Congratulations to the 2021 Lenny Zakim Fund grant recipients.

We wish you continued success in your individual and collective efforts to advance social, economic, and racial justice throughout eastern Massachusetts.

Michael and Linda Frieze
WELCOME LETTER

It goes without saying that 2020 was an unexpected and uncertain year for all of us. And yet, it also proved to be one of The Lenny Zakim Fund’s most impactful years with the Fund awarding -- for the first time in our 25-year history -- over $1,000,000 in grant funding to 83 grassroots organizations.

We were immediately there for our grantee partners at the start of the COVID-19 crisis. We quickly distributed $576,000 in grants to 56 grassroots organizations in a matter of days. And then, we launched our COVID-19 Emergency Response and Recovery Fund to help our current and former grantee partners maintain staff, services, and programs through the first few challenging months of the pandemic. Thanks to the generosity of many, LZF awarded nearly $350,000 in grants to 52 current and former grantees during the summer months.

We also spoke out against various forms of racial injustice from the unjustified killings of numerous black men to the rise of hateful rhetoric that spawned mass protests across this country and throughout the world not seen in over fifty years.

Last year’s events whether individually or collectively serve to reaffirm our mission to listen to those most impacted by inequity and provide them with the funding, essential resources and support they need to create lasting change as well as our commitment to advance social, economic, and racial justice throughout eastern Massachusetts.

Thank you for being in this fight for social justice together with The Lenny Zakim Fund. As Lenny said, “we have the power to change things. It doesn’t take much to start a revolution of thought and spirit. It takes one person and then another.” We have and are making a difference in our communities, but our work together is far from done.

And so tonight, we are honored to celebrate the 58 grassroots nonprofit organizations who make up our 2021 portfolio, which includes 15 organizations that are either first-time or returning grant recipients. Congratulations to our 2021 grantee partners!
THE LENNY ZAKIM FUND 25TH ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY VIRTUAL PROGRAM

WELCOME REMARKS
Eric Esteves
Executive Director, The Lenny Zakim Fund

SPEAKERS
Ben Echevarria
Executive Director, The Welcome Project
Olu Ibrahim
Founder and CEO, Kids in Tech
Daniele Levine
Executive Director, Community Cooks

PERFORMANCES
Sophie Ponte
Dream Out Loud Center
The Afro Diamonds
Africano Waltham

INTRODUCTION OF 2021 LENNY ZAKIM FUND GRANT RECIPIENTS
ACCESS TO FOOD, HOUSING, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY
Suzi Kaitz
Board Chair, The Lenny Zakim Fund

CHILDREN AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION
Josh Zakim
Secretary, The Lenny Zakim Fund

CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT
HEALTH PROMOTION AND ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL
Miki Akimoto
Board Member, The Lenny Zakim Fund and Co-Chair of the Community Investments Committee

ORGANIZING AND SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES
LGBTQIA COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND ORGANIZING
Tim James
Vice Chair, The Lenny Zakim Fund
and Chair of the Development Committee

VIOLENCE PREVENTION, CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM, AND FAMILY OUTREACH
Yasmin Cruz Ferrine
Board Member, The Lenny Zakim Fund and Co-Chair of the Community Investments Committee

CLOSING REMARKS
Eric Esteves
Executive Director, The Lenny Zakim Fund

SPECIAL THANKS TO:
Ben Echevarria
Executive Director, The Welcome Project
The Welcome Project (www.welcomeproject.org), Somerville’s leading immigrant organization, builds the collective power of immigrants to participate in and shape community decisions. Based at the Mystic Public Housing Development, The Welcome Project works with immigrant adults and youth throughout Greater Boston offering services, leadership development, and opportunities for civic engagement to help them navigate a new culture and community.
A pastor and longtime leader in the Latino community, Ben has held the role of The Welcome Project’s Executive Director since 2015. He previously served as president of the organization’s Board of Directors from 2008 to 2015.

Olu Ibrahim
Founder and CEO, Kids in Tech
Based in Lowell, Kids in Tech (www.kidsintech.org) strives to excite, educate, and empower children to acquire skills and confidence in technology through interactive after school programs. Kids in Tech programs focus on helping kids (ages 8-14) through fun, hands-on learning activities, develop the necessary tech skills and aptitudes to participate in and be future leaders of the 21st-century innovation economy.
Olu founded Kids in Tech in 2016 inspired by her Nigerian-immigrant parents whom she credits for impressing upon her from a very young age the importance of an education and encouraging her to pursue a career in technology.

Daniele Levine
Executive Director, Community Cooks
Founded in 1990, Community Cooks (www.communitycooks.org) is dedicated to neighbors helping neighbors through sharing food. Located in Somerville, Community Cooks mobilizes individuals, businesses, civic, educational and faith-based groups to prepare home-cooked food for vulnerable populations seeking assistance from human service agencies in the Greater Boston area. Community Cooks proudly partners with these agencies that, due to lack of
funds and/or facilities, struggle to provide food for those they serve. Daniele has served as Community Cooks' Executive Director since 2013. She previously held Director of Development positions with the French Cultural Center and RESPOND, Inc., a domestic violence service program in Somerville.

Sophia Ponte
Teen Mentor, Dream Out Loud Center (DOLC)
Sophia, a senior at Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational-Technical High School in New Bedford, joined DOLC two years ago. After a year as a student in the music program, she was promoted to a Junior Instructor/Youth Mentor based on her leadership, artistic growth, and willingness to help her peers. Founded in 2001, The Dream Out Loud Center’s (www.dreamoutloudcenter.org) mission is to empower South Coast residents, in particular youth, to advance personal and career goals through inspiration, education, and mentoring. DOLC’s main program is a year-long, 8-week Creative Careers program offered to New Bedford youth at no cost.

Afro-Diamonds
Youth Dance Performance Group, African Cultural Services (Africano Waltham)
The mission of African Cultural Services (Africano Waltham) (www.africanowaltham.org) is to lift African immigrant youth and their families to succeed in life through educational assistance, visual and performing arts, and cultural connections. Africano Waltham offers an array of programs designed to promote educational growth, mental wellness, community involvement, cultural heritage, and advocacy among the members of its community.

