





“

In nature, nothing exists alone.

”

Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*

Rachel Carson may be a household name today, but her character and her significant work on environmental health were mercilessly attacked by those in power at the time.

Our founders chose Rachel as our namesake 20 years ago because they knew women and women's environmental leadership continued to be obscured and diminished. Those founders gave us a mission: to promote women as impassioned leaders and agents of change dedicated to the stewardship of the earth. We take that mission seriously.

We started the Catalyst Award in 2019 to recognize the women environmental leaders of color who are doing transformative work with few resources or institutional support. In 2020, we expanded the award to recognize 25 leaders (read more on Page 5). At its essence, the award is about the recognition of women's work, not the expectation of it. Supporting those doing the work is the core of our work.

In addition to the Catalyst Award, our network gave to many new projects and organizations in 2020, from fighting petrochemical development in the Ohio River Valley to mobilizing student voters. We also continued funding multi-year grants to fight the US-Mexico Border Wall and build momentum for climate action through the EnCourage Tour. Early in the pandemic as many organizations were struggling,

Rachel's Network distributed grants to more than 40 small nonprofits and women leaders through our emergency Community Resilience Fund.

Like many organizations this year, we made our member events virtual during the pandemic, hosting speakers on topics from environmental justice and toxics to climate action and the election. We even hosted a series of yoga classes to provide our community a respite within the quarantine. Our virtual programs kept our giving and our membership grounded and connected.

This year marked our highest level of collective giving in our history. In 2021, we will build upon lessons learned from the hundreds of women environmental leaders who have taken the time to share with us what matters in their lives and work. We aspire to be companions to the women leaders doing this work; groundskeepers, not gatekeepers.

With warmth and resolve,



Fern Shepard
President



Kef Kasdin
Board Chair



Photo: James Wainscoat



Photo: FilmStudio



Photo: Samuel Schroth

“

Green philanthropy still has much progress to make toward equity. [The Rachel's Network Catalyst Award] shows the possibilities such a shift could empower.

”

Inside **Philanthropy**

In 2020, our network granted over \$300,000 to projects that grow healthy communities and promote women's leadership.

Our 2020 projects included:

1 Celebrating Women Environmental Leaders

The Rachel's Network Catalyst Award provides women environmental leaders of color support and recognition for their commitment to a healthy planet, along with a \$10,000 prize, and networking opportunities.

2020 Catalyst **Awardees**



Amy Cordalis
Yurok Tribe
McKinleyville, CA



Alannah Hurley
United Tribes
of Bristol Bay
Dillingham, AK



Mai Nguyen,
Minnow
San Diego, CA



Jennifer Nguyen Moore
Environmental
Justice Activist
St. Paul, MN



Christine Nieves
Emerge PR
Humacao, PR



Leah Penniman
Soul Fire Farm
Petersburg, NY



Doria Robinson
Urban Tilth
Richmond, CA



Kerene N. Tayloe Esq.
WE ACT for Environ-
mental Justice
Washington, DC



**Jessica Guadalupe
Tovar,** Local Clean
Energy Alliance
San Francisco, CA

2020 Catalyst **Finalists**

Miho Aida
NatureBridge
Sausalito, CA

Imani Jacqueline Brown
Fossil Free Fest
New Orleans, LA

Chanté Coleman
National Wildlife Federation
Annapolis, MD

Chandra Farley
Partnership for Southern Equity
Atlanta, GA

Kimberly Foreman
Environmental Health Watch
Cleveland, OH

Jameka Hodnett
350.org
Washington, DC

Donna U. Hope
UHope-Consulting
Brooklyn, NY

Michelle Martinez
Michigan Environmental
Justice Coalition
Detroit, MI

Amira Streeeter
Office of Governor Kate Brown
Portland, OR

LaJuan Tucker
City of Austin Parks and
Recreation, Austin, TX

Agnes Vianzon
Eastern Sierra
Conservation Corps
Mammoth Lakes, CA

Carol Williams
Artist, Seattle, WA

Venice Williams
Alice's Garden Urban Farm
Milwaukee, WI

Dan Xie
Student PIRGs
St. Petersburg, FL

Ami Zota
George Washington University
Milken School of Public Health
Washington, DC

