

2019 Annual Report



**Rachel's
Network**

Letter From Our Leadership



The aspen has one of the broadest ranges of any tree species in the world, reflecting its adaptability. Each aspen is also connected to all the others around it through its underground root system.

We chose aspens to grace our new logo on the cusp of our 20th anniversary for these reasons—they capture the resilience and solidarity we embody in the face of great challenges facing our country and world, especially these days in light of COVID-19.

When we were founded in 2000, Rachel's Network was one of the few voices highlighting the intersection of women's leadership and environmentalism. Now other organizations are beginning to see that elevating more women leaders in government, businesses and civil society is essential if we're to live sustainably on this planet.

The courage and leadership of so many women are going unrecognized in the environmental community, and we want to help change that. So, in 2019 we launched our new Rachel's Network Catalyst Award for women environmental leaders of color. Learn more about the first cohort of winners on the pages ahead, along with the other projects we've been funding.

This year we were also excited to announce that our reserve fund went fossil fuel free. Fighting climate change will require trillions of dollars in sustainable investments. We hope that our example shows how simple it is to invest in climate solutions.

The fight for a healthy and thriving planet depends on the broadest and most inclusive alliances that we can build. For 20 years, the women in our network have used their voices and resources to uplift other women and contribute to solutions. It's gratifying to see what's possible when we work together for positive change. Let's commit to 20 more years!

With warmth and resolve,



Fern
Fern Shepard
President



Kef
Kef Kasdin
Board Chair

Aspens capture the resilience and solidarity Rachel's Network embodies.

Our Impact

Since 2000, our network has granted over \$1.7 million to projects that grow healthy communities and promote women's leadership. Our 2019 projects included:

PROTECTING GLOBAL WILDLANDS

In 2019, Tompkins Conservation donated one million acres to Chile to help establish 10 million acres of new national parks in the country. Rachel's Network traveled to Chile to meet Tompkins Conservation staff and visit two of the new parks—Pumalín and Patagonia. Members subsequently provided a grant to Tompkins to support their conservation work.



FIGHTING THE US-MEXICO BORDER WALL

Our partnerships with the Texas Civil Rights Project, the Center for Biological Diversity, and the Sierra Club strengthen a national coalition of environmental, faith, and human rights partners opposing the US-Mexico border wall.

BUILDING BRIDGES FOR CLIMATE ACTION

We're funding organizations building momentum for climate action among conservatives through the EnCourage Tour. The tour visits strategically important congressional districts to grow political support for action on climate change.



"Donor circles like Rachel's Network fill an important niche within the philanthropic sector, allowing the exchange of ideas among like-minded donors, and helping small foundations and individuals in particular to access the kind of advising and exposure to causes that they might not otherwise have found on their own."

— Inside Philanthropy

“One of the high points of 2019 for me personally and certainly for Tompkins Conservation, is the visit of so many of Rachel’s Network members to Pumalín National Park and Patagonia National Park... Their visit and generous contribution to our conservation work in Chile, together with my decision to join Rachel’s Network as one of its members, has enriched my life as a conservationist.”

– Member Kristine Tompkins



UPLIFTING

WOMEN ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS

In 2019, Rachel's Network launched its inaugural Catalyst Award which provides women environmental leaders of color support and recognition for their commitment to a healthy planet, along with a \$10,000 prize, networking opportunities, and national recognition for their work. These are the 2019 winners:

1 Annel Hernandez, New York City Environmental Justice Alliance Associate Director

2 Maria Herrera, California Governor's Central Valley Deputy Regional Director of External Affairs

3 Tara Houska, Giniw Collective and Not Your Mascots Founder

4 Brionté McCorkle, Georgia Conservation Voters Executive Director

5 Juliana Pino, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization Policy Director

6 Heather Toney, Mom's Clean Air Force National Field Director



Learn more about our impact at rachelsnetwork.org/impact.

"I appreciate being part of a network of remarkable women doing things outside of my focus area. We're strategic—we ask what's going to be most impactful, what's going to effect change. We don't have time to waste."

— Member Lisa Holmes

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 serve on the boards of major environmental organizations, and fund solutions in a variety of areas, ranging from sustainable agriculture and toxics, to conservation and climate change.

Our network...

- **Has given \$1.7 million** to environmental solutions and women's leadership initiatives through the Rachel's Network co-funding program
- **Introduces members to lifelong friends and colleagues** who share a commitment to sustainable change and women's leadership
- **Helps members become stronger funders and advocates** through exposure to a wealth of curated information and connections to grassroots activists
- **Assembles experts in environmental issues and philanthropy** for regular webinars, conferences, excursions, and receptions with forward-thinking funders
- **Serves as a fiscal sponsor** for worthy nonprofits launched by our members
- **Helps connect nonprofits** with members interested in board service

“[Rachel's Network] is one of the most significant funding networks in the ecofeminist space.”

– Philanthropy Women



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Katie Frohardt, [Executive Director, Wild Earth Allies](#)

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Annie Leonard, [Executive Director, Greenpeace USA](#)

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Hazel Henderson, [Founder, Ethical Markets Media, LLC](#)

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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](#)

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Whitney Tome, [Executive Director, Green 2.0](#)

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](#)

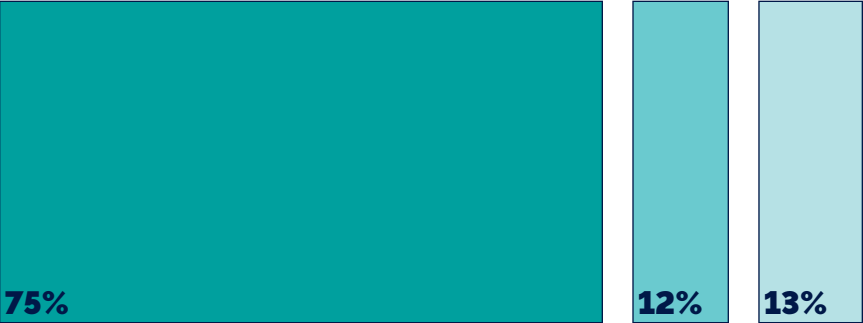
Ariana Carella, [Network Engagement Director](#)

Erica Flock, [Communications and Advocacy Director](#)

Casey Hansen, [Membership and Development Director](#)

Financials

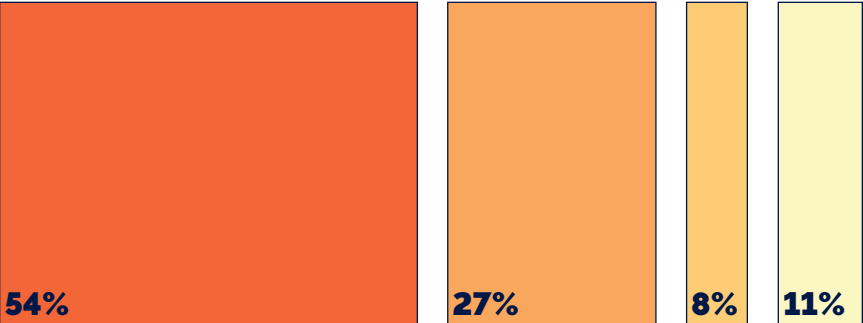
REVENUES



Contributions	\$983,310
Investment Income	161,795
Other Revenue (event fees, etc.)	163,977

Total \$1,309,082

EXPENSES



Program Services	\$654,148
Grants	320,792
Fundraising	102,333
Administration	134,639

Total \$1,211,912

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS \$97,170

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.

Contact

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Network**