Grantee Spotlight: George Wiley Center
by Eva King

The George Wiley Center is a grassroots direct action group based in Pawtucket, RI actively committed to local community organizing for the purpose of creating social and economic justice through changes in public policy. They prioritize growing and centering the leadership of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color staff and board members. For years, the Center has been working to pass a bill that would enact a Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP) to help low-income Rhode Islanders who cannot afford their utility bills. Despite the Center’s roots in the utility justice movement, organizers there understand that the issues their communities face are multiple and overlapping.

Executive Director Camilo Viveiros explains that their theory of change is focused on organizing the unorganized and mobilizing people’s power to take direct action. “Our power has always been based on our ability to bring people together to make an impact around issues that impact BIPOC and low-income communities. During the pandemic with record unemployment, the issues that we have worked on such as food insecurity, unemployment benefits, and economic justice have become felt more widely. And with the growth of the movement for Black Lives our work around racial justice has become more widely recognized, the challenge is always turning experience with injustice and sentiment around a social issue, into action”.

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Director’s Corner

Disrupting the Deliberate, Divisive Scheme

For some time our lives have been impacted by a multitude of unforeseen circumstances. Most recently, the intense convergence of a global health crisis, political insurgence, police brutality, and a racial uprising create a time like none other in our experience. This continuous outpouring of a series of extreme upheaval isn’t discriminating. Instead, it has a resounding effect touching each and every one of us.

These intersecting factors impact and continue to be divisive, unequally driving divisions and inequities in the lives of so many people. As we apply a racial systemic analysis to this, it becomes clearer that this is intentional to maintain the status quo. This creates an imbalance where some encounter strife and suffering while others rise above this to obtain excessive gains. The reality of intentional inequity permeates every aspect of everything that we do and encounter. Even without anyone doing anything about its’ impact, it will continue to spread and thrive.

We are not powerless. Systemically, a scheme or plan that maintains oppression was intentionally devised.

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Haymarket’s Mission Statement
Haymarket People’s Fund is an anti-racist and multi-cultural foundation that is committed to strengthening the movement for social justice in New England. Through grantmaking, fundraising and capacity building, we support grassroots organizations that address the root cause of injustice.

Haymarket’s Vision Statement
Haymarket envisions a world free of racism and other oppressions:
• Where peace and cooperation flourish
• Where people are valued and respected for their gifts and able to bring their whole selves to humanity
• Where vibrant communities thrive and different cultures are celebrated
• Where abundant resources and opportunities are equally shared and distributed while honoring the earth and all within it.

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Colleen Fitzpatrick
Shazlene Hussain
Strong Oak Lefebvre
Abel Luna
Ta’Lanna Monique Miller
Samantha Montano
Maegan Parrott

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Grantee Spotlight: Women Against Mass Incarceration (WAMI)
by Eva King

Women Against Mass Incarceration (WAMI) is a grassroots non-profit organization based primarily in Bridgeport, CT working to empower women, girls and families who have been directly/indirectly justice-impacted, affected by incarceration, trauma-survived, or seeking support. Through their re-entry work, advocacy and political education, their aim is to elevate, educate and empower women and girls in efforts to end mass incarceration.

WAMI is keenly aware that the deadly combination of racism, poverty, trauma, and addiction leads to elevated numbers of women who are incarcerated. COVID-19 and
Grantee Spotlight: SUSU CommUNITY Farm
by Eva King

The SUSU commUNITY Farm, is a newly thriving Afroindigenous centered farm on unceded Abenaki homelands in southern Vermont with a vision for co-creating a life affirming and culturally relevant platform for Black, Indigenous, People of Color, youth, under resourced folx, and allies to thrive and experience safety and connection while beginning to develop the tools and agency to heal from the trauma of colonization.

SUSU commUNITY Farm offers a 20 week free culturally relevant Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) to BIPOC folx in Windham County, a Trauma Conscious School of liberation that includes a BIPOC herbal allyship program, classes for white folx on transforming white bodied supremacy, classes for BIPOC folx on reclaiming freedom, joy, and safety, food as medicine classes, and other ways to connect people back with the land.

They are currently hosting a weekly livestream on their Instagram @susucommunityfarm Tuesday’s at 2 pm called Tea for 2 with Amber and Naomi, collaborative directors of the SUSU CommUNITY Farm, where they discuss topics ranging from tea to tarot to current events and political ideology.

Grantee Spotlight: Women Against Mass Incarceration (WAMI) continued from page 2

its affiliated burdens – unemployment, food insecurity, mental health challenges, interpersonal violence, and trauma – continues to disproportionately impact communities both on the outside and inside prisons and jails.