*One additional finalist has chosen
to remain anonymous.*

2 Responding to Community Needs During COVID-19

In response to impacts COVID-19 has had on the operations, financial security, and well-being of the women in our extended community, we launched the Rachel's Network Community Resilience Fund in April 2020 to provide small, unrestricted gifts. In all, we granted \$46,000 to 25 women environmental leaders, and these 27 organizations:

- | | |
|--|--|
| American Forest Foundation | National Parks Conservation Association |
| Catalyst Miami | NatureBridge – Prince William Forest and Yosemite Campuses |
| Defenders of Wildlife | North Carolina Conservation Network |
| Dogwood Alliance | Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation |
| Environmental Defense Center | Our Children's Trust |
| Extra Terrestrial Projects | Pauli Murray Center for History & Social Justice |
| Friends of the Earth | Rutgers University Foundation/CAWP |
| Green 2.0 | Southern Environmental Law Center |
| Greening Youth Foundation | Sustainable Economies Law Center |
| Hispanic Access Foundation | UC Merced Sierra Nevada Research Institute |
| Historic Stagville | UC Santa Barbara Foundation |
| Humane Borders | US Climate Action Network |
| Kino Border Initiative | |
| League of Conservation Voters Education Fund | |

3 Fighting Petrochemical Development

The American Chemistry Council has identified \$36 billion in potential petrochemical and plastic manufacturing investments in the Ohio River Valley and corporations have already begun building ethane cracker plants, pipelines, storage facilities, and other dirty infrastructure. Rachel's Network partnered with the People Over Petro Coalition to educate residents on the situation and their options to fight back.

4 Supporting Civic Engagement

Young people continue to be underrepresented in our democracy, and COVID-19 has severely curtailed traditional youth voter registration efforts. Student PIRGs' New Voters Project used digital tools to reach potential voters with the information they needed to navigate the 2020 election and beyond. Rachel's Network provided Student PIRGs a grant to help enable this work and our 501(c)4 Rachel's Action Network funded environmental GOTV efforts through Georgia Conservation Voters.

5 Analyzing Congressional Environmental Scores by Gender

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) Environmental Scorecard is the nationally accepted yardstick used to rate members of Congress on environmental, public health, and energy issues. In 2020, we analyzed scorecard data going back to 1972 to find out whether women and men differ in their environmental votes. In every year covered, we found that on average, women in Congress vote for legislation supporting clean air, clean water, renewable energy, climate action, and public health more often than their male counterparts.



Photo: Nicals Moser



Photo: Lenor Gorn



Photo: Marcus Spiske



Photo: Milos Prelevic

Who We Are

Named in honor of Rachel Carson, we are a community of women funders committed to a safer, healthier, and more just world for all.

Our members share ideas and fund solutions in a variety of areas, ranging from sustainable agriculture and health, to conservation and climate change.

“

I have learned so much from Rachel's Network staff & members. It is amazing what this group is accomplishing on so many fronts, and how generous they all are with time and information to help move this world forward in a constructive way.

”

Member **Diane Lewis**



Photo: Delmaine Donson

Our Network...

- Helps members become stronger funders and advocates through exposure to a wealth of curated information and connections to grassroots activists
- Introduces members to lifelong friends and colleagues who share a commitment to sustainable change and women's leadership
- Has given more than \$2 million to environmental solutions and women's leadership initiatives through the Rachel's Network co-funding program
- Hosts events that bring together forward-thinking funders and experts in environmental issues and philanthropy
- Serves as a fiscal sponsor for worthy nonprofits launched by our members
- Helps connect nonprofits with members interested in board service



Board of Directors

Kef Kasdin, Chair
Molly Ross, Vice Chair
Fa Liddell, Secretary
Marcia Angle, Treasurer
Kim Bendheim
Martha Davis
Barbara Gonzalez-McIntosh
Jane Gray
Lisa Holmes
Ann Hunter-Welborn
Diane Lewis
Alice Liddell
Anna Logan Lawson
Elena Marszalek
Janet Miller
Janet Montgomery
Rosamond Pope-Meyer



