



GROUNDSWELL
FUND



A Liberated Future: Powered by Community, Grounded in Justice

2024 IMPACT REPORT

From the Desk of the CEO

DEAR COMMUNITY,

2024 was a year of hard truths and powerful affirmations.

At Groundswell, we felt the full force of a shifting philanthropic landscape. Like many organizations committed to racial, gender, and reproductive justice, we saw a troubling contraction in giving. Twenty percent of our funders have signaled spend-downs. The transformational gifts we've come to expect in high-stakes election years never arrived. While we're not alone, the impact has been deeply personal.



Yet in a year of uncertainty, we moved \$12.8 million in direct grants and \$7.4 million in capacity-building support to the field.

As an intermediary funder, every radical dollar we move must first be raised. We walk a daily tightrope between donor priorities and the urgent needs of grassroots organizers fighting for democracy, bodily autonomy, and human dignity. That balance has never been more precarious or more essential.

Yet in a year of uncertainty, we moved \$12.9 million in direct grants and \$7.4 million in capacity-building support to the field. Our grantees—leaders from communities most targeted by authoritarianism—rose, resisted, and reimagined. Their resilience sharpened our purpose. They reminded us that while elections matter, movements sustain hope.



Image courtesy of
WOMEN WITH A VISION

Since our founding, we’ve moved over \$190 million to more than 300 organizations across 49 states and territories. Through our ambitious Blueprint, we’re on track to surpass our \$100 million goal over the last five years, moving transformative resources to grassroots movements nationwide.

In 2024, we also ratified our first Collective Bargaining Agreement, welcomed new HR leadership, and brought on eight new board members whose vision will help steer us into our next chapter. The year also brought change with the early transition of the Black Trans Fund, which sought a fiscal sponsor in fall 2024, a year ahead of schedule. We remain proud to have incubated the Fund and are rooting for its continued success and impact.

As we face an increasingly uncertain future, one thing is clear: Groundswell was built for moments like this—not because the work is easy, but because the stakes demand nothing less.

Thank you for partnering with us.

IN SOLIDARITY,

YAMANI YANSÁ HERNANDEZ
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MANY PATHS. ONE MISSION: FUELING GRASSROOTS POWER

In 2024, Groundswell Fund supported **over 242 grantees across 49 states and territories**, fueling grassroots movements and **reaching hundreds of thousands of people** working for intersectional reproductive and social justice.

We also served as the home to **five powerful funds** designed to move resources to the communities with the clearest vision and boldest strategies for lasting change.

OUR GRANTMAKING PROGRAMS



CATALYST FUND

ESTABLISHED IN 2013

The Catalyst Fund for Reproductive Justice **supports grassroots organizing that advances reproductive justice policy, systems change, and cross-movement alliances with other social justice organizations**, including labor, environmental justice, and economic justice.



BIRTH JUSTICE FUND

ESTABLISHED IN 2011

The Birth Justice Fund was established in 2011 to **support midwives, doulas, and other birthworkers of color leading innovative direct service delivery, advocacy, and organizing efforts** to make high-quality midwifery and doula care and training more accessible.



Image courtesy of CITY LIFE



Image courtesy of FREEDOM INC.



LIBERATION FUND

ESTABLISHED IN 2016

The Liberation Fund **supports the most effective and influential grassroots organizing efforts in the United States today**. Recommended by a diverse board of advisors from the field, grantees are nonprofits led by people of color across various social change movements.



RAPID RESPONSE FUND

ESTABLISHED IN 2016

The Rapid Response Fund provides **timely, flexible grants responding to critical, unexpected fights** to protect or advance reproductive and social justice



BLACK TRANS FUND

ESTABLISHED IN 2020

Launched in 2020, Black Trans Fund (BTF) has now transitioned to fiscal sponsor, Transgender Gender-Variant & Intersex Justice Project, where future investment can be made.