ABOUT THE LENNY ZAKIM FUND
The Lenny Zakim Fund strengthens grassroots organizations and community leaders through technical training, coaching and counselling, pro bono legal services, networking, and grantmaking. The Fund is a trusted partner and convener of social justice programs and enables grassroots leaders to create powerful change in their own communities.
LZF MISSION STATEMENT

The Lenny Zakim Fund works to develop deep relationships and builds bridges among people and communities to advance social, economic, and racial justice. Our mission is to listen those most impacted by inequity and provide the funding, essential resources, and support they need to create lasting change.

“We have the power to change things. It doesn’t take much to start a revolution of thought and spirit. It takes one person and then another. When it works, it’s a work of art.” – Lenny Zakim, Founder

LZF CORE VALUES

The work of the Lenny Zakim Fund is guided by the following principles:

SOCIAL JUSTICE - All that we do is based in our deeply held belief that social justice is equity and that the fundamental rights, well-being and dignity of all people must be recognized, upheld, and celebrated.

GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP - LZF is inspired by and respects the power and ability of those most impacted by injustice to bring about change.

DIVERSITY AND BELONGING - We embrace a culture of inclusion and belonging, one that seeks out and welcomes the voices of those with diverse life experiences and intersectional identities.

LEARNING - We firmly believe that continuous, active and reciprocal learning is critical to promoting awareness and creating a solid foundation for change.

BRIDGE BUILDING - We are committed to bridging real and perceived difference, and to creating strong and lasting relationships that are fundamental to progress.

RESPONSIVENESS - Emerging challenges that impact those we serve require an acceptance of risk and an ability to adapt and respond as rapidly as possible.

LOVE - Love is at the heart of philanthropy. Love and compassion motivate and sustain the spirit of those who partner with LZF and remain dedicated to justice for all.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

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VICE-CHAIR
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SECRETARY
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Shari Zakim-Yacouby
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
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CHAIR
Suzi Kaitz

TREASURER
Beth Dill

PROGRAM & OFFICE ADMIN
Dominique Ramos

FOUNDER & CHAIR
Leonard Zakim & Suzi Kaitz

CHAIR & TREASURER
Suzi Kaitz & Beth Dill

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Michael Ross
Glenn Rothman
Susan Rothman
Elaine Sager
Harold Schwartz
Michael Schwartz
Sam Slater
Mark Sokoll
Ellie Starr
Jonathan Samen, In memoriam
Martin E. Kantor, Honorary
Lucille S. Kantor, Honorary

THE LENNY ZAKIM FUND IS ETERNALLY GRATEFUL TO OUR BOARD MEMBERS EMERITI FOR THEIR INCREDIBLE LEADERSHIP, COMMITMENT, AND GENEROSITY WHILE SERVING ON THE LENNY ZAKIM FUND BOARD AND BEYOND.
THE LENNY ZAKIM FUND
BRIDGE BUILDERS

THE BRIDGE BUILDERS HONOR AND RECOGNIZE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUR DONORS, VOLUNTEERS, FORMER BOARD MEMBERS, AND OTHER IMPORTANT FRIENDS OF THE FUND. THE BOARD DEEPLY APPRECIATES ALL THAT THEY DO FOR THE LENNY ZAKIM FUND.

Mahesh Aditya  Barbara Howard
Susan Barry  Drew Hyman
Shana Bryant  Elisabeth Jackson
Hehershe Buseuego  Carol Kanin
Richard Caturano  Douglas Krupp
Alan Chebot  Cairo Mendes
Debby Cherry  Maria Mulkeen
Natanja Craig-Oquendo  Yvette Philip
Elizabeth DeLima  Bobby Sager
Michael Eckton  Sharon Sankey
Jamie Farrell  Charlayne Murrell-Smith
Cheryl Forte  Elisa Sosa
Marshelle Shelley Gatlin  Amy Shulman Weinberg
Josie Greene  Ellie Starr
Kalman Heller  Robert Weinberg
Felicia Heywood  Jerry Wishnow
Theo Hill

THE LENNY ZAKIM FUND
SITE VISITORS

SITE VISITS ARE “INSPIRATIONAL DUE DILIGENCE,” ESSENTIAL TO THE LZF GRANTMAKING PROCESS. THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WORK, WISDOM, CARING AND COMPASSION THEY GIVE.

Miki Akimoto  Elizabeth Jackson
Hehershe Buseuego  Suzi Kaitz
Debby Cherry  Maria Mulkeen
Beth Dill  Charlayne Murrell-Smith
Janice Ditchek  Yvette Philip
Michael Eckton  Sharon Sankey
Jamie Farrell  Amy Seeherman
Yasmin Cruz Ferrine  Gary and Lynne Smith
Felicia Heywood  Margery Wieder
Mark Irvings  Jerry Wishnow
2021 GRANT RECIPIENTS
(ALPHABETICALLY)

365Dad Inc.
Adaptive Sports New England
African Bridge Network
African Cultural Services
Ansaar of Worcester, Inc.
Attleboro Area Interfaith Collaborative
Autism Sprinter Inc.
Black and Pink, Massachusetts
Boston Affordable Housing Coalition
Brazilian Women's Group
Building Bridges Through Music Center for Cooperative Development and Solidarity
Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores
CodeSquad
Community Caring Clinic Inc.
Community Economic Development Center of SE-MA
Empowering People for Inclusive Communities
Encuentro Diaspora Afro
English At Large
Families For Justice As Healing
Feminine Empowerment Movement Slam
Greater Boston Chapter of United Spinal Association
Groundwork Southcoast
Hands to Heart Center - Yoga for the People
Healthy Waltham
I Have A Future
Institute for Pan African Cultural Education
Kids in Tech

