

CHINOOK FUND ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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WELCOME TO CHINOOK FUND'S ANNUAL REPORT



Thank you for being part of our movement to create a more just, equitable, and peaceful state. You donated and organized and volunteered – and the result has been another year of supporting grassroots groups that are chopping down the pillars that prop up everything from militarism to capitalism, from racism to patriarchy, and the intersections that connect them all.

Our communities break down the most destructive complexes that exploit ordinary people and enrich the already powerful. Over 200 donors this past year, with an average gift of \$350, believe in Chinook Fund and the 20 grassroots groups that are putting wrenches in the gears of those destructive, powerful machines. And because of you, we had one of the strongest years in our history.

Our current operational, grantmaking and reserves are sustained as Chinook Fund unfolds plans to build and grow a stronger and more viable philanthropic organization.

- Assets increased \$556,052 or 52%.
- Net assets increased \$544,459 or 52%.
- Total grants awarded to grassroots organizations increased by \$24,150 to a total amount of \$103,608 during the year ended June 30, 2015.
- \$.73 of each dollar spent by Chinook Fund is expended to support our Grantmaking in fulfilling our mission.

Within these pages, you will see examples of the resilience, the passion, and the grassroots efforts that have led to real justice through community-based organizing throughout our state. We will always strive to be less of a traditional “foundation” and more of a community resource and are always trying to improve.

We hope this report gives a little glimpse into the special work of Chinook Fund. I am honored to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with you as we build on this momentum and continue expanding justice in Colorado. It is because of you, donors and community activists across the state that are standing up, committed and working hard about making the impossible possible.

Onward,

ABOUT CHINOOK FUND

MISSION

Chinook Fund supports community-based organizations working on issues of social and economic justice throughout Colorado. A community foundation, Chinook Fund pools the resources of the community to seed grassroots organizations making a positive systemic impact to improve the quality of life for all Coloradans.



VISION

Chinook Fund envisions a just and joyful world where people, cultures and ecosystems thrive. We seek to create a just world where.

- We live in harmony with one another and the natural world we all share, and we commit to the peaceful resolution of conflicts.
- We all have the freedom, support and resources to pursue our dreams and live out our full potential as communities and as individuals.
- We cherish and gain strength from the richness of our diverse experiences and the depth of our common humanity.

We nurture our interdependence and actively care for one another.

- We believe that everyone plays a role in creating and sustaining this world. By building community, living our values, and working together towards this vision, we participate in the creation of justice and inspire hope for the future.

CHINOOK FUND VALUES



LIBERATION

In our words and actions, we honor the inherent dignity, strength and wisdom of the individual and the group. We actively challenge practices that demean and isolate people, and cultivate practices that bring people together across our differences to achieve justice and peace.



COMMUNITY

We build caring, respectful relationships with one another. Recognizing our interdependence, we are committed to action that serves the common good. We honor our relationship with the natural world, which sustains us all.



INTEGRITY

We are inclusive, accessible and transparent in our work, and advocate for the same in other institutions. We understand the power and responsibility that comes with being a steward of financial resources, and are accountable to the community that both supports and relies on us.



LEADERSHIP

We encourage learning, experimentation, and innovative thinking, and support the development of emerging leaders. We embrace our own role as leaders in the movement for social justice philanthropy, and are willing to take strategic risks in service of our vision of a just world.

EXPERIENCE

HISTORY

Chinook Fund was founded in 1987 during the Ronald Reagan era, when a group of young, progressive philanthropists came together with a timely idea. Inspired by the recent founding of the Funding Exchange in New York, they wanted to give birth to a foundation which would support small, grassroots organizations working for peace, human rights and economic justice. They also wanted the foundation to be held accountable to the communities it served, and to provide a way to hold activist organizations accountable to those communities as well, and so they launched our community-led grantmaking committee which makes all funding decisions for Chinook.