Liaisons

Nan Aron, Founder & President
 Alliance for Justice
May Boeve, Executive Director, 350.org
Keya Chatterjee, Executive Director
 US Climate Action Network
Abigail Dillen, President, Earthjustice
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 Defenders of Wildlife
Katie Frohardt, Executive Director
 Wild Earth Allies
Seema Jalan, Executive Director
 Universal Access Project
Janis Searles Jones, CEO
 Ocean Conservancy
Annie Leonard, Executive Director
 Greenpeace USA
Stephanie Meeks, President & CEO
 Student Conservation Association
Theresa Pierno, President & CEO
 National Parks Conservation Association
Kathleen Rest, Executive Director
 Union of Concerned Scientists
Kathleen Rogers, President
 Earth Day Network
Nicole Silk, President, River Network



Advisors

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 Hispanic Access Foundation
Rev. Sally Bingham, President &
 Founder, Interfaith Power & Light
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 Physicians for Social Responsibility
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 and Explorer-in-Residence; National
 Geographic Society
Angelou Ezeilo, CEO & Founder
 Greening Youth Foundation
Hazel Henderson, Founder
 Ethical Markets Media, LLC
L. Hunter Lovins, Founder &
 President, Natural Capitalism
 Solutions
Julia Olson, Esq., Executive
 Director & Chief Legal Counsel
 Our Children's Trust