Legendary Legacies Inc.
Living Independently for Equality
LYSOA (Lynn Youth Street Outreach Advocacy)
Massachusetts Coalition of Domestic Workers
Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition
Matahari Women Workers' Center
Mount Olives Community Center
Muslim Justice League
My Brother's Keeper 617
New England United 4 Justice
Partakers, Inc.
PieRSquared
Rachel's Table
Resilient Sisterhood Project
Right to the City Boston
Saheli, Support and Friendship
South Asian Women
Sibling Connections
Sitters Without Borders
Somali Parents Advocacy Center for Education Inc.
Southcoast LGBTQ
SpeakOUT Boston
Student Immigrant Movement
THRIVE Communities of MA
To the Moon and Back
Top Notch Scholars, Inc.
Transformational Prison Project
Union of Minority Neighborhoods
We Are Better Together
The Welcome Project
2021 GRANT RECIPIENTS
(BY MISSION AREA)

ACCESS TO FOOD, HOUSING, & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
Attleboro Area Interfaith Collaborative
Boston Affordable Housing Coalition
CodeSquad
New England United 4 Justice
Sitters Without Borders
Rachel’s Table

CHILD & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION
Building Bridges through Music
Empowering People for Inclusive Communities
Groundwork Southcoast
Institute for Pan African Cultural Education
Kids in Tech
LYSOA (Lynn Youth Street Outreach Advocacy)
My Brother's Keeper 617
PieRSquared
Sibling Connections
Somali Parents Advocacy Center for Education Inc
Top Notch Scholars, Inc.
To the Moon and Back

CIVIL & HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY & SUPPORT
Encuentro Diaspora Afro
Muslim Justice League
Right to the City Boston
Union of Minority Neighborhoods

HEALTH PROMOTION & ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL
Adaptive Sports New England
Autism Sprinter Inc.
Community Caring Clinic Inc.
Greater Boston Chapter of United Spinal Association
Hands to Heart Center - Yoga for the People
Healthy Waltham
Living Independently for Equality
Resilient Sisterhood Project

LGBTQIA COMMUNITY SUPPORT & ORGANIZING
Black and Pink, Massachusetts
Feminine Empowerment Movement Slam
Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition
Southcoast LGBTQ
SpeakOUT Boston
2021 GRANT RECIPIENTS
(BY MISSION AREA, CONTINUED)

ORGANZING & SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES
African Bridge Network
African Cultural Services
Ansaar of Worcester, Inc.
Brazilian Women's Group
Center for Cooperative Development and Solidarity
Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores
Community Economic Development Center of SE-MA
English At Large
Lynn Worker Center
Massachusetts Coalition of Domestic Workers
Matahari Women Workers' Center
Mount Olives Community Center
Student Immigrant Movement
The Welcome Project

VIOLENCE PREVENTION, CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM & FAMILY OUTREACH
365Dad Inc.
Families For Justice As Healing
I Have A Future
Legendary Legacies Inc.
Partakers, Inc.
Saheli, Support and Friendship
South Asian Women
THRIVE Communities of MA
Transformational Prison Project
We Are Better Together
365Dad

Adaptive Sports New England

Ansaar of Worcester

Brazilian Women’s Group

Building Bridges Through Music
CodeSquad

Empowering People for Inclusive Communities (EPIC)

English at Large

Feminie Empowerment Movement Slam (FEMS)

Greater Boston Chapter of United Spinal Association
Groundwork Southcoast

Hands to Heart Center

Healthy Waltham

I Have a Future

Institute for Pan African Cultural Education (PACE)
Kids in Tech

Legendary Legacies

Matahari Women Worker's Center

Muslim Justice League

My Brother's Keeper 617
2021 LENNY ZAKIM FUND
GRANT RECIPIENTS

365DAD
BOSTON, 365DAD.NET
Empowering fathers to be positive influences and examples in the lives of their children.

365Dad empowers fathers through affirming guidance and equips them with the tools to develop and maintain loving relationships to produce personal, academic, and social-emotional outcomes that positively impact the lives of their children.

ADAPTIVE SPORTS NEW ENGLAND
BOSTON, ADAPTIVESPORTSNE.COM
Increasing participation in sports among youth and young adults who have visual or mobility impairments.

This organization offers young adults with visual or mobility challenges training, sports clubs, and teams to help them take part in the sport they love. Coaches are dedicated to ensuring that youth and young adults who have visual or mobility impairments know that they can participate in sports. Participants can choose from a wide range of sports, including running, skiing, rugby, basketball, archery, sled hockey, swimming, and skating, to name only a few.

AFRICAN BRIDGE NETWORK
NEWTON, AFRICANBN.ORG
Giving immigrant African professionals the tools for success.

The African Bridge Network (ABN) supports African immigrants with high levels of education and professional experience and/or capabilities who may find themselves under employed. ABN has reached out to this high skilled immigrant population which is truly untapped talent. Through professional networking, mentoring, a speaker series and workshops, recently arrived immigrants achieve their potential.
AFRICAN CULTURAL SERVICES
WALTHAM, AFRICANOWALTHAM.ORG
Developing outreach, programming, and community within African immigrant and low-income families who would otherwise not have access to out-of-school support.

African Cultural Services (Africano) offers students and families opportunities to explore, interact with, and broaden their knowledge about their communities and themselves. This includes activities such as African dance, Africa in the classroom, the performing arts, music and art making, academic support, healthy snacks, gymnastics, and field trips. Africano also provides monthly community cultural events, professional development workshops, and in-school visits.

ATTLEBORO AREA INTERFAITH COLLABORATIVE
ATTLEBORO, ATTLEBOROAREAINTERFAITHCOLLABORATIVE.ORG
Advancing a healthy, secure and meaningful life for all within the community.

With multi-faith understanding and compassion, Attleboro Area Interfaith Collaborative (AAIC) alleviates hunger, promotes stability, and inspires the community to thrive through coordinating community resources for those in need. Their programs alleviate hunger and food insecurity, inspire interfaith activities, and build community leaders.

AUTISM SPRINTER
RANDOLPH, AUTISMSPRINTER.ORG
Social skills play, family support groups, and community forums.