Image courtesy of SISTA FIRE

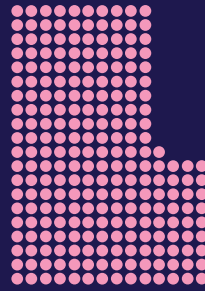
Groundswell's 2024 Giving

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\$20M*+

Distributed

1 \$ = \$50,000



242

Organizations Supported



49

States & Territories Represented

**includes \$12.9 million in direct grants and \$7.4 million in capacity-building support*

Resisting Authoritarianism, Defending Our Future

The results of the November 2024 election marked a turning point in our nation's history. We now face a stark reality – the incoming administration is prepared to dismantle vital social programs, ban abortion nationwide, weaponize the federal government against political opponents, roll back LGBTQ+ rights, and pursue mass deportations that will tear families and communities apart. Together, these actions represent a catastrophic assault on democracy, human rights, and the values of a just society.

Despite these threats, we've witnessed extraordinary resilience, from youth-led movements organizing for reproductive justice and resisting authoritarianism in the U.S. to global fights for human rights across the Global South. These movements remind us that elections matter, but they are not the sole measure of progress.

Our grantees remain clear-eyed. Protecting democracy requires confronting authoritarianism head-on while addressing the interconnected crises of a global pandemic, climate catastrophe, genocide, police violence, the cost-of-living crisis, and relentless attacks on bodily autonomy and Black and Brown communities.

Progress on 2024 Goals and Groundswell's 5-Year Blueprint

Groundswell is on track to meet—and likely exceed—our \$100 million combined Groundswell Fund and Groundswell Action Fund goal under the Blueprint plan, a bold commitment to move resources to the field between 2020 and 2025. **This milestone reflects our deep investment in grassroots movements leading the fight for justice.**

CATALYST FUND IN 2024

\$5.5M TO **84** GRANTEES



BIRTH JUSTICE FUND IN 2024

\$2.4M TO **34** GRANTEES



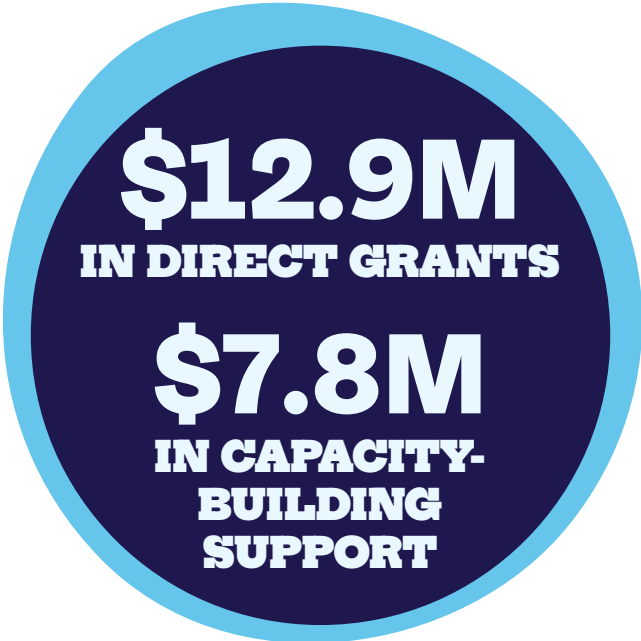
LIBERATION FUND IN 2024

\$2.4M TO **52** GRANTEES



RAPID RESPONSE FUND IN 2024

\$915K TO **78** GRANTEES



CATALYST FUND FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE FUELING YEAR-ROUND REPRO JUSTICE WORK

IN 2024

\$5.5M TO 84 GRANTEES

Catalyst Fund grantees continued to lead powerful, year-round public education and civic engagement efforts, informing communities about key reproductive justice measures on local and state ballots. Their work is rooted in deep relationships and long-term power-building, not just in election seasons but every day, mobilizing communities to fuel lasting change.

GRANTEE PARTNERS IN ACTION

Ohio Women's Alliance

Power-Building at the Intersections of Reproductive Justice and Community Care

New to the Catalyst Fund portfolio in 2024, the **Ohio Women's Alliance (OWA)** is building durable grassroots power in one of the country's most politically volatile states. Rooted in reproductive justice and feminist values, OWA supports a broad ecosystem of community leaders, organizers, and healers working at the intersections of bodily autonomy, civic engagement, and collective care.

In 2024, OWA engaged over 27,000 people and supported the leadership of 450 organizers, many of whom are women, trans, and gender-expansive people of color. Their work goes far beyond policy change, transforming culture, fostering safety, and building resilient communities from the ground up.