The Urgent Response Grant will support WAMI’s ongoing projects such as providing Christmas care packages to women in prison and jails including critical hygiene and personal protective equipment (PPE) products, combating food insecurity by providing food to women who are either re-entering their communities after release from prison or to impacted community members who have lost jobs and are facing economic disaster, as well as work with an attorney to seek clemency and sentence modification for women in prison.

Why I give to Haymarket...

“I contribute to Haymarket People’s Fund each year to support their ongoing, transformative work towards a new, more equitable world. As someone from New England, with family throughout New England, and deep familial roots in the area, it feels powerful and vital for me to be a part of this work in any way I can be.”

Rachel Perry
Meet our New Volunteers

**Strong Oak Lefebvre**

Strong Oak Lefebvre, MSSA: Executive Director and co-founder of the Visioning B.E.A.R. Circle Intertribal Coalition INC. (VBCIC)

She is a co-author of the Walking in Balance with All Our Relations teaching curriculum, a violence prevention approach that is based on transformative/restorative Circle practices and traditional values of indigenous people prior to colonization from a racial justice lens. Strong Oak has recently been named to the statutory Governor’s Restorative Justice Advisory Committee (RJAC) in Massachusetts to serve from 2018 to 2024. There she has been influential in advocating for the inclusion of those who are currently incarcerated and those in re-entry to inform and be a part of the RJAC. She teaches Circle process to communities, agencies, and providers working with those who are survivors of homicide victims, domestic and sexual violence; and those who are working to return to their communities’ violence-free after having hurt others.

Strong Oak engages in Dialogues Across differences with systems and community groups throughout the Northeast with a team of BIPOC community members and white allies in collaboration and partnership with Growing a New Heart. Strong Oak works through VBCIC in partnership with community organizers to build sustainable environments and economies based on antiracist structures.

**Abel Luna**

Abel Luna grew up as a farmworker working since he was 13 years old in the vegetable fields in New York. His grandfather was in the Bracero farmworker program working in US agriculture and was exposed to toxic pesticides, from which he suffered his whole life. Abel worked with the Rural Migrant Ministry in New York as an organizer fighting with farmworkers and allies to win groundbreaking legislative improvements for agricultural workers including improving minimum wage laws. Abel is driven by a passionate belief to ensure that the human right to dignified work is a part of any definition of a sustainable and healthy food system. Abel is Migrant Justice’s Milk with Dignity Program Education Coordinator.

**Eva King**

Eva King will be interning with Haymarket People’s Fund for one year. She is currently obtaining her master’s from Boston University School of Social Work in the Macro track. She has a background in disaster case management, food justice, housing insecurity, and community organizing. She has a BA in Environmental Studies and a desire to be engaged in social justice and direct impact organizations.

Sharing Gratitude for our Dedicated Volunteers

We are so appreciative of the time, talent and treasure that our volunteers have graciously given to the Haymarket Community. Although they are stepping down from their official roles, they will always be a part of the Haymarket Family. Funding Panel Members: Chanravy Proeung, Rilwan Osman, and Mohamed Yarrow.

Although Chanravy Proeung and Claire Wheeler have completed their terms on the Funding Panel we are excited to welcome them to the Board of Directors.
**Urgent Response Grants**

Haymarket awards $197,217 in Urgent Response Grants in 2021!

Urgent Response Grants help grassroots, social change organizations respond quickly to unforeseen crises or opportunities that arise. In response to groups having to shift and respond to the COVID-19 public health crisis and the continued battle against racism, Haymarket was able to respond by shifting our funding criteria and by significantly increasing our grant funding.

Haymarket has always funded grassroots organizing but during these times, wanted to support organizations as they had to pivot to provide support and services for their communities. Priority was given to work that is led by and taking place in communities of color across New England as well as organizations who incorporate anti-racism and anti-oppression values and practice into their work.

Individual Urgent Response Grants in 2021-2022 will be increasing up to $5,000. To learn more about these grants please visit our website.

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**Increases in Grantmaking**

Haymarket People’s Fund awarded $862,217 in grants for fiscal year 2021! This is almost double what we have been given out for Sustaining and Urgent Response Grants in previous years. It is now more than ever critical to be supporting grassroots groups working on the front lines fighting for liberation!

A total of $665,000 in Sustaining Grants was given to 55 groups organizing and building a movement to address the root causes of injustice across New England. Grants ranged from $6,000 to $16,000.

We also significantly increased and expanded our Urgent Response Grants this cycle to help communities respond to COVID and other urgent needs in their communities. There were 39 Urgent Response Grants awarded for a total of $197,217.

All Haymarket’s grant decisions are made by organizers and activists from New England who volunteer to be part of our New England Funding Panel.