Information and spread joy for families of color with Autistic children Autism Sprinter supports low-income black and brown families with Autistic children who are frequently denied critical information and deprived of resources because of economic circumstances, linguistic and cultural heritage, and access to social capital. To combat this, Autism Sprinter supports a grassroots coalition of hundreds of families of color through an active web and social media presence, provides direct programming and organizes events.
BLACK AND PINK, MASSACHUSETTS
STATEWIDE, BLACKANDPINKMA.ORG
Creating a liberated world for all on both sides of the wall.

Rooted in anarchist organizing principles and committed to abolition, Black and Pink Boston strives to abolish the prison-industrial complex and liberate LGBTQ+ people and people living with HIV/AIDS through advocacy, court/bail support, housing services, re-entry aid, organizing.

BOSTON AFFORDABLE HOUSING COALITION/
MASSACHUSETTS ALLIANCE OF HUD TENANTS
BOSTON, MAHT.ORG
Preserving and improving at-risk HUD buildings as permanently affordable housing with a maximum of resident participation, ownership and control.

Boston Affordable Housing Coalition (d/b/a Mass Alliance of HUD Tenants) organizes tenant groups to increase their collective bargaining strength and access with owners, HUD, and other agencies. The nation’s first and most accomplished area-wide HUD tenant coalition, this organization is the only resident-run, membership coalition providing organizing and technical assistance to HUD tenants in Eastern and Central Massachusetts.

BRAZILIAN WOMEN’S GROUP
BRIGHTON, VERDEAMARELO.ORG
Started and run by Brazilian immigrant women, the Brazilian Women’s Group offers a vital resource for Brazilian immigrant women, empowering them in their workplaces, families, and communities.

The Brazilian Women’s Group (BWG) is a grassroots organization committed to improving the lives of Brazilian immigrant women and the wider Brazilian immigrant community of Boston. The BWG empowers Brazilian women to fight the myriad of injustices facing immigrants outside of and within the immigrant community, confronting such issues as domestic abuse, immigration, and work violations.
BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH MUSIC
LYNN, BBTMUSIC.ORG
By bringing diverse neighboring communities together for the purpose of increasing cultural awareness and racial harmony using music, dance, and dramatic presentation, bridges are crossed, and multicultural connections are made.

Building Bridges Through Music’s Groove School, A Sharp After School Education Through Music Program uses music as a catalyst to integrate STREAM (science, technology, reading, engineering, arts, math, and music), social skills development, music instruction, performance, and Music as a Second Language. Project No Limits offers performance opportunities to those facing physical challenges and intellectual disabilities.

CENTRAL FOR COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT & SOLIDARITY (CCDS)
EAST BOSTON, CCDSEASTBOSTON.ORG
CCDS contributes their experience to create alternative economic and democratic processes based on collective care and put people and the environment over profit.

CCDS provides technical, educational, and organizational support to groups exploring workers’-owned cooperatives that will create opportunities for decent work and living wages for low-income immigrants of our community. CCDS will forward the cooperative culture because we believe it will create sustainable and permanent social and economic change.

CENTRO COMUNITARIO DE TRABAJADORES
NEW BEDFORD, CCT-NEWBEDFORD.ORG
Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores (CCT) assists refugees who have escaped civil war, the trauma of domestic violence, and other challenges to establish themselves here with respect and grace.

CCT is run by indigenous and immigrant Central American and other Latino workers to advance their human rights. CCT educates workers about their rights, advocates with them to protect against abuses, and organizes them at work sites and in the community to change abusive conditions.
CODESQUAD
BOSTON, CODESQUAD.ORG
Building a pipeline of talent and stable careers in low-income communities.

CodeSquad is an intensive STEM bootcamp and occupational skills training program that trains talented, low-income adults, particularly people of color and women, to become full-stack web developers and launch a new career.

COMMUNITY CARING CLINIC
BOSTON, COMMUNITYCARINGCLINIC.ORG
Holistic care to promote and strengthen the mental, spiritual, and physical health of the community.

Community Caring Clinic provides cost-effective behavioral and mental healthcare services to children, young people, families, and individuals through counseling, education, social skills training, motivation, and access to treatment.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER OF SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS (CEDC)
NEW BEDFORD, CEDC-SM.ORG
Immigrants know they can count on the staff of Community Economic Development Center of SE MA (CEDC-SE MA) to provide vital services in a culturally competent manner. From tax prep to ESOL, CEDC-SE MA has their community covered.

The CEDC of SE MA seeks to create a more just local economy by building bridges to resources, networks, and cooperative action with poor and working families of the New Bedford area. They have been successful advocating for longer bus hours, support for small businesses, and provide valuable tax services for immigrants.
EMPOWERING PEOPLE FOR INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES (EPIC)
BOSTON & WORCESTER, EPICLEADERS.ORG

EPIC prepares young people with disabilities to be active community leaders through education, leadership development, and community service; and advocates for the community to put an end to Ableism and accept inclusion.

EPIC programs include: Community Trainings to educate community leaders on disability issues; Service Warriors, a corps of youth with disabilities that showcases their talents and skills; and the Young Leaders program, which helps develop the skills young people need to advocate for themselves.

ENCUENTRO DIASPORA AFRO
JAMAICA PLAIN, DIASPORAAFRO.BLOGSPOT.COM

Encuentro Diaspora Afro mobilizes and inspires the Afro-Latino community into action for racial justice and empowers young Afro-Latina women to be leaders in their community.

Encuentro Diaspora Afro is dedicated to dismantling racism, improving the lives of women and men of African descent, and creating a just society. Through organizing, education, training, and dialogue, Encuentro mobilizes the Afro-Latino community for racial and social justice, empowers youth, and builds bridges between Latino and African-American communities.

ENGLISH AT LARGE
WOBURN, ENGLISHATLARGE.ORG

Students drive their education and identify what’s important for them to navigate their new life in America in this innovative ESOL organization.

English learners are often discouraged by breadth of the task ahead of them. By teaching English through context, English at Large’s volunteer driven, student-centered framework engages students by meeting them where they are. This gives students the tools and the confidence to succeed from the jump.
FAMILIES FOR JUSTICE AS HEALING
BOSTON, JUSTICEASHEALING.ORG

With a focus on community wellness alternatives, the mission of Families for Justice as Healing is to reduce the incarcerated women population and raise awareness of the impact on children and communities of the incarceration of women.