OWA's Repro Justice and Democracy Fellowship provides intensive leadership development for emerging organizers across Ohio, equipping them with tools in community organizing, healing justice, and narrative strategy. The fellowship also invests deeply in mutual aid, political education, and storytelling, centering the lived experiences of those most impacted by systemic oppression.

Their healing justice work is woven throughout all programs. OWA recognizes that sustainable movements require spaces for rest, restoration, and collective grounding. From art-making to trauma-informed care, OWA is building the conditions for lasting change that honors resistance and renewal.



Image courtesy
of OWA

Image courtesy
of OWA

**“We’re not just organizing for change—
we’re organizing for wholeness, safety,
and a future we can thrive in.”**

— Ohio Women’s Alliance

SOURCE: bit.ly/ohiowomensalliance



Maria Fund

Fueling Puerto Rico’s Justice Movements from the Ground Up

In 2024, Catalyst Fund welcomed the Maria Fund as a new grantmaking partner. Formed in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, the Maria Fund is rooted in a bold commitment to ensure Puerto Rico’s future is shaped by those most impacted by injustice, and that safety, healing, and liberation come from the people, not from systems of control.

As an intermediary funder, the Maria Fund moves flexible, trust-based resources to frontline groups organizing across the archipelago. It prioritizes organizations led by Black, queer, feminist, poor, working-class, and trans communities, those long excluded from traditional philanthropy. Its grantees are advancing transformative justice, mutual aid, food sovereignty, climate resilience, and community-based safety, building a robust, people-centered response to overlapping crises.

The Maria Fund has mobilized over \$20 million to more than 1,125 organizations in Puerto Rico. Its work exemplifies what it means to invest in a just recovery and long-term movement infrastructure in the face of colonialism, climate disaster, and authoritarianism.

**“We trust grassroots leaders to know what’s best for their
communities, and we invest in their visions for justice,
healing, and liberation.”**

— Maria Fund

SOURCE: case.mariafund.org



Image courtesy
of MARIA FUND

BIRTH JUSTICE FUND

RESOURCING RADICAL CARE, ROOTED IN COMMUNITY

IN 2024

\$2.4M TO 34 GRANTEES

In 2024, the Birth Justice Fund (BJF) advanced equitable maternal health across the South, Southwest, and Midwest by supporting community-led solutions. BJF's impact extended beyond grantmaking. Nearly 100 participants from 43 organizations joined the Birth Justice Fund's 2024 Financial Resilience and Sustainability program. Through a new collaboration with the Grassroots Organizing Institute, part of our capacity-building programming, grantees received race, class, and decolonization training.

GRANTEE PARTNERS IN ACTION

Birthmark Doula Collective

Supporting, educating, and advocating for pregnant and parenting people and their families

In November 2024, Birthmark Doula Collective joined a coalition of medical professionals and reproductive health advocates in filing a lawsuit against Louisiana's Act 246—a dangerous law that reclassifies the abortion medications mifepristone and misoprostol as Controlled Dangerous Substances. The stakes are high because, beyond restricting access to medication abortion, the law threatens critical care for obstetric emergencies like postpartum hemorrhage.

This legislation poses grave risks to Black and LGBTQ+ birthing people, who already face systemic barriers to safe, equitable care. Birthmark's legal challenge calls out a broader pattern of politically motivated laws in states like Louisiana that endanger patient safety and disproportionately harm marginalized communities.



Image courtesy of
BIRTHMARK DOULA
COLLECTIVE

Image courtesy of
BIRTHMARK DOULA
COLLECTIVE



“We know that Black women are dying at higher rates during childbirth, and we know that racism plays a role in that. We need to listen to Black women, trust Black women, and support Black women.”

— Latona Giwa, Co-Founder, Birthmark Doula Collective

SOURCE: birthmarkdoulas.com/media

Birth Detroit

Delivering Love, Power, and Community Through Birth

In October 2024, Birth Detroit marked two powerful milestones: the fourth anniversary of Birth Detroit Care and the grand opening of its new birth center. The celebration brought together families who had entrusted them with care, honoring the collective journey of bringing new life into the world. As Birth Detroit described it, the day was “a direct reflection of the growth that only comes from love in action.”



Image courtesy of
BIRTH DETROIT

The new center provides personalized, culturally rooted midwifery care to majority-Black families in Detroit, expanding access to safe, community-driven birthing options in a city long impacted by healthcare inequities. Beyond clinical care, Birth Detroit also secured a major policy win by helping to pass statewide licensure for birth centers, paving the way for Medicaid reimbursement. This breakthrough strengthens both access and sustainability, not only for their center but for birth centers across Michigan.