The founders decided to name the organization the Chinook Fund. In Colorado, a “chinook” is a warm, dry wind that blows powerfully down from the eastern slope of the Rockies, bringing a refreshing spring thaw to icy winter weather. And that was the vision for the new Chinook: supporting and growing grassroots democracy in Colorado, thawing a climate of fear, bigotry and violence.

Throughout the 1990s Chinook Fund took a chance on providing seed money to many critical movements and organizations. When it was controversial to fund LGBTQ organizations after Amendment 2 was passed, Chinook led the way in providing grants to those organizing in response. When it was considered risky to fund groups organizing undocumented immigrants, Chinook was the first to lend its support. Chinook provided the first start-up grant, technical assistance, and consistent funding during the early years of many leading social change organizations in the state, including Colorado Progressive Coalition, 9 to 5 Colorado, Rights for All People, Padres Unidos, Land Rights Council, Compañeros, Centro Humanitario and many more.

While Chinook Fund had long recognized racism as one of the most dangerous and pervasive barriers to social justice in our society, in 2002 the organization embarked on an intentional journey to look inward and examine the impacts of racism on every aspect of the organization and Chinook’s work. Though Chinook started with race, the community quickly realized that they could not understand oppression without also talking about sexism, classism, heterosexism, ableism, etc. This process was transformational for the organization and brought a diverse group of leaders at every level.



INTRODUCTION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

-  Brenda Sears: Board Chair
-  Andrew E. Romero
-  Mac Liman
-  Basim Mahmood
-  Nancy Hernandez
-  Ken Stern
-  Debbie Zucker
-  Courtney Banayad
-  Ananas Mustafa
-  Paul Stein

GRANT MAKING COMMITTEE

-  Ageno Oti: Committee Chair
-  Kelly Costello
-  Zawdie Ekundayo
-  Basim Mahmood
-  Faatma Merhmanesh
-  Candace Redshirt
-  Helen Wolcott
-  Bridget Kaminetsky
-  Ricardo Perez

STAFF

-  Angela Cobian
-  Nora Bashir
-  Candace Johnson
-  Jessica Nelson
-  Ananas Mustafa

THESE ARE
THE PEOPLE
WHO WORK
TOGETHER TO
MAKE THINGS
HAPPEN!

FUNDING CATEGORIES



START-UP GRANTS

[4 years old or younger, up to \$4,000]

Chinook Fund has played a critical role in the history of many of today's most vibrant social change organizations by providing start-up funds when they formed. In fact, Chinook was the first funder to take a chance on many new groups, issues, communities & ways of making social change throughout Colorado.

Chinook provides seed grants to new organizations who demonstrate potential for creating effective social change. Many start-up grants go to groups who work with new communities, new issues, and new methods of social justice work that are often considered too new, risky, or radical by other funders.



ESTABLISHED GRANTS

[The group's age is not relevant, up to \$10,000]

At the Chinook Fund, we know that the issues our grantees are fighting for, such as ending violence towards LGBTQ communities or creating a just and humane immigration system, are not solved in a day. This is why Chinook has also provided long-term, continued support for organizations once they become established.

Chinook provides grants to organizations who demonstrate a track record of making effective social change. Many of these organizations count on Chinook's general operating money to support the more radical, long-term, and sometimes confrontational work to create systemic change that is often restricted by other funding.

Our Start-Up and Established Fund work together to strategically support the social justice movement. By seeding organizations, we are investing in the potential future of social justice work. And once they take root, we provide great support to organizations have the greatest impact for long-term change.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES THAT WE FUND

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS



ART, MEDIA & CULTURE



CRIMINAL JUSTICE



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



INDIGENOUS RIGHTS



DISABILITY RIGHTS



WOMEN'S RIGHTS



LGBTQ RIGHTS



HUMAN & WORKER RIGHTS



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY



SURVIVORS ORGANIZING FOR LIBERATION



SOL is a grassroots, community-based organization working to end violence in all its forms against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer communities in Colorado and provide the highest quality support to survivors. SOL envisions a Colorado where transgender, gender non-conforming, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and queer people have the power to determine the conditions of their lives, are valued for who they are, take responsibility for each other's safety, and live their lives free from violence. Previously known as the Colorado Anti-Violence Project, SOL has been funded consistently by Chinook Fund since 2001, with a brief hiatus in 2013.