This group of formerly incarcerated women and their children are active participants in legislative advocacy and community outreach. Through organizations and petitions, they work to change the culture in the United States that turns to prison for solutions.

FEMININE EMPOWERMENT MOVEMENT SLAM
GREATER BOSTON, FEMSLAM.ORG

Empowering, creating space for, and celebrating feminine people and their voices through poetry.

Feminine Empowerment Movement Slam (FEMS) empowers and celebrates feminine people and their voices through poetry, cultivating intergenerational connections, and amplifying the community’s work. FEMS creates radically accessible spaces for people of any age, gender, race, experience, and ability to find healing and support in their art.

GREATER BOSTON CHAPTER OF UNITED SPINAL ASSOCIATION
GREATER BOSTON, SCIBOSTON.ORG

Supporting the newly injured through their post-injury journeys.

Greater Boston Chapter of United Spinal Association (GBC-USA) offers hope to individuals and families affected by spinal cord injuries or disorders through one-on-one support, peer mentoring, support groups, social connectedness, and educational programs to help the newly injured and their families, transition back into the community and lead fulfilling lives.
GROUNDWORK SOUTHCOAST
NEW BEDFORD, GROUNDWORKSOUTHCOAST.ORG

Investing in environmental leadership of youth and communities that builds racial and social equity in the south coast of Massachusetts through hands-on environmental projects.

Groundwork Southcoast (GWSC) invests in developing environmental leadership of youth and residents that builds racial and social equity to steward urban waterways and brownfields in environmental justice communities in southeastern Massachusetts. Through sustained regeneration, improvement and management of the physical environment, GWSC develops community-based partnerships that empower people, businesses and organizations to promote environmental, economic and social well-being.

HANDS TO HEART CENTER
BOSTON, HANDSTOHEARTCENTER.ORG

Yoga for the people: builds resilience, reduces symptoms of anxiety, depression & PTSD, is trauma informed and accessible to all, regardless of ability and income.

Hands to Heart Center (HTHC) shares the healing practice of yoga with people affected by addiction, poverty and trauma in Greater Boston. Through their high quality, customized yoga classes, HTHC works with non-profit organizations and high-poverty schools in Boston that serve vulnerable populations to develop and teach individualized classes that promote healing, increase capacity and build resilience.

HEALTHY WALTHAM
WALTHAM, HEALTHY-WALTHAM.ORG

Promoting healthy lifestyles and well-being for families and under-served populations in Waltham.

Through educational and collaborative programs that engage residents in healthy cooking and gardening, physical activity, and involvement in natural open space within the community, Healthy Waltham sponsors programs including: Healthy Eating to provide cooking demonstrations, workshops, and programs to increase fruit and vegetable consumption; Active Living, encouraging physical activity, such as community walks; Learning Gardens, in partnership with schools and other groups to teach appreciation for the Earth and where our food comes from; Events and Outreach to promote healthy lifestyles and civic engagement; Collaborations on wellness activities; and Advisory Groups, such as committees and organizations engaged in health policy and wellness.
I HAVE A FUTURE
STATEWIDE, IHAVEAFUTUREMA.US
Empowering the next generation of community organizers.

I Have A Future is a statewide community of youth organizers and allies building power to ensure that every young person has an opportunity to thrive by increasing youth jobs and ending mass incarceration through transformational leadership development, direct public action, and policy change.

INSTITUTE FOR PAN AFRICAN CULTURAL EDUCATION (PACE)
MATTAPAN, PACEACHIEVEMENT.ORG
After school ends, the sound of happy children can be heard throughout the Mattahunt and Mildred Avenue Community Centers while they participate in the holistic curriculum of The Institute for Pan African Cultural Education.

PACE provides a fun and educational space for kids aged 5-17 in the Mattapan community. Through their Straight A’s Initiative (arts, academics, athletics, awareness is achievement) P.A.C.E. engages, encourages, and empowers young people. In addition to their academic support, P.A.C.E. provides martial arts, dance, music, cultural arts, and basketball programs to instill teamwork, self-discipline, and self-esteem through performance and competition.

KIDS IN TECH
LOWELL, KIDSINTECH.ORG
Creating the next generation of technology-savvy leaders through after-school computer science programs for kids and advancing computer literacy for all.

Kids in Tech excites, educates, and empowers children to use technology to promote a positive environment and foster lifelong interest through their after-school programming. Greater Lowell is experiencing rising growth in the technology sector. Kids in Tech strives to ensure that all students develop the necessary tech skills and aptitudes to participate in the 21st century innovation economy.
**LEGENDARY LEGACIES**  
**WORCESTER, LEGENDLEGACY.ORG**

 Equipping young men with the tools to discover their purpose and live their passion for the betterment of their community.

Legendary Legacies offers mentoring, life skills development, case management, community outreach, family support services, and recreational and service opportunities to empower young men to develop the skills necessary to become productive citizens and maximize their potential.

**LIVING INDEPENDENTLY FOR EQUALITY**  
**BROCKTON, LIFECENTERORG.COM**

Providing opportunities for isolated individuals with physical disabilities to enjoy social interaction and find new meaning in their lives.

Living Independently For Equality (LIFE) kindles friendships within the community by offering activities in an accessible space. Their services include transportation, therapeutic and occupational therapy via crafting, and providing information, referral and advocacy assistance for members needing help in obtaining medical, social, and legal services.

**LYNN WORKER CENTER**  
**LYNN, FACEBOOK.COM/LYNNWORKERCENTER1**

Empowering immigrant workers to fight for their rights.

The Lynn Worker Center supports vulnerable, low-wage, immigrant workers as it combats wage theft, employee misclassification, and other injustices by providing direct, member-to-member support to immigrant workers who have suffered wage theft, discrimination, accidents and sexual harassment, and provides ongoing trainings about racism.
LYNN YOUTH STREET OUTREACH ADVOCACY (LYSOA)
LYNN, LYSOA.ORG

Lynn Youth Street Outreach Advocacy (LYSOA) offers youth an opportunity to find solutions to their differences other than violence.

