

NEW
BREATH
FOUNDATION

A black and white photograph of a crowd at night. In the foreground, a person's arm is raised with a clenched fist. The background is filled with other people and bright, out-of-focus lights, suggesting a large gathering or protest.

2021
IMPACT
REPORT

FROM THE PRESIDENT

To all my relations: Happy New Breath,

2021 has been a year of learning and stretching ourselves at New Breath Foundation (NBF). Despite the pandemic, we threw a successful virtual fundraiser, hired a new staff member, and started a \$10 million We Got Us Fund to support building cross-racial solidarity by investing in grassroots Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) organizations who share the same vision.

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Responses such as Stop Asian Hate challenged us at NBF to address the overdue call to confront institutional and systemic racism against our community without resorting to carceral solutions. We understand the importance of individual accountability, but we also know that punitive responses perpetuate the cycle of poverty and violence that we are working so hard to end.

This year, we received an outpouring of financial support from many individuals and organizations. This funding signaled the trust and belief you placed in our work and our role between non-profit grassroots organizations and philanthropy. This enabled larger grants that will make a more significant impact.

However, this influx of support also demonstrated that funders previously didn't prioritize AAPI issues until mainstream media reported on violence impacting our communities. The capacity to fund AAPI organizations and other communities has always been there. But traditional philanthropy and the majority of society didn't recognize AAPI needs until racist rhetoric, the Atlanta shootings, and a series of attacks on Asian elders and women occurred.

New Breath Foundation was established in response to the inequitable distribution of resources across various groups. Since 2018, we've increased our funding by over 179 times in a short span of time. We're moving fast, and we're still accelerating.

There are many AAPI organizations doing impactful work that need our support. With your help, we can make a lasting impact by partnering with our grantees to help them 1) prioritize their well-being while they grow their infrastructure, 2) spend more time providing direct services and less time worrying about fundraising, and 3) become self-sustainable.

To date, we've raised 77% of our \$4 million fundraising goal for 2021. I express to my team, "When you put your intentions out there, great things will happen." I've seen it happen countless times in my life and through the growth of this organization. I'm putting my intention out there again. Please invest in our work and consider donating to help us finish this year strong.

As we continue to fight for a more just and equitable society, I hope you also focus on prioritizing self love, staying healthy, and finding balance.