“We wholeheartedly believe that every community deserves access to midwifery care, and the new Birth Center Licensure Act will help improve access and equity.”

— Nicole White, Licensed Midwife and Co-Founder of Birth Detroit

SOURCE: gswell.info/birthdetroit

LIBERATION FUND RESOURCING RESISTANCE, BUILDING WHAT WE NEED

IN 2024

\$2.4M TO **52** GRANTEES

In 2024, the Liberation Fund and Special Projects invested \$2.4 million across 52 grassroots organizations, including \$1.7 million to core grantees. This also included \$543,000 in healing justice grants and \$100,000 in climate justice funding through a partnership with the Astraea Foundation.

These resources fueled tenant-worker solidarity in Seattle, New York rent stabilization campaigns, and Massachusetts immigrant defense efforts. In Arizona, grantees like Trans Queer Pueblo integrated ancestral healing and medical care—demonstrating what culturally rooted health justice looks like in practice.

GRANTEE PARTNERS IN ACTION

City Life

Fighting for racial, social, and economic justice and gender equality by building working-class power

Based in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, City Life / Vida Urbana (CL/VU) is a grassroots powerhouse advancing racial, economic, and gender justice by building collective working-class power. With support from the Liberation Fund, CL/VU mobilized 496 households across 39 buildings in 2024, organizing Tenant Association meetings, legal defense, and direct advocacy to protect homes and communities.

Latina and Black women leaders have been at the heart of these victories, securing affordable rental contracts, reclaiming housing from the market, and pushing for rent control. One of those leaders, Lucia, a Honduran grandmother and longtime organizer, celebrated a major win this year: a six-year contract limiting rent increases to 5% annually. Over 15 years, with CL/VU's backing, she has fought off six eviction attempts by three landlords.

In June, Lucia helped convene a public meeting with 50 Latine immigrant residents, urging their State Senator to support rent control. That night, Sen. Lydia Edwards publicly endorsed it for the first time—a powerful reminder of what grassroots organizing can achieve.



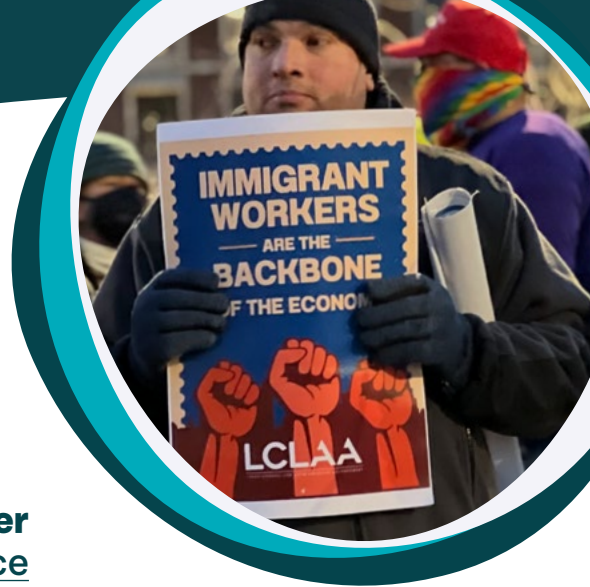
Image courtesy
of CITY LIFE

Image courtesy of
CITY LIFE

“It’s natural to be scared...but we can’t let fear stop us from fighting for our home.”

— Lucia, CL/VU organizer

SOURCE: bit.ly/ohiowomensalliance



Trans Queer Pueblo

In the heart of Phoenix, AZ, Trans Queer Pueblo is building a liberated future—one where LGBTQ+ migrants of color live with health, dignity, and autonomy. Their work isn’t just about advocacy; it’s about creating entirely new systems of care, rooted in community and cultural power.

At the core is Clínica Liberación, a healing space that offers both Western primary medical care and ancestral Indigenous medicine. It’s not just a clinic. It’s a place where people are welcomed as their whole selves, where healing begins with trust, and where trans and queer migrants lead.