LYSOA’s purpose is to reach out to youth, young adults and their parents lacking a positive direction in life. LYSOA interacts on a street level, building relationships and offering the following services: job search, education referrals, community development, and family development. In collaboration with the Lynn Juvenile Probation Department, they assist youth with the different types of behavioral challenges they are facing on a daily basis. LYSOA also offers at-risk and proven risk youth conflict resolution by using mediation techniques.

MASSACHUSETTS COALITION OF DOMESTIC WORKERS
BOSTON, MASSDOMESTICWORKERS.ORG

Bringing racial and social justice and dignity to all domestic workers in Massachusetts.

The driving force in passing the MA Domestic Workers’ Bill of Rights (BoR) in April 2014, the Massachusetts Coalition of Domestic Workers (MCDW) educates and supports domestic workers in asserting their rights. Part of their educational programming includes training leaders from the community to organize for equitable treatment of domestic

MASSACHUSETTS TRANSGENDER POLITICAL COALITION
BOSTON, MASSTPC.ORG

Confronting civil and human rights issues head on, MTPC works to end oppression and discrimination on the basis of gender identity and gender expression.

Founded in 2001, MTPC is dedicated to creating awareness and countering the effects of transphobia, stigmatization, discrimination, oppression, poverty, and violence against transgender communities through programs and advocacy. MTPC works to improve the lives of Massachusetts transgender youth, adults, and their families through community organizing, leadership development, public education and awareness campaigns, training and educating policy makers, and advocacy.
When marginalized groups engage in arenas of public debate, their voices work to reverse historic oppression.

Matahari Women Workers’ Center is a Greater Boston organization where women of color, immigrant women, and families come together as sisters, workers, and survivors to make improvements in their own lives and in society, and work toward justice and human rights. Under the guiding principle that all people are entitled to equal rights, dignified lives, and the opportunity to participate in movements for social justice, their mission is to end gender-based violence and exploitation.

Providing opportunities to build strong kids, strong families, and strong communities.

Mount Olives Community Center provides computer literacy classes, financial literacy services, and parent education programming to Boston’s Haitian community to help families create a nurturing, stable, and culturally-diverse family environment.

The mission of Muslim Justice League is to educate, organize, and advocate for human and civil rights that are violated or threatened under national security pretexts.

Muslim Justice League (MJL) offers community education and mobilization, facilitation of cross-movement solidarity, legal advocacy, and cultivation of an environment in which pride in Muslim identity flourishes. MJL prioritizes advocacy against dangerous “countering violent extremism” (CVE) programs piloted by federal agencies in Greater Boston. They also provide Know Your Rights workshops at mosques, schools, and community centers, and provide free legal representation to those approached for questioning by the FBI or Joint Terrorism Task Force.
**MY BROTHER’S KEEPER 617**  
**BOSTON, MBK617.ORG**  
*Providing opportunities for new experiences, connections, and community.*

My Brother’s Keeper 617 creates a community network group for youth by mentoring and building community relations and exploring other environments. Through this, MBK617 aims to decrease the number of young boys who join gangs, provide them with the necessary skills to become successful, and empower them to reach their full potential.

**NEW ENGLAND UNITED 4 JUSTICE (NEU4J)**  
**DORCHESTER, NEWENGLANDUNITED4JUSTICE.ORG**

*NEU4J believes that organized working-class communities can harness their power to radically transform the housing sphere.*

Boston is one of the most rapidly gentrifying cities, where stagnant income and skyrocketing housing costs put thousands of low-income and working-class families, especially in communities of color, at risk of displacement. In Boston, working-class communities of color do not have a voice in planning and decision making in our communities.

**PARTAKERS**  
**AUBURNDALE, PARTAKERS.ORG**

*Setting up those who are currently incarcerated for success when they return to their communities by providing them with mentorships while they work towards a college degree.*

Partakers’ College Behind Bars program partners with incarcerated people as they work towards a bachelor’s degree. Their one-on-one mentoring builds the trust and connects incarcerated people to the resources each individual needs to succeed in their coursework and integrate successfully once they are released from prison.
PIERSQUARED  
ROXBURY, PIERSQUARED.ORG

*Math Tutoring + Pizza = Broader academic and career choices for Boston’s youth.*

Providing students with qualified math tutors and a free, healthy snack during after-school hours, PieRSquared supports and extends the strengths of local schools. Matching students with local college math professors, graduate students, and peer/mentor tutors helps students develop problem-solving skills and rigor; confidence with math; the ability to work alone and with others; and a collegial work ethic. PieRSquared also offers special tutoring hours for adults seeking math support for GED and college preparation, job development, or interest in learning a new branch of math.

RACHEL’S TABLE  
WORCESTER, RACHELSTABLE.ORG

*Every child should have access to milk, but it is often a luxury struggling families cannot afford. Rachel’s Table secures milk for Worcester’s children, provides vital food aid, and prevents food waste.*

The problem of hunger in the Worcester area is severe. Rachel’s Table’s mission is to end hunger in Worcester and reduce food waste. They accomplish this through providing food aid for those who need it most. Their innovative food rescue program reduces food waste by taking donations from markets, restaurants, companies, schools, and individuals and redistributing these donations to homes, shelters, programs, and food pantries.

RESILIENT SISTERHOOD PROJECT(RSP)  
BOSTON, RSPHEALTH.ORG

*RSP strengthens the education, independence, and capabilities of black women and their children and supports the healthy development of girls as the foundation for their adult lives.*

RSP educates and empowers black women regarding diseases of the reproductive system that disproportionately affect them. They approach these diseases and associated issues through a cultural and social justice lens, because poor knowledge of reproductive health is primarily related to racial, health care, and socioeconomic disparities.
RIGHT TO THE CITY BOSTON
BOSTON, RECLAIMBOSTON.ORG
Uplifting the voice of grassroots organizations and residents across the City

Right to the City Boston is a multi-issue-based alliance of grassroots organizations representing low-income, POC/immigrant communities working together for social justice under platform of value and principles: the right to stable community, the right to economic justice and good jobs, the right to democratic participation, the right to public good, and the right to a healthy environment.

