



The Lenny Zakim Fund

BRIDGING COMMUNITIES

Stand Together for Social Justice, for Racial Equity, for Compassion

It's the summer of 2017. The daily news continues to be daunting. Outrage, hopelessness, and unmet need are not only the fodder of headlines and cable news, it permeates conversation at our dinner tables and the workplace. For many, it impacts how we feel or act when we walk out the front door. Policies are in place with disastrous outcomes for our immigrant and refugee neighbors. Vicious hate crimes have become common, everyday occurrences, devastating whole communities. While we cling to our values of what's right vs. wrong, it's often impossible to tell the truth from the lies.



In the face of it all, The Lenny Zakim Fund, the courageous LZF grantees and generous, committed donors, stand together for social justice, for racial equity, for compassion, and for the beautiful mosaic that our communities create. Please join us as we recommit ourselves to this work today and every day, just as we have for twenty-one years.

Courage, love, hope, and action are in the very names of the The Lenny Zakim Fund grant recipients, reflecting the spirit of their missions and the communities they serve. Together we [dream far](#). We are [resilient](#) and we are [epic](#). Together we pursue [Muslim justice](#), [justice at work](#), and [justice for families](#). We [uplift fathers](#), we [speak out](#), and we [empower women](#). We [link](#) those who are hungry to healthy food, [bodies and mind](#), and to the [bread of life](#) in our own [backyards](#). We are [neighbors united](#) and [neighbors who care](#), we are [connected by music](#) and connected by faith, we welcome all in friendship and love. We are a community, a movement, a coalition. Click on any link above to learn more, and to meet all the 2017 LZF grantees, [click here](#).

As we strive to build strong bridges between people and communities, we reach out to all those who are our source of strength and resilience -- our supporters and those who are on the front lines every day -- you are our inspiration, our hope for our country, our hope for the future. Together, we *can* make a difference.

Onward!

Grantee Spotlight

One Can Help: Living Lenny's Dream



Being part of The Lenny Zakim family has meant a great deal to LZF grantee One Can Help and the children and families they serve. "We so appreciate LZF's support," says Executive Director Anne Bader-Martin, who began the organization while working as a court-appointed juvenile attorney.

One day, in 2006, while sitting with a pregnant teenager in a fast-food restaurant and listening to her describe her hopes for her baby and her fear that she could not afford a stroller, a man tapped Anne on the shoulder and handed her a check. "Get her the stroller," he said, and walked away. "We all started to cry," Anne says. At that moment, Anne realized that people would help if they understood the need. So she sought out colleagues and friends and founded One Can Help. Since then, One Can Help has provided resources to thousands of children and families in the juvenile court care system, who otherwise would have to do without.

"We provide the means to children and families trying to improve their lives and reach higher," Anne says. "Court is a great catalyst for change, but only if there are sufficient resources to support the process." More than 80% of the children and families in the juvenile court system live in poverty, and many don't have the basics most of us take for granted: stable homes, sufficient food, consistent heating, school supplies, clothing, or supervised after-school activities.

"What makes our organization unique," Anne says, "is that we provide critical resources to all children in juvenile court, as well as their parents, because we know that assistance may even prevent the need for foster care, which is traumatic for kids." Using an innovative approach, One Can Help collaborates directly with a child's attorney or DCF social worker. This efficient partnership results in applicants getting help in one to three days, with minimal staffing costs.

"Can you imagine treating patients in a hospital without medicine? That is what it feels like in court, when no resources are available," Anne says. "It's like the quote from Lenny himself, which makes us feel like LZF truly understands what we're doing... to make(ing) vulnerable people's lives better-people who have the will, but lack the means. Lenny's goal was to provide the means. That's the goal we share with him every day."

Learning Self-Care with Over a Hundred Grassroots Leaders



We had a great turnout at our Spring Institute with over 100 people in attendance representing 60 different organizations! In response to many requests we've received from grantees as well as our own observations on the high rate of burnout, the LZF chose to host a full day on self-care.