Whether offering hormone therapy, Rebozo healing, or Reiki, the care is holistic and about building grassroots power. At Trans Queer Pueblo, the community members govern themselves, lead organizing work, and transcend the unjust U.S. healthcare system. Healing isn’t just about medicine but memory, land, and the right to thrive.



Image courtesy
of TRANS QUEER
PUEBLO

“When we say, ‘The clinic belongs to those who work it,’ we are carrying the legacy of our ancestors. We’re not waiting for permission—we’re building the future we deserve.”

— Healer, Trans Queer Pueblo

SOURCE: tqpueblo.org/en/conocenos

RAPID RESPONSE FUND

MOVING FAST. SHOWING UP. STANDING FIRM.

IN 2024

\$915K TO **78** GRANTEES

In 2024, Groundswell's Rapid Response Fund (RRF) swiftly deployed \$915,000 to 78 grassroots organizations responding to urgent threats and breakthrough moments in the fight for reproductive and social justice.

Grantees used flexible funds to protect abortion access, respond to climate disasters, support civic engagement, and ensure safety. In Amarillo, Texas, RRF grantees helped defeat a proposed "Sanctuary Cities for the Unborn" ordinance that would have criminalized abortion support. West Street Recovery used RRF funding in Houston to deliver emergency aid after devastating summer storms.

RRF also backed digital security and civic action in solidarity with Palestinian liberation efforts and co-funded urgent birth justice work alongside the Birth Justice Fund. Groundswell coordinated with a national network of fifteen rapid response funders throughout it all, meeting the moment with speed, care, and trust.

GRANTEE PARTNERS IN ACTION

West Street Recovery

Building Power Through Disaster Recovery

Formed after Hurricane Harvey in 2017, West Street Recovery (WSR) uses disaster recovery to repair homes and build community power. Recognizing that disasters deepen existing inequalities, WSR provides essential services like home repairs, financial aid, and case management, while fostering interclass and interracial solidarity across Houston's most impacted neighborhoods.

In response to the devastating summer storms of 2024, Rapid Response Fund support enabled WSR to deliver urgent relief: distributing emergency payments, ice, and water; clearing trees from homes; and connecting families to accessible housing. Their efforts focused on northeast Houston, where more than 95% of residents are low-income Black and Brown communities living at the frontlines of the climate crisis.



Image courtesy of
WEST STREET RECOVERY

Image courtesy of
WEST STREET RECOVERY

“We’re community-focused not just in ensuring that community members develop their responses required to deal with natural disasters, but also that they’re in charge of what their future looks like.”

— Andrew Barley, West Street Recovery

SOURCE: gswell.info/weststreetrecovery



AVOW Texas, Amarillo Reproductive Freedom Alliance (ARFA), and Women’s March Network

Beating Back Bans: Organizing Against Abortion Criminalization in Amarillo

In the November 2024 election, three Rapid Response Fund grantees—AVOW Texas, Amarillo Reproductive Freedom Alliance (ARFA), and Women’s March Network—joined forces to defeat the dangerous “Sanctuary Cities for the Unborn” ballot measure in Amarillo, Texas.



Image courtesy of
ARFA

If passed, the ordinance would have criminalized pregnant people seeking abortion care and anyone helping them, creating a backdoor to a federal abortion ban and endangering low-income, Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color.

Through coordinated voter outreach, deep canvassing, and strong safety protocols, organizers blocked the measure and protected the right to travel for abortion care without fear of prosecution.

“We have found allies in all political walks, all walks of faith, who value that right to privacy and freedom and to support one another when we’re in the face of a difficult decision such as unplanned pregnancy.”

— Lindsay London, ARFA co-founder

SOURCE: gswell.info/arfa

CAPACITY BUILDING

IN 2024 → **\$7.4M** TO **35** GRANTEES →

In 2024, Groundswell invested **\$7.4 million** to strengthen the civic engagement and organizing power of **35 grassroots organizations**. Through our flagship programs—the **Integrated Voter Engagement (IVE) initiative** and the **Grassroots Organizing Institute (GOI)**—we delivered \$4 million in direct grants and \$3.3 million in coaching, skill-building, and convening support.

IVE grantees made over 95,000 voter contacts, while GOI cohort members brought more than 4,900 new people into grassroots campaigns. These organizations are led by and serve Black, Indigenous, Latinx, immigrant, low-income, youth, LGBTQ+, and formerly incarcerated communities.