SAHELI
BURLINGTON, SAHELIBOSTON.ORG
Saheli provides a range of important services for immigrant women who have been victims of domestic violence.

Saheli’s mission is to empower South Asian immigrant women and families to lead safe and healthy lives in the U.S. Saheli provides support by offering legal and citizenship information; computer and English-language classes; career and empowerment support; violence prevention education; and physical and mental health resources.

SIBLING CONNECTIONS
SOMERVILLE, SIBLINGCONNECTIONS.ORG
Supporting the creation of enduring family relationships and community connections for sisters and brothers separated by foster care.

Children in foster care have been separated from their homes, their parents, and their neighborhoods. More than half have also been separated from their sisters and brothers. Sibling Connections helps siblings in foster care stay connected through: Sibling Sundays, providing siblings with year-round opportunities to strengthen their sibling connection; Camp To Belong MA, a week-long camp to help brothers and sisters to create lifetime memories; and Youth Leadership Programs to provide leadership training and practice for young adults in foster care.
SITTERS WITHOUT BORDERS
BOSTON, SITTERSWITHOUTBORDERS.COM
Committed to helping working parents pursue higher education and elevate their economic position.

Sitters Without Borders (SWOB) offers free and low-cost evening babysitting services to low-income parents attending college in the Greater Boston area. By providing a service necessary for low-income parents who are in college and would otherwise face the risk of dropping out, SWOB reduces the education and economic gap found in greater Boston communities.

SOMALI PARENTS ADVOCACY CENTER FOR EDUCATION
GREATER BOSTON, SPACEMA.ORG
Engaging Somali families more actively in the lives and education of their children

Somali Parents Advocacy Center for Education (SPACE) supports, educates, and empowers Somali families at all levels so that they can successfully access the resources and services in the larger community, and be better advocates for their children in school, in health care, and in their own community.

SOUTHCOAST LGBTQ NETWORK
NEW BEDFORD, SCLGBTQNETWORK.ORG
Building and maintaining a comprehensive network for LGBTQ individuals and families in Southeastern Massachusetts.

Enriching the lives of LGBTQ individuals and families across the age spectrum, Southcoast LGBTQ Network works with governmental, community-based organizations, and private entities to ensure that LGBTQ individuals are treated with respect and dignity. This includes assessing, advocating, and supporting programming needs to ensure the safety and wellbeing of LGBTQ individuals in the community, such as housing, education, employment, and mental and physical health.
SPEAKOUT BOSTON
BOSTON, SPEAKOUTBOSTON.ORG
A community of speakers working toward a world free of homo-bi-trans-phobia and other forms of prejudice by telling the truths of their lives and encouraging audiences to “Ask us anything.”

SpeakOUT provides education about LGBTQIA issues and trains individuals and organizations to use public speaking as a means of creating positive cultural change. By sharing their lives and experiences publicly to support those struggling with sexuality and gender identity and educating within communities, they engage audiences in honest dialogue and invite any questions that may challenge harmful stereotypes and misconceptions.

STUDENT IMMIGRANT MOVEMENT
BOSTON, SIMFORUS.COM
Undocumented students come together to reach their full academic potential through post-secondary education without the threat of deportation and with instate tuition.

Student Immigrant Movement (SIM) is founded by and for undocumented immigrant students. Drawing from their unique experiences in the educational system, they work toward access to in-state tuition and citizenship. They identify, recruit, and develop local leaders committed to improving their communities through relationship building, leadership development, organizing, and ongoing campaigns.

THRIVE COMMUNITIES OF MASSACHUSETTS
LOWELL, THRIVEMA.ORG
Cultivating genuine experiences of community that are inclusive of all, and defining people not by their experiential differences, but by the best parts of their character.

THRIVE seeks to address the challenges faced by men and women as they return from prison to public society, particularly the challenge of connection to community, including underlying racial and economic stress and disparities, negative stigma and distrust, and the institutionalization of returning citizens. This community-based response to the challenges of re-entry helps communities learn how to heal themselves and address systemic barriers to re-entry.
TO THE MOON AND BACK
PLYMOUTH, 2THEMOONANDBACK.ORG
Providing support, education, and advocacy for the littlest victims of the opioid epidemic

To the Moon and Back organizes support, education, and advocacy groups for children born with in utero substance exposure and their families. Services include consultation, care packages, and annual conferences. While focused in the Plymouth area, their resource guide can be found across the state.

TOP NOTCH SCHOLARS
LAWRENCE AND MERRIMACK VALLEY, TOPNOTCHSCHOLARS.ORG
Helping youth reach their personal success

Top Notch Scholars is a leadership development organization that provides mentoring and leadership opportunities to support the dreams of each student by helping them build self-esteem, healthy relationships, a spirit of inquiry and focus, and college and career awareness.

TRANSFORMATIONAL PRISON PROJECT
NEWTONVILLE, TRANSFORMPRISON.ORG
The Transformational Prison Project (TPP) – staff, volunteers, incarcerated leaders, and advisors—is pioneering the path towards restorative justice in the Massachusetts criminal legal system.

TPP began with restorative justice (RJ) groups inside prisons. TPP’s RJ informed reading, yoga, and Victim Offender Education Groups help individuals understand what led to their criminal behavior, feel empathy for their victims and communities, be accountable, and internalize responsibility in their future choices. TPP’s work includes an innovative program of practical education and RJ opportunities for correctional officers and other prison staff.
UNION OF MINORITY NEIGHBORHOODS
STATEWIDE, UNITYOFMINORITYNEIGHBORHOODS.ORG
Garnering greater political, social, and economic power for communities of color and low-income people

Union of Minority Neighborhoods organizes and trains people of color and low-income people to end discriminatory policies and practices that limit access to political, economic, and social power. UMN develops a more cohesive force for demanding greater political power through designing programs and campaigns that address community needs.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER
BOSTON, WAB2G.ORG
Educating, supporting, and serving families on both sides of gun violence in order to break cycles of violence and victimization.