The Institute was facilitated by [Visions Inc.](#) and focused on self-care for the individual as well as how to carry that on into your organization. Attendees worked in groups of 6-8 people participating

in workshops as well as larger group activities throughout the day.

"Going to this institute with my ED and supervisor was great because we can now both reinforce each other's self-care goals to each other when we see each other easing our grip on those priorities."

"It always great to see and meet new people from other organizations and hear all the great work that they do."

Our next institute will be Thursday, October 5th. This institute will also be facilitated by Visions Inc. and will continue to focus on self-care but geared toward how to best practice within each organization.



LZF Summer Funding

The Fund is supporting organizations that work with and employ youth this summer. Learn more about how they meet their goals.

- **[Apprentice Learning](#)**: Apprentice Learning teaches skills and connects middle school students to businesses to develop mindsets that prepare them for future success. Their summer program offers rising eighth and ninth grade girls in BPS partner schools paid internships with an introduction to STEM careers (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).
- **[Dream Out Loud](#)**: Dream Out Loud offers classes in publishing, graphic design, music, theater and video. Their summer youth program is an 8-week Creative Careers Program that is an enrichment and job training course that focuses on using creative writing, graphic design, music, theater and video projects to inspire each individual as well as help build a vibrant community.
- **[Families Creating Together](#)**: Families Creating Together believes the power of the arts can be life changing. FCT provides multicultural, multilingual and intergenerational programs that offer inclusive opportunities in the arts for children of all abilities and their families. FCT's Summer program is a 5-week expressive arts workshop designed to be an intensive experience for 30 participants.
- **[Hawthorne Youth & Community Center](#)**: HYCC is a grassroots non-profit that has been responsive to community needs for over forty years. They offer two complimentary summer programs, Summer Scene and Grow It! Cook It! Share It!, for youths from Roxbury's

Highland Park and the surrounding communities and help them develop a variety of skills and gain leadership experience.

- **[Immigrant Family Services Institute](#)**: The Immigrant Family Services Institute facilitates the successful transition of recent immigrants into the social and economic fabric of the United States. The IFSI summer program offers youth a 6 week course focusing on English, math and reading comprehension and a comprehensive music education program, martial arts, as well as health education, nutrition, and physical activities.
- **[Institute for Pan African Cultural Education](#)**: P.A.C.E. is a non-profit organization committed to culture, education and social development for youth achievement. P.A.C.E.'s summer program pairs college mentors with high school and middle school students to focus on education, cultural heritage, and community service.
- **[Worcester Refugee Assistance Program](#)**: WRAP is a network of individuals committed to assisting local refugees from Burma achieve sustainable self-reliance through mentoring, advocacy and providing material support as needed. Their summer programming will include Thursday Family Night, a Saturday morning Children's group, and a Summer reading program.

Race and Immigration by Ben Echevarria, Executive Director, The Welcome Project



[The Welcome Project's](#) Executive Director Ben Echevarria shares his thoughts on race by providing historical context for the subject. His thoughtful analysis outlines the intersectionality of race, ethnicity, economic opportunity, and immigration over time and how coded language has been used to criminalize populations. Below is a thoughtful excerpt but we encourage you to read the [entire piece here](#).

"[T]here is a lot of talk about the Act being discriminatory. I do not know what is discriminatory about it...and I do not know what is wrong being discriminatory...The proposed changes...will discriminate against gangsters, idiots, prostitutes, and some other undesirables." -Sam Baccala, Americanism Chairman of the Baltimore District American 1965 during testimony to the Senate judiciary subcommittee on immigration. (Gabriel J. Chin, 2015)

Although the quote was made over 52 years ago many of the sentiments made continue to be stated currently about immigrants; simply exchange Gangsters, prostitutes, and idiots for murders, drug dealers, and rapist. Immigration today is no better than it was throughout our history. Immigration laws have been used to remove or restrict various races, nationalities, and ethnicities throughout our history.

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