

The Lenny Zakim Fund

BRIDGING COMMUNITIES



LZF's 22nd Annual Awards Ceremony Celebrates and Welcomes 62 New Grant Recipient - The Very Best Night of the Year!

Greetings!,

The Award Ceremony is absolutely the best night of the year! LZF donors and supporters gather together with community heroes to honor new grant recipients and distribute the 2018 grants.

On February 5th, at the Four Seasons Hotel, 300 representatives of grassroots organizations and the generous donors who support LZF gathered to distribute \$655,000 in grants to 62 organizations. In 2018. The Lenny Zakim Fund will distribute a record \$770,000, our highest allocation yet and a long way from our first 12 grants that totaled \$52,000 in 1996! Take a look at all of our [2018 grantees here](#).



The Award Ceremony celebrates the community heroes who, despite many challenges, always stand for what is right. When we stand together, we have the power to resist, to hold our ground, and to break new ground as we strive for the justice everyone deserves.



The evening was emceed by [Rabbi Mark Sokoll, President/CEO, Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston](#), and keynote speakers [Billy Cabrera of The Resource and Reclamation Center](#), [Lara Lepionka of Backyard Growers](#), and [Cairo Mendes formerly of Student Immigrant Movement](#). A special reading by Princess-Henna Wilson of [Aaron's Presents](#) brought down the house with her inspirational poem. [Watch Princess-Henna's performance of her own poem, "I Have a Dream"](#) - she will most definitely make your day!

What a thrill it was to have the LZF family united in the spirit of encouragement, celebration, community commitment, and love. Year after year, the Awards Ceremony is a testament to the power of the gifts you make to grassroots organizations and LZF. We are all partners in effecting social justice, equality, and access.

Gratitude and appreciation to [The Slater Foundation](#), [Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation](#), [Suffolk Cares](#), [Cleary Insurance](#), and [Grossman Marketing Group](#). Their generous sponsorships made this beautiful evening a joy for everyone. Check out [our photos](#) and join in on the joy.

Thank you!



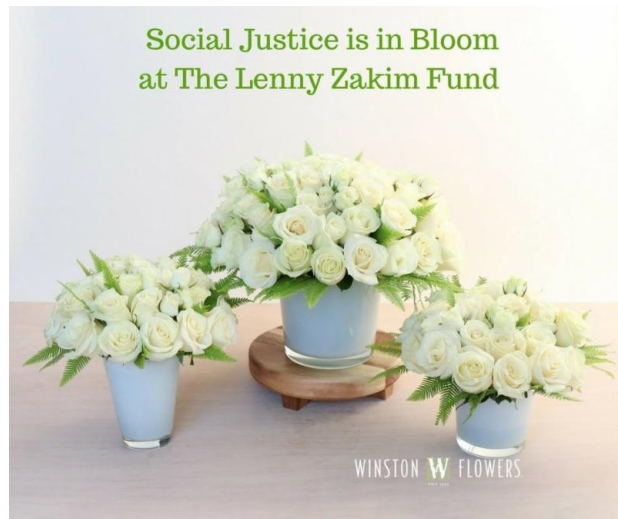
Billy's Barber Shop, Charity in Bloom, Casino Night Marathon News & New Board Members, Below!

Social Justice in Bloom!

Support The Lenny Zakim Fund throughout the month of March by surprising someone special with this intoxicating Winston Flowers arrangement. As part of their Charity in Bloom program, Winston will donate 20% of the proceeds to The LZF, supporting dozens of inspiring grassroots organizations in communities throughout MA.

Make someone happy and [click here](#) to place an order or call: 800.457.4901.

#CharityinBloom #Growthegrassroots #NoHateNotHereNotEver



A TRUE GRASSROOTS HERO Breaking the Chains of Addiction and Incarceration

There is a lot more to Lowell's [Billy's Barber Shop](#) than a fantastic haircut. The Billy in the Barber Shop is Billy Cabrera - an extraordinary man with a remarkable story and an exceptional mission. Billy triumphed over his own struggles with addiction and other challenges to find a unique way to help others. Behind the chairs and sinks, in the barber shop's back room is the [Resource and Reclamation Center](#).

As far too many people do, Billy faced the challenges of addiction and incarceration. From his own experience, Billy knew how he was helped by others. He was inspired and determined to transform the lives of everyone who walked through the doors of Billy's Barber Shop, and into the back room, the Resource and Reclamation Center.