Breathin',

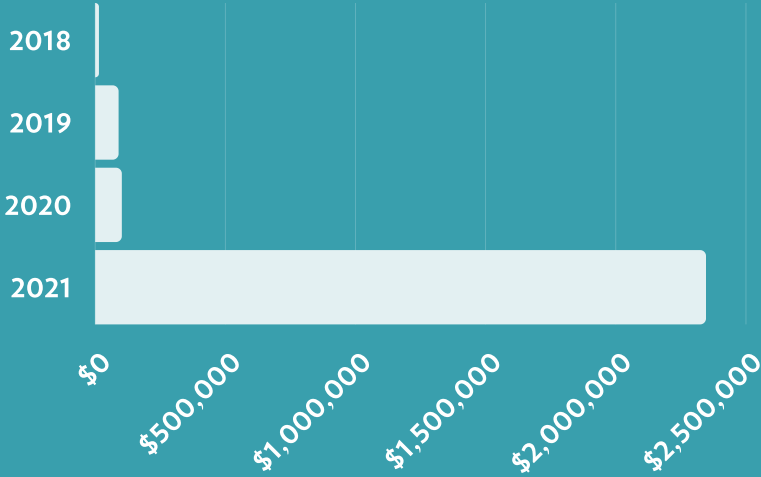


Eddy Zheng
Founder & President



IMPACT 2018-2021

FUNDS GRANTED BY NBF

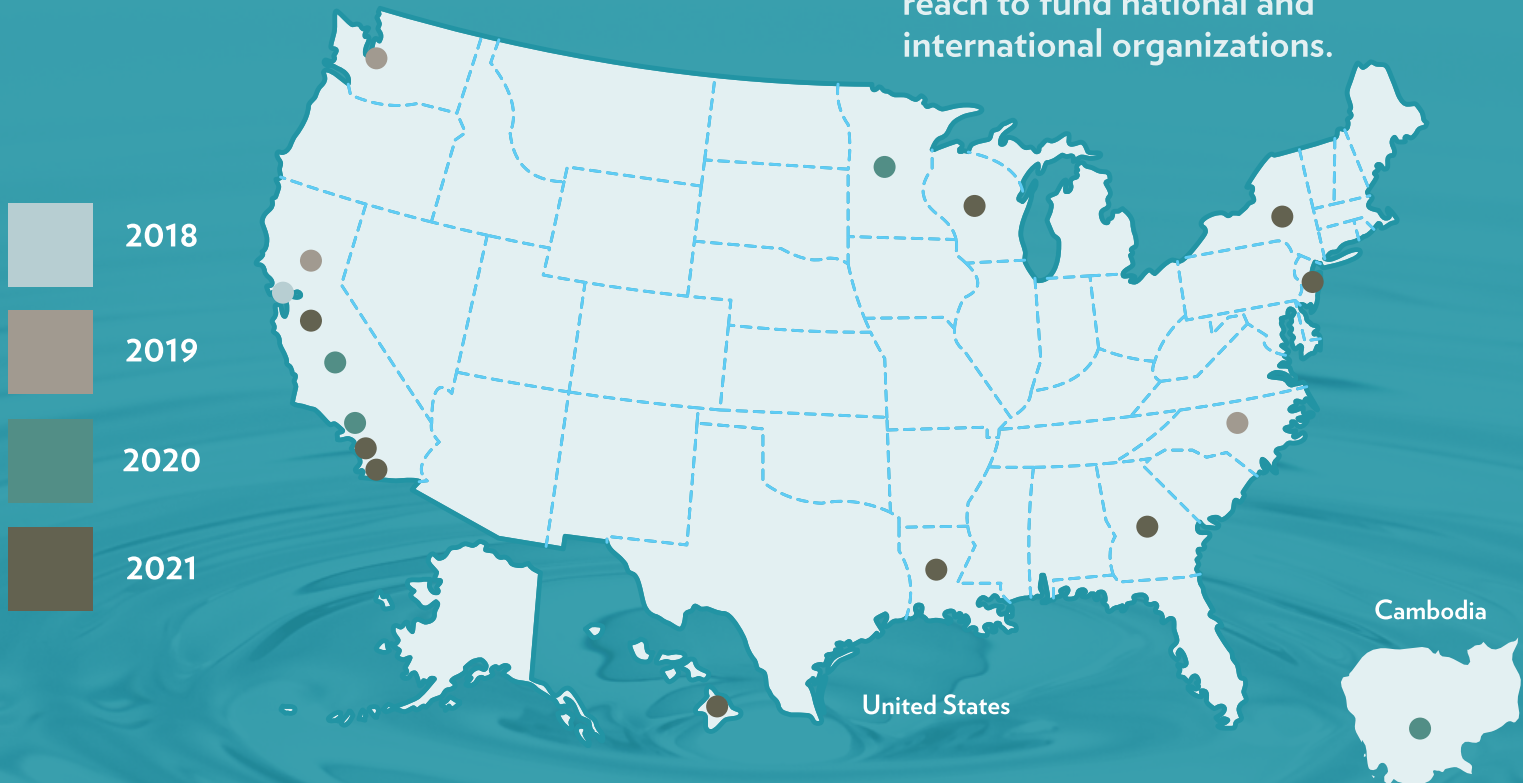


Year	# of organizations	Funds granted
2018	3	\$13,000
2019	11	\$88,500
2020	15	\$100,942
2021	30	\$2,345,000

AREAS REACHED

In 2018, we granted to 3 local organizations.

Since then, we've expanded our reach to fund national and international organizations.



SPOTLIGHT ON GRANTEES: CENTER FOR EMPOWERING REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS (CERI)



Center for Empowering Refugees & Immigrants

Center for Empowering Refugees and Immigrants (CERI) is a nonprofit organization based in Oakland with a mission to improve the social, emotional, psychological, economic, and physical health of refugees and immigrants from Southeast Asia affected by war, torture, genocide or other forms of extreme trauma. CERI provides culturally-relevant mental health and other social services.

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“For you willing to spend your time trying to understand how we are doing psychologically, physically and spiritually, this makes us feel we are valued.”

- New Light Program Participant

Impact Highlights

- **New Light Program:** a mental health outreach program serving those deported to Cambodia seeded by a grant from New Breath Foundation. Since launching in February 2021, New Light has outreached to over 40 participants and provided over 60 individual sessions to 16 enrolled members. In these sacred spaces the participant may unravel the many decades of trauma from the genocide camps, refugee and resettlement experience, and their courageous journey in the prison pipeline, ICE detention, and deportation to Cambodia. Many have reported isolation, rejection and the feeling they are forgotten. And most do not disclose their status to the locals in Cambodia in fear of persecution.
- **Path to Unity:** Since August 2020, CERI has hosted six town halls where 50-60 elders join virtually to share space and learn how to strengthen solidarity across racial lines.
- **SEADLinG (Southeast Asians Developing and Learning in Gardens):** an intergenerational youth program intended to cultivate relationships and healing within ourselves, our elders and our land.



SPOTLIGHT ON GRANTEES: FREEDOM, INC.



Freedom, Inc. engages low- to no-income communities of color in Dane County, WI. Our mission is to achieve social justice through coupling direct services with leadership development and community organizing.

Impact Highlights

- **Keeping Our Communities Safe:** In dealing with the impacts of an international pandemic and being on the front lines during the Racial Rebellion summer of 2020, Freedom, Inc. staff faced tremendous struggles to keep our communities safe. They addressed this through:
 - a weekly food pantry that has now grown into a fully staffed Mutual Aid Program
 - 50+ zoom political education sessions on topics such as racial justice, COVID safety, and gender justice
 - educating the community about Census 2020 and elections
 - community events where members eat, celebrate, and find joy amongst each other in these healing spaces
 - wellness pop-ups distributing PPE, food, and other basic household goods
- **No Cops in Schools:** A campaign which, in 2020, succeeded in ending their local school district's contract with the Madison Police in our high schools. They hired six new Black and Queer staff and leveraged resources to amp up their administrative services including developing strong wellness relief for our staff.
- **Leadership Development:** In 2021, they prioritized the development of new Black and Southeast Asian Queer leaders and continue to uplift and invest in their skills, political education, and wellness.
- **Staff Well-being:** Implemented a three week health and safety break where all staff had a chance to take a break from work and take care of themselves and their families.