We Are Better Together works with families of victims and offenders who want to take ownership of what’s happening in their homes and community and find pathways to healing. They provide community healing, as well as leadership and violence prevention planning to disrupt cycles of violence and trauma.

THE WELCOME PROJECT
SOMERVILLE, WELCOMEPROJECT.ORG
Innovative programs, community engagement, and effective collaborations build leadership for Somerville’s immigrant youth and families.

The Welcome Project offers programs for immigrant and lower-income families at the Mystic Housing Development and throughout Somerville to build leadership and personal development skills, provide access to employment and education, and help residents learn English and the nuances of a new culture to enable them to engage in the civic life of the city.
Eastern Bank is committed to recognizing the good in our communities and celebrating the work of THE LENNY ZAKIM FUND

We proudly support the 25TH ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

Congratulations to all of the honorees

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Congratulations to all the Lenny Zakim Fund award recipients and thank you to the Lenny Zakim Fund for the amazing work it does to help organizations of all kinds grow and flourish in our community.

-David and Ben Grossman

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Pam Tameo  
Donna Tehel  
Rick and Sandy Thau  
Susan W. Tofias  
Keith and Susan Tornheim  
Nahir Torres  
Loren Van Allen  
Mark Walsh  
Waters Philanthropy  
James and Margery Wieder
Michael and Mary Wilker
Jeffrey and Robyn Winik
Anki Wolf
Barbara Wolf
Taryn Wolf
Eric Wolkoff
Wieslaw and Trudy Woszczyk
Jeff Wulfson
Jill York
Jack and Lydia Zakim
2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

“I, like the Lenny Zakim Fund, am committed to creating a better world. Like, the Lenny Zakim Fund, I believe in the power of diversity and inclusion. In this particular case, I am really an advocate for ensuring that we create a more inclusive technology and STEM pipeline. I also believe that we need to create love in our students. A love of learning. A love of themselves. And a love of STEM. That value also is apparent in the Lenny Zakim Fund. Because of these values, I hold the Lenny Zakim Fund and the work that you do so dear to my heart. Supporting entrepreneurs that look like me and helping them make a difference in the communities in which they serve.”

- Olu Ibrahim, Founder and Executive Director of Kids in Tech

In 2020, -- for the first time in The Lenny Zakim Fund’s 25-year history - LZF allocated grants totaling in excess of $1,000,000 to 83 grassroots organization. Fifty-six organizations received grant funding through the Fund’s traditional grant program and 52 current and former grantee partners received nearly $350,000 in funding from our COVID-19 Emergency Response and Recovery Fund.

In February, we hosted a Bridge Builder Meet and Greet with Eric Esteves who assumed the role of LZF’s Executive Director in December 2019. This event drew an attendance of 75 guests made up of members of the nonprofit and philanthropic communities alike.

In June, LZF welcomed Allison Picott, as our new Director of Development, joining Eric and Dominique Ramos, Program and Office Administrator.

This summer, LZF concluded our first Transformative Leadership Cohort (TLC), a two-year, intensive capacity building program specifically designed for small, grassroots organizations and led by people from historically-excluded populations. This inaugural group of seven grassroots organizations/leaders participated in a series of group coaching sessions, individual executive coaching for 2 hours a month, and 8 high-quality, workshop-based, skills-building trainings around capacity building.

Throughout 2020, LZF offered a number of virtual seminars to our current grantees, also making these learning opportunities available to our former grantee partners and more broadly to the nonprofit community. Some of those seminars include:

- Remote Work Tips and Tricks
- Board Governance
In June, LZF hosted a Bridge Builders event to spotlight the advocacy work of six grassroots organizations in the Housing Justice and Criminal Justice space. Attendees heard directly from community leaders who provided honest bluntness about the current realities of their organizing efforts amid the pandemic, while also sharing updates about opportunities for legislative policy change and coalition-building.

In July, LZF co-hosted a Bridge Builders event with King Boston and the Boston Foundation to highlight social, racial, and economic justice issues in the philanthropic sector, including funding disparities for leaders of color, the pandemic’s disparate impact on communities of color, and strategies for disrupting outdated grantmaking practices.

In October, LZF co-hosted a final Bridge Builders event on Housing Justice and Eviction Defense along with Greater Boston Legal Services to equip nonprofit staff, providers, and advocates with the information and training needed to support tenants facing the looming wave of evictions.

On November 17, on what would have been Lenny’s 67th birthday, LZF celebrated 25 years of solidarity with grassroots organizations throughout eastern Massachusetts. Our virtual event included remarks from current and former grantee partners, recollections from many of Lenny’s family and friends, and current and past LZF board members. Over the past 25 years, LZF has awarded nearly 1,400 grants totaling over $10,000,000 to more than 400 organizations.

In December, LZF welcomed three new members to the Board: Michael Eckton of Winchester, Ronald Marlow of Randolph, and Loren Van Allen of Roslindale. At the same time, we also said goodbye to board member Asmaa Donahue, who stepped down from the board after she and her husband relocated to Texas for work. LZF’s Board of Directors under the leadership of Chair, Suzi Kaitz, and Vice Chair, Tim James, is now 16 members strong.

The Lenny Zakim Fund salutes our donors for their tremendous generosity and our grantee partners for their tireless efforts to advance social, economic, and racial justice within their communities. The past year has shown us that despite the obstacles and difficulties thrown in front of us, we pivot, re-imagine and find a way to move forward. Let us continue to find a way to forge ahead in 2021. Thank you.
We're proud to support The Lenny Zakim Fund.

At RSM, we're committed to giving back to local communities where we live and work. The Lenny Zakim Fund enriches the lives of people in this community. And it's our pleasure to support them.
Speaking for justice.

DLA Piper is proud to support the Lenny Zakim Fund, and we are honored to serve as the fund’s home and its partner, providing pro bono legal services to its many grantee organizations as it works to achieve its mission of social change and equity.