A rallying point for the movement-building in the wake of the death of Jessie Hernandez this year, SOL provided a critical space for the family members left behind and queer youth of color to campaign against the pattern of systemic injustice terrorizing their communities. SOL exemplifies Chinook Fund's funding criteria of being 'Community-Wide.'



Community-Wide:

The work reflects all members of the constituency or community, especially those who experience multiple forms of oppression. This ensures that change for the community leaves no one behind, especially for those who have less privilege within the community.

DENVER HOMELESS OUT LOUD (DHOL)



Denver Homeless Out Loud (DHOL) works with and for people who experience homelessness, to solve the issues that arise from the experience of homelessness. They work to help protect and advocate for dignity, rights, and choices for people experiencing homelessness. To these ends, we commit our efforts towards goals affirmed and raised by homeless people, within our organizations and without. They strive to add our strengths together to create ways of living in which everyone has a place they call home. Chinook Fund provided seed funding for DHOL in the spring of 2014 and has continued funding their crucial work in our rapidly changing Denver metro area.

A leader in the ‘tiny-home’ sustainable shelter movement to combat the growing population in the city, disappearing shelter space, and increased push for legislation criminalizing homelessness, DHOL brought their own Colorado Homeless Bill of Rights to the Committee of the State Legislature. Unfortunately, the Right to Rest bill was not passed, but DHOL rallied much community support and will continue their fight to decriminalize homelessness in Colorado. DHOL exemplifies Chinook Fund’s funding criteria of being ‘Constituent-Led.’

Constituent-Led:

The work is led by the people most impacted by injustice. Unlike a traditional charity model, we believe that those most affected by the issue have the solutions and vision for their own liberation – and that the development of their leadership, skills, and power should be prioritized.

HISPANIC AFFAIRS PROJECT (HAP)



HAP is an organization serving the immigrant population in six communities in Western Colorado. HAP envisions Western Colorado communities where cultural diversity is valued and immigrants have opportunities to contribute as integral members through active civic participation. HAP believes that society and its institutions should be based on the principles of equality and solidarity so as to respect the dignity and human rights of every human being. Chinook Fund first funded HAP in 2010 when they received their 501c3 status and every year since then.

HAP works on several crucial programs for Coloradan immigrants and migrant workers. This past year they made strides in pushing the Department of Labor to modify policies to include wage increases for H-2A workers, namely shepherders in rural Colorado where HAP is located. One key new rule will gradually increase the minimum monthly wage from \$750 to \$2,440. HAP is a perfect example of an organization creating 'Lasting Effect' for its constituency and community.

Lasting Effect:

The work makes change not just for one individual today, but for the community as a whole and for future generations. Generally, this means organizing collective action to change cultural, social, political, and economic systems and institutions [such as housing, criminal justice, food production, health care, government agencies, immigration, media, etc.].