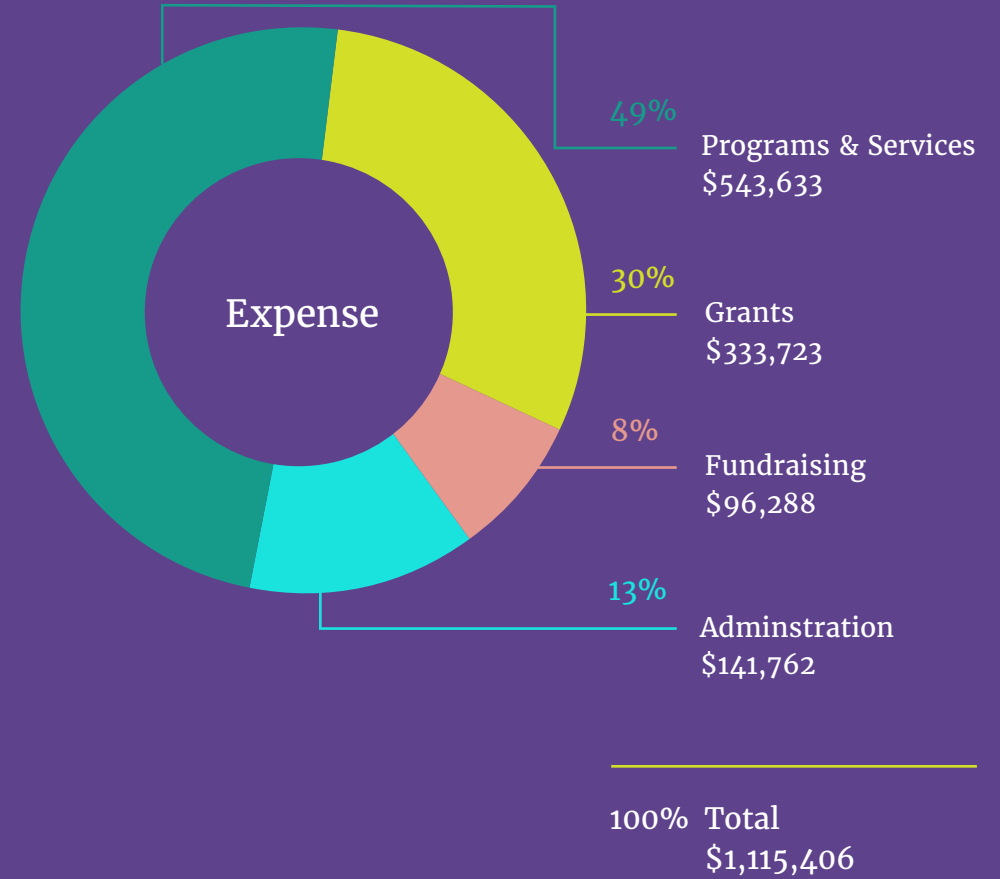
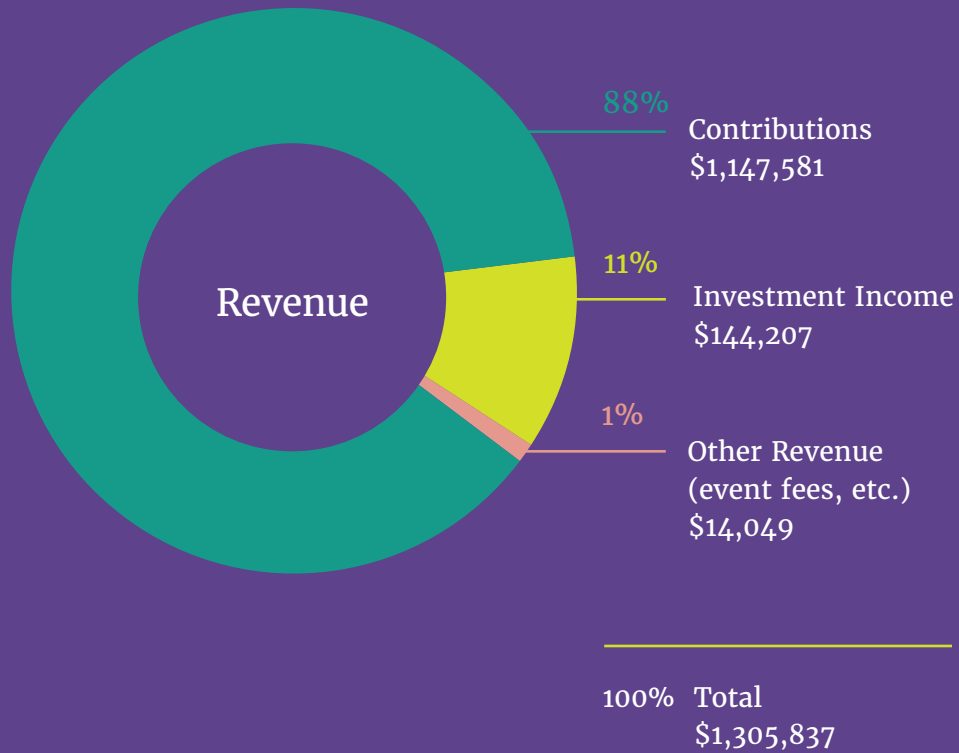
Janelle Orsi, Esq., Executive
 Director & Co-Founder, Sustainable
 Economies Law Center
Nora Pouillon, Author, Chef and
 Founder, Restaurant Nora
Carolyn Raffensberger, Executive
 Director, Science and Environmental
 Health Network
Vicki Spruill, President & CEO
 New England Aquarium
Whitney Tome, Principal
 Raben Group
Debbie Walsh, Director
 Center for American Women
 and Politics, Rutgers University
Alice Waters, Author; Chef and
 Owner, Chez Panisse Restaurant
Terry Tempest Williams, Author
 Naturalist, and Conservationist

Staff

Fern Shepard, President
Mit Allenby, Operations Director
Jamie Boese, Program Director
Ariana Carella, Network
 Engagement Director
Erica Flock, Communications and
 Advocacy Director
Casey Hansen, Membership and
 Development Director



2020 Financials



— Change in Net Assets
\$190,431



Rachel's Network

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Traditional lands of the Nacotchtank
and Piscataway people

Our Mission

Rachel's Network is a community of women at the intersection of environmental advocacy, philanthropy, and leadership. Our mission is to promote women as impassioned leaders and agents of change dedicated to the stewardship of the earth.

Our Vision

Catalyzing our collective power, Rachel's Network influences social, political, and economic systems to advance a healthy, thriving world.