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**Sustainable Grant Breakdown by State**

- MA: $307,000
- VT: $39,000
- ME: $60,000
- CT: $87,000
- RI: $109,000

*We are seeking grant applicants in NH

**Urgent Response Grant Breakdown by State**

- MA: $130,217
- VT: $6000
- ME: $18500
- CT: $23,500
- RI: $15,000
- NH: $3,000

For more information or to apply visit: [www.haymarket.org](http://www.haymarket.org)
The Celebration of Grassroots Organizing in Boston (formerly the “Lobster Feed”) is a collaborative event bringing together movement organizers and donors, and raising funds for 11 local partners. Our partners spent the last year sustaining the neighborhoods most impacted by COVID, fighting on the front lines of the movement for Black lives, and defending communities from the harms of gentrification, policing, deportation, climate change, and more. Together, we raised $110,000 for justice and liberation in Boston!

REBUILDING IN SOLIDARITY!

Thanks to the amazing support of

- 135 Attendees
- 248 Unique Donations
- 10 Featured Organizers
- 7 Event Volunteers
- 5 Boston-Based Performers, Artists, and Healers

Funds Raised

- Money Raised: $110,000
- Expenses: $7,500
- Disbursement per Group: $9,000+

Partner Organizations

- Alternatives for Community & Environment (ACE)
- Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW)
- Families for Justice as Healing (FJAH)
- GreenRoots
- Haymarket People’s Fund
- Matahari Women Workers Center
- Muslim Justice League
- New England United for Justice (NEU4J)
- Resist, Inc
- Student Immigrant Movement (SIM)
- Youth Justice and Power Movement

Sponsors

- “Harvest” Sponsor: $20,000+
  - Resource Generation’s Boston Chapter
- “Collective Work” Sponsors: $5,000+
  - Massachusetts General Hospital
  - Nellie Mae Education Foundation
  - Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ): Boston
- “Joy” Sponsors: $1,000+
  - Access Strategies Fund
  - Boston Children’s Hospital
  - Boston Women’s Fund
  - Eastern Bank
  - Episcopal City Mission
  - First Parish in Bedford
  - Unitarian Universalist
  - Fresh Pond Capital
- “Trust” Sponsors: $200+
  - Boston Teachers Union
  - Corporate Accountability
  - GBTD Legal Advocates and Defenders (GLAD)
  - Healthcare for All
  - Jewish Voice for Peace Boston
  - The JT Kelly Team at Keller Williams
  - Studio 24 Graphics
  - Tamarack Media
  - TSNE MissionWorks
  - Unitarian Universalist Mass Action

Next year, we’ll see you in-person for a lobster picnic.
WAYS TO GET INVOLVED!

You too can enjoy the rewarding experience of volunteering with Haymarket and having a significant impact in your community. Simply email Jaime at jaime@haymarket.org to learn more about becoming part of the New England Regional Funding Panel, or Karla at knicholson@haymarket.org about Haymarket’s Board of Directors and committees. Participation is needed from Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Maine and Western Massachusetts.

WAYS TO GIVE!

Please provide your email if you’re interested in donor engagement.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR ME TO GIVE TO HAYMARKET

☐ I/We want to support Haymarket People’s Fund
☐ I/We have enclosed a check payable to Haymarket People’s Fund
☐ Here’s my contribution of ☐ $1,000 ☐ $500 ☐ $100 ☐ $50 ☐ Other $___________
☐ I/We want to be a sustainer. Please charge $___________ to my credit card each month
  Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ Amex
  Account #__________________________ Expiration Date ___________ CVV _______ Signature______________________________

In addition please contact me for the following: ☐ Gifts of Securities ☐ Planned Giving ☐ I have named Haymarket in my will
Name______________________________________________________________________________________________
Address______________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
City__________________________________________________________________________ State__________ Zip_______________
Email________________________________________________________________ Phone Number_____________________________

You can also donate online @ www.haymarket.org/give-to-haymarket
42 Seaverns Avenue ♦ Boston Massachusetts 02130
Therefore, it is possible to end it.

Even when there are shifting sands to contend with, there are elements that we can manage and affect. These make up the basis for what guides us toward creating change in our communities.

Remaining diligent and continuing to uplift a dynamic set of anti-racism, humanistic, and most assuredly transformative principles, values, mission, and vision offer a basis for strategic options around creating change. Striving with this intentionality will continue to drive opportunities for tremendous progress that offer hope and possibilities.

At Haymarket People’s Fund we center the dynamic grassroots organizations that are on the ground, making incremental progress toward moving mountains that provide the likelihood and reality of systemic change.

A commitment to fund groups at a higher level for the coming years, continuing to support all issues or areas of focus, offering operating support to go where it is most necessary, and the ability to apply each year as long as an organization is at a grassroots level offers new and emerging groups the unique opportunity to develop, build, and grow. With the solidarity of others, we can fund movements together.

Within this fall newsletter we share testimonies from organizations where their community organizing story and continuing efforts unfold in detail. Please be sure to learn more about their work and the significant way that progress toward change can be made.

— Karla Nicholson