LIST OF FISCAL YEAR 2015 GRANTEEES

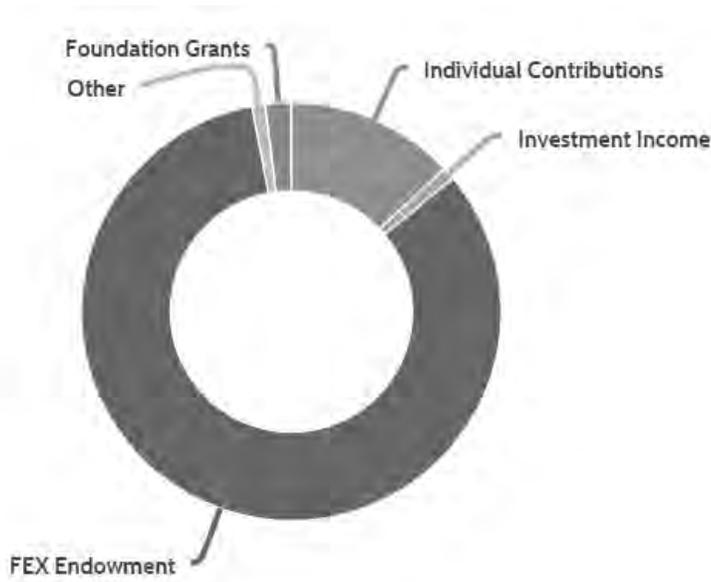
| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|---|
| HISPANIC AFFAIRS PROJECT | SOMALI AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER | COMPAÑEROS | GLOBAL REFUGEE CENTER | DENVER HOMLESS OUT LOUD |
| SURVIVORS ORGANIZING FOR LIBERATION | CENTRO HUMANITARIO PARA LOS TRABAJADORES | RISE COLORADO | TIERRA AMARILLA YOUTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE | INSPIRE |
| COMMUNITY TRANSIT COALITION | ATLANTIS ADAPT | GREENLEAF | SECOND CHANCE CENTER, INC | CREATIVE STRATEGIES FOR CHANGE |
| CAFÉ CULTURA | THEATRE ESPRIT ASIA | RIGHTS FOR ALL PEOPLE | COLORADO JOBS WITH JUSTICE | VICTIM OFFENDER RECONCILIATION PROGRAM (VORP) |
| MOTUS THEATER | | | | |

AUDITED FINANCIALS

INCOME

Support & Revenue:

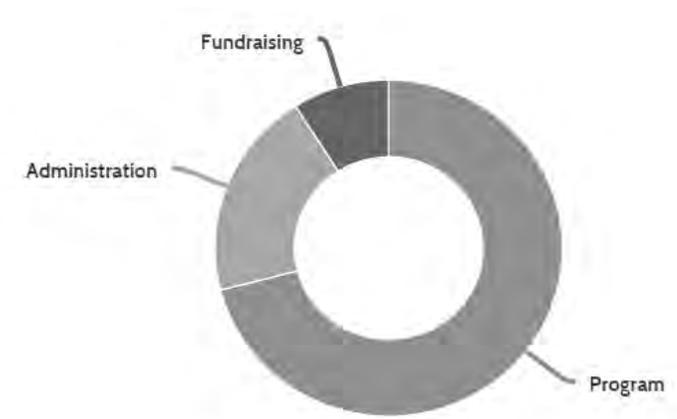
| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Contributions: | \$ 108,681 |
| Foundation Grants: | \$ 15,500 |
| FEX Endowment: | \$ 673,091 |
| Net Investment Income: | \$ 7,395 |
| Other: | |
| Special Event: | \$ 1,230 |
| Other: | \$ 7,395 |
| Total: | \$ 813,949 |



EXPENSES

Expenses:

