobs due to the pandemic by shifting the Shine Together Co-operative’s business model to a catering focus. This enabled them to meet a community need and provide economic support for their members.

Additionally, ECCO is committed to fighting against racial and social injustices and uplifting Black and Brown voices in the community. As part of this mission, Executive Director, Dr. Alexandra Piñeros-Shields states that ECCO is “establishing real, robust police accountability work” through their implicit bias training for the Lynn Police Department and obtaining city agreement to participatory police budgeting. ECCO also holds a POC (People of Color) Caucus to foster support and discussion on dismantling white supremacy.

Massachusetts Coalition of Domestic Workers:

The Massachusetts Coalition of Domestic Workers (MCDW), founded in 2010, works to bring racial and social justice and dignity to all domestic workers in Massachusetts. MCDW organizes immigrant women, including those who work as domestic workers, to advocate for themselves on the issues they face in the workplace.

MCDW was the driving force in passing the MA Domestic Workers’ Bill of Rights in April 2014. It established important labor standards and granted basic protections to nannies, housekeepers, and other in-home caregivers including: 24 hours off per 7-day calendar week; limited days of rest; parental leave; protection from discrimination, sexual harassment, illegal charges for food and lodging, eviction without notice and retaliation for asserting wage violations; notice of termination; and a means of enforcing these standards.

MCDW’s programs include: Base Building, Alliance Building, Leadership Development and Policy Change. MCDW’s work on policy change and implementation focuses on the enforcement of Domestic Workers’ Bill of Rights. MCDW builds its base of workers through education and empowerment programs.

Domestic workers have been significantly impacted by COVID-19. Throughout the pandemic, MCDW has provided technical support and educational resources, and funded stipends to ensure the stability of the community and improve the quality of life for workers in Boston as they battle the pandemic. MDCW and its member organizations are stepping in where there is no safety net and are on the frontlines providing support. MDCW is developing and leading community efforts to provide information about workers’ rights, distribute personal protective equipment like masks, gloves and sanitizer, and provide food for families in need. Co-Director Myriam Hernandez Jennings stated, “This pandemic right now is impacting workers, especially undocumented people, the grassroots community is the place that needs to get funding to support the community.”
Boston Women’s Fund Fall Conversation Series: Advancing Girls of Color 2021 and Beyond

Our 2020 Fall Conversation Series includes a three panel event moderated by our new Executive Director, Natanja Craig-Oquendo. Each conversation explores advancing girls of color from our local, grassroots communities to city and state policies to our national change efforts.

October 22, 2020
National Strategies to Advocate for Girls of Color

Panelists:
Ayanna Pressley, Congresswoman Massachusetts 7th Congressional District
Marianna Islam, Director of Programs and Advocacy at Schott Foundation for Public Education
Monique W. Morris, Executive Director at Grantmakers for Girls of Color
Joanne N. Smith, Founder/President and CEO of Girls for Gender Equity

Conversation Summary: Thank you to all who attended. For those who weren’t able to join us, this conversation explored current strategies employed by our panelists working in advocacy, policy making, public education and philanthropy with girls of color at the national level. Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley summed up the current moment saying, “We can’t just fight the power. We have to be the power. And that’s the moment we find ourselves in now...when we are at the table, we [must] shake the table. In the midst of all this racial injustice, I feel firmly that the only receipts that matter are policies and budgets in which our investments are made.” If you would like to listen to the full conversation, visit the Boston Women’s Fund’s Facebook page.

The Boston Women’s Fund would like to express its sincere gratitude to all of the panelists for joining us and for all the work that they do to advance and advocate for girls of color.

Thursday, November 19, 2020
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Activating and Including Youth Voices in City and State Policy

Panelists:
Denella J. Clark, Chair, Mass. Commission on the Status of Women; President, Boston Arts Academy Foundation; Trustee, Fontbonne Academy
Cheryl Clyburn Crawford, Executive Director of MassVOTE
Julia Mejia, Boston City Councilor At Large
Liz Miranda, Massachusetts State Representative 5th Suffolk District

Conversation Highlight: This conversation will focus on incorporating the critical voices of young people into city and state policies.

Thursday, December 17, 2020
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Amplifying the Voices of Grassroots Youth Leaders.

Panelists:
Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth
Chica Project
I Have a Future

Conversation Highlight: During this conversation, we will hear from young women and girls of the Greater Boston area working at the grassroots to promote real change in social, racial and economic justice work.
community needs. For many, the issues they work on were magnified by the pandemic, as other pressing needs emerged. It’s powerful just how quickly grassroots organizations are able to transition and expand their work from goals and work plans that they may have had 8 months ago to what they are doing now to make sure that their communities are actually being fed. While this does mean launching food pantries on the fly, the work that I found just as compelling was the work of feeding the soul, reminding people that they matter. Womxn of color have always done this work. This is the work our grantee partners have done and are doing. For every single grantee partner I spoke with their work was connected to love. At the end of the day, that is what our work is about. That is what philanthropy is about, the love of humanity. That came through in every conversation whether it was about young people organizing around racial justice, addressing an increase in domestic violence, the lack of economic protections for undocumented workers, or providing mental health support tied to the pandemic. The things you can’t measure, that was what was so inspiring to hear. It wasn’t about the data that could be measured, but the things we couldn’t measure. Things like courage, love and resiliency that came through in our conversations and made me incredibly proud to be a part of the Boston Women’s Fund, but more importantly to partner with such strong womxn. The things you can’t measure are often the most important things in life.

“It’s powerful just how quickly grassroots organizations are able to transition and expand their work from goals and work plans that they may have had 8 months ago to what they are doing now to make sure that their communities are actually being fed.”

Our Mission

The Boston Women’s Fund is a progressive foundation that supports community based organizations and grassroots initiatives run by women and girls in order to create a society based on racial, economic, and social justice.

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Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn

Giving Tuesday

Tuesday, December 1, 2020 is #GivingTuesday, an annual global day of giving. This year BWF will be launching a campaign to engage more people in our work. #IAMBWF Check out our social media page for updates.

Your gift will directly support women and girls working at the grassroots to bring about social, economic and racial justice.

Acknowledgments:
The Boston Women’s Fund would like to thank our 2020 - 2021 interns: Grace Cronin, Alexi Fee, Emily Victoria Geary, Abigail Hart, Christine Peterson, Abigayle Post, Finnley Senese, and Veena Smith. We would also like to thank our Movement Building Panel, Allocations Committee, and Executive Search Committee members for their time and commitment to our democratic philanthropic process.

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To our Editor in Chief, G. Rita Falzarano. None of this would be possible without your dedication.