SPOTLIGHT ON GRANTEEES: RED CANARY SONG



Red Canary Song is a grassroots collective of Asian and migrant sex workers organizing transnationally. There are over 9,000 workplaces like these across the country with no political representation, or access to labor rights or collective organizing. Anti-trafficking NGO's that claim to speak for migrants in sex trades promote increased policing and immigration control, which harms rather than helps migrant sex workers.

Impact Highlights

- Immediately following the Atlanta shootings, Red Canary Song (RCS) hosted an online vigil for the eight lives lost in this tragic murder aimed at Asian women. Over 70K viewers throughout the world listened to Red Canary Song's statement during the livestream event and over 500 social justice orgs signed on in support.
- With assistance from New Breath Foundation, RCS raised and distributed over 150K of mutual aid support to massage parlor workers in NYC, Atlanta, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Florida, and Austin, as well as Korea and Taiwan. They continue providing mutual aid funds, groceries, skillshare, and assistance to migrant workers in Flushing Queens. Their community outreach is led and advised by migrant Korean and Chinese massage workers and the NBF funds specifically helped us set up residences to pay those workers for their time, experience, and work. With their lead, RCS is currently setting up a reproductive health program through a Flushing clinic for migrant workers to be able to get regular OBGYN health checkups and emergency visits with a culturally competent/sensitive specialist.
- Connected with New Sanctuary Coalition and NY Drivers CoOp to bring immigrant workers to Coney Island for the last fireworks show of the summer season.
- This year, we celebrated the Autumn Moon Festival on September 20th by coming together to cook and prepare care packages for migrant workers in Flushing.

We Got Us

A NEW BREATH FOUNDATION FUND

In 2021, NBF launched a \$10 million fund to support Asian American and Pacific Islander communities to build power, promote racial solidarity, and cultivate healing between AAPI communities, Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities.

“Significant and lasting change will only come from investing in organizations and leaders closest to the challenges we seek to address... The We Got Us Fund is an example of how to build and share power with AAPI communities in an authentic and deep way that can address barriers and create new avenues to opportunity. We are grateful to be part of the bold, transformative, trust-led work of this fund.”

- Sandy Herz, President of Sobrato Philanthropies

The *We Got Us* Fund will address racialized violence against the AAPI community by advancing cross-racial solidarity, long-term sustainable power, and effective alternatives to criminalization.

NBF created the *We Got Us* Fund to achieve the following key outcomes:

- Increased capacity to build power for Asian American and Black, Indigenous, and people of color racial justice movements
- Increased opportunities for cross-racial solidarity and healing
- Increased leadership development opportunities for survivors of crime/violence and those formerly incarcerated

The New Breath Foundation recently created a community advisory committee composed primarily of AAPI survivors of violence and formerly incarcerated leaders, who will help develop innovative strategies around grantmaking, capacity building, and advocacy.

2021 Grantees*

We Got Us Fund

API RISE

Center for Empowering Refugees and Immigrants

Empowering Marginalized Asian Communities

Grassroots Asians Rising

Hawai'i People's Fund

Oakland Pacific Islander Network

Red Canary Song

MN8

Survived and Punished

VAYLA

Rapid Response Grants

AAPI Women Lead

Asian Pacific Environmental Network

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta

Asian Youth Promoting Advocacy and Leadership

Center for Empowering Refugees and Immigrants

Chinese Progressive Association

Freedom, Inc.

Rafiki

Red Canary Song

Survived and Punished

TRYBE

Urban Peace Movement

*for the full list of our 2021 grantees, please see our website at www.new-breath.org/grantees

ABOUT NEW BREATH FOUNDATION

Established in 2017, New Breath Foundation (NBF) grew out of the grassroots movements to prevent community violence, end mass incarceration, address immigration/deportation issues, and advance racial justice and solidarity. NBF staff and board members have spent decades organizing around these issues, with expertise in community organizing, fundraising, non-profit governance, philanthropy, and leadership development.

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Mission

New Breath Foundation mobilizes resources to support Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) harmed by the unjust immigration and criminal justice systems to heal, keep families together, and build movements that shift narratives and policies.

Vision

Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) harmed by violence, incarceration, and deportation have the power to embrace new beginnings and lead community transformation.

**NEW
BREATH
FOUNDATION**

Staff

Eddy Zheng
President & Founder

Stephanie Gee
Director of Operations & Communications

Ben Wang
Director of Grantmaking

Mari Yamagiwa
Program Coordinator

An Nguyen
New Breath Foundation Intern

Board of Directors

Sachi Yoshii, *Treasurer*

Kasie Lee, *Secretary*

David Ho

Jonny Moy

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