Grantees focused on housing, environmental justice, birth justice, and reproductive health, mobilizing their communities through civic education and organizing.

INTEGRATED VOTER ENGAGEMENT GRANTEE PARTNER IN ACTION

Groundswell Fund’s Integrated Voter Engagement (IVE) program equips grassroots organizations with the tools to scale their impact. Grantees build long-term power and advance systems change through nonpartisan voter engagement strategies.

\$4.0M IN DIRECT GRANTS TO **35** GRANTEES

\$3.3M IN TRAINING, LEGAL, AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

95,000 UNIQUE VOTERS ENGAGED

Women with a Vision

Advancing Community Health Through Education, Services, and Systems Change

In 2024, Women With a Vision (WWAV), a New Orleans-based health justice organization, contributed to public education efforts that supported expanded access to maternal health care across Louisiana. Their work helped raise awareness around two critical issues: the importance of extending Medicaid coverage during pregnancy and the need for inclusive doula support. These issues were addressed through new policies that now improve access to care for working-class women and birthing people across the state.



Image courtesy of WWAV



WWAV continues to improve the lives of marginalized women, their families, and communities by addressing the social conditions that shape health outcomes. Their work integrates health education, supportive services, community research, and advocacy grounded in the lived experiences of those most impacted.

GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING INSTITUTE GRANTEE PARTNER IN ACTION

Groundswell's Grassroots Organizing Institute (GOI) is a year-long program that provides grants, training, coaching, and convening to strengthen grassroots organizations' organizing capacity. GOI helps groups deepen their understanding and practice of power-building, campaign strategy, and systems change.

\$1.1M IN DIRECT GRANTS TO **10** ORGANIZATIONS

\$995K IN PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Sista Fire

Building collective power for women and non-binary people of color

SISTA Fire, a Rhode Island-based birth justice organization, is mobilizing women and non-binary people of color to transform systems from the ground up. Through their Black Maternal Health campaign, they successfully pushed for more inclusive and accountable birthing practices in local hospitals.

In December 2024, Women & Infants Hospital informed SISTA Fire that their advocacy led the hospital's parent corporation to adopt a new anti-discrimination Code of Conduct and violence prevention and harassment policies, key demands of the campaign to address systemic racism in maternal health care.

These hard-won changes now apply to multiple hospitals and over 8,000 employees—a significant step forward for equitable and respectful care in the state.



Image courtesy of
SISTA FIRE

Image courtesy of
WOMEN WITH A VISION



KEY GROUNDSWELL ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024

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\$22M

Raised from Funders & Donors

1 \$ = \$1,000,000



Groundswell Knowledge Leadership

Staff and leaders spoke as experts in various funder spaces, including the 2024 Birth Equity Funders Summit, Funders for Reproductive Equity's Summer Meeting, Philanthropy New York's 45th Annual Meeting, and more.

Press Coverage



Groundswell was highlighted as a model funder in the Center for Effective Philanthropy's 2024 report, **Bridging the Gap: Grantee Perspectives on Intermediary Funders**

Groundswell's Chief Executive Officer, Yamani Yansá Hernandez, and Chief Strategy Officer, Naa Amissah-Hammond, were featured in an **Inside Philanthropy** piece highlighting the



fundraising challenges within the Reproductive Justice Movement.

In October 2024, Groundswell's Liberation Fund was mentioned in a *Nonprofit Quarterly* article titled "**Righting Abundance: An Emergent Strategy Primer for Funders**" as a model of emergent strategy funding.



“People with wealth are told to diversify their stock portfolios—but when it comes to giving, they don’t. If you’re only funding white-led orgs or only giving to C3s, that’s not a diverse investment. Groundswell over-invests in people who’ve been left out—women of color, disabled people, trans folks, immigrants—and they do the due diligence so I don’t have to. That’s the kind of portfolio I want to be part of.”

— Karen Grove, long-term donor of over ten years, two-term Board of Directors member, and donor to both Groundswell Fund and Groundswell Action Fund



Our work is possible because of the unwavering commitment of our donors, funders, grantee partners, movement partners, board, advisors, and staff.

Your belief in Groundswell—and in the leadership of the movements we fund—has allowed us to rise to the challenges of the moment while laying the foundation for our next chapter.
Thank you.



Image courtesy of
WEST STREET RECOVERY



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