The Resource and Reclamation Center is a safe and welcoming place where people can find resources, referrals, and mentoring to help them on their journey through re-entry to re-joining community and from addiction to health.

The mentorship program offers one on one, peer to peer supports, including, but are not limited to: referral services, advocacy, educational groups, community supports, and involvement of supportive network. The program provides addiction supports to nurture the well-being of someone's journey of rebuilding and reclaiming their life. The Resource and Reclamation Center also offers group sessions and workshops in a safe setting.

The Resource and Reclamation Center uses its own 12 step program called The Guided Strategies to a Successful Reentry to bridge the gap between incarceration to community settings and support those in need of breaking the chains of addiction and incarceration. Individuals may voluntarily contact the Resource and Reclamation Center up to six weeks before date of release to start the process of services and support. With deep understanding, sensitivity and an empathetic approach, their staff and mentors are dedicated to helping ex-prisoners meet their potential.

When you walk through the doors of Billy's Barber Shop, you'll find Billy Cabrera, an inspired and dedicated community hero transforming lives with experience, expertise, and love.



A Sure Bet for Good - The 9th Annual Casino Night

Celebrity hosts NeNe Leakes, star of Real Housewives of Atlanta and Boston Patriot Danny Amendola, joined by teammate Patrick Chung, guaranteed a fantastic time and a successful auction, all to benefit The Lenny Zakim Fund.

Held on Saturday, March 3, at The Four Seasons in Boston, the 9th annual Casino Night was an evening filled with glitz, glamour, and gaming.

The amazing Sofia Lingos-Papaliadis, Sam Slater, and Josh Zakim co-chaired this terrific evening. Once again Casino Night sold out, and this year's event raised nearly \$200,000 for the organizations we serve!

Want to know more? Check out the [Globe](#) and the [Herald](#) for a peek at all the fun!

Heartfelt thank yous to the co-chairs, the sponsors and everyone who made this beautiful night so amazing and successful. Hope to see you there in 2019!

Introducing Our New Board Members

The Lenny Zakim Fund is delighted to welcome new board members Miki Akimoto, Senior Vice President Foundations & Grantmaking, US Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management; Clementina Chery, President and CEO, The Louis D. Brown Peace Institute; and Timothy James, Assistant Vice President, State Street Bank, Leadership Development Program. Thank you, Miki, Tina, and Tim for joining the LZF family.

In her own words - Why Team LZF Runner Liz O'Connor Runs for Social Justice

For reasons I can't quite pin down, I've decided to run the Boston marathon this April. I've never been

much of an athlete, but somehow I got the idea in my head last spring to run the B.A.A. half marathon. As I crossed the finish line in October, I remember thinking two things: "That wasn't as bad as I expected" and, "I wonder if I could do the whole thing?" And you know how it goes with things like that - once the thought is in your head, you can't shake it.

So now I've been training since early January, and wander around saying things like, "Not too bad - only 10 miles today." When I decided to run, I knew I had to find the right cause to generate an equal commitment to fundraising. That's a marathon of it's own, since I'm constantly asking my network for money. So it was essential to find a charitable cause that I could get excited about, and generate some enthusiasm in my fundraising-fatigued circles!

I am deeply grateful to be part of the LZF team for that reason. I've worked as a consultant for both the Fund and many of its grantees, and I have grown more appreciative of LZF each year. Here's why:

- LZF believes, as I do, that the people closest to the problems in communities are the experts needed to develop solutions, and that solutions developed without their leadership will fail.
- LZF's grant funding puts this belief into action; they fund small, grassroots organizations. As Lenny Zakim put it, "They have the will. They have the creativity. But they lack the means. We give them the means." Their list of grantees always includes immigrants, community activists, prisoners, students and others too often left out of the policy conversations that shape our world.
- Through this work, LZF is investing in a new generation of smarter, more grounded leaders. No time like the present, right?

In my experience, it is rare that philanthropy authentically supports grassroots action and planning, and we desperately need more of this kind of investment in the work of people on the ground. For this reason, I'll be proud to wear an LZF number on 4/16!

Liz will join LZF runners Pamela Sargent, Cardine Allen, Christopher Viklund, and Lumina Gershfield Cordova. We wish them a great run! [To support Team LZF in this year's Boston Marathon, please click here.](#)

Our thanks to John Hancock for making this program possible.

The Lenny Zakim Fund is Grateful to Our Award Ceremony Sponsors



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**The Lenny Zakim Fund | 617.406-5935 | office@thelennyzakimfund.org
www.TheLennyZakimFund.org**

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