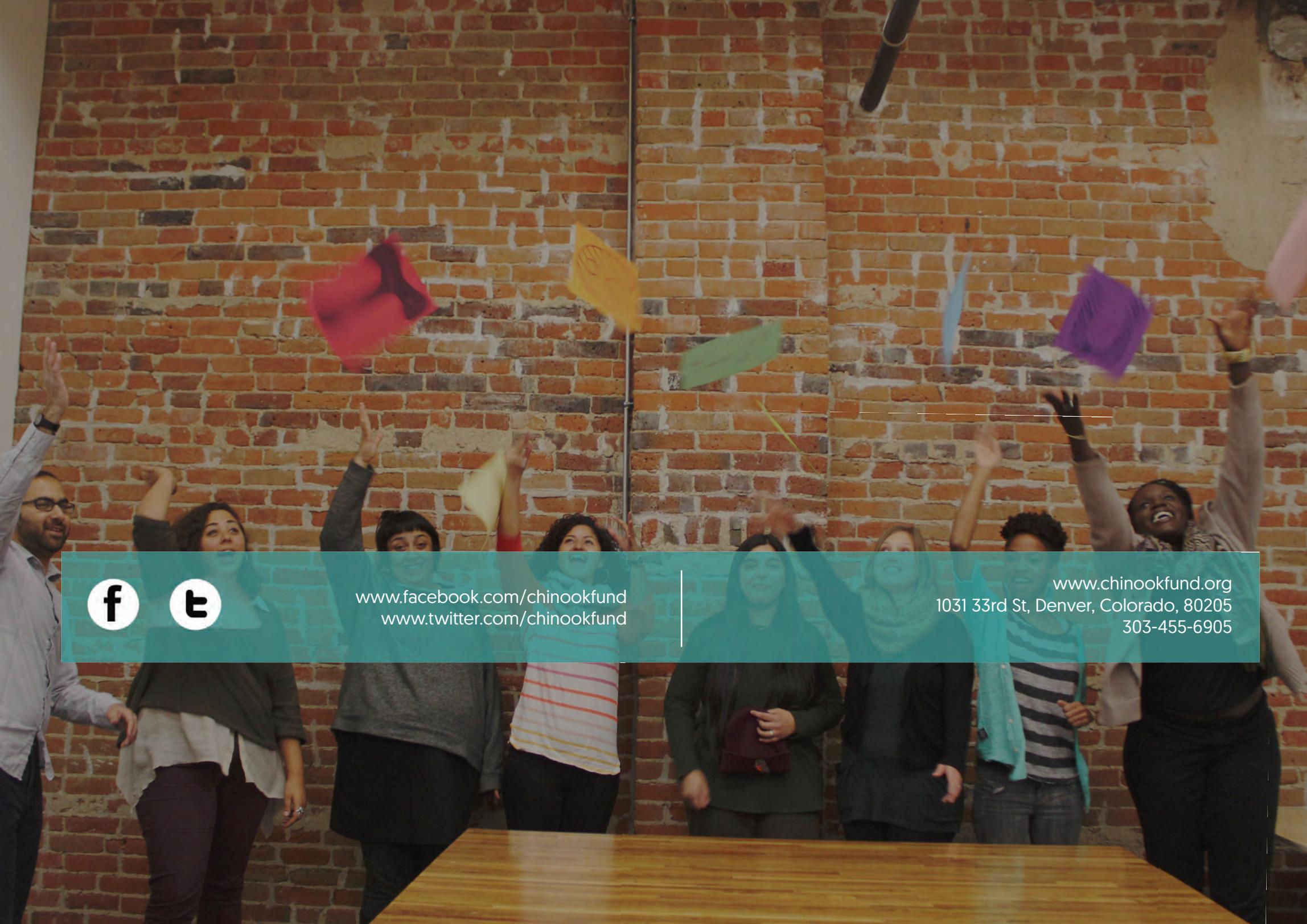
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|-------------------|-------------------|
| Program Services: | \$ 183,850 |
| Administration: | \$ 51,551 |
| Fundraising: | \$ 24,089 |
| Total: | \$ 259,490 |



THANK YOU LETTER

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR INCREDIBLY GENEROUS DONORS. YOU ARE THE ONES WHO MAKE IT ALL HAPPEN, YEAR AFTER YEAR!

- Alice Srinivasan
- Amanda Kearney-Smith
- Amanda Kim
- Andrew Romero
- Andy & Audrey Franklin
- Andy Bartosch
- Angela Cobian
- Ann C. Levy
- Ann Lederer
- Anne T. Sneed
- Anonymous [4]
- Art Davidson & Patty Emmons
- Asad Abdi
- Bamboo Fund
- Barb Ferrill-Van Hoy
- Barry Rosenberg
- Basim Mahmood
- Betsy Crane & Bill Mushkin
- Bridget Reavy Kaminetsky
- Bruce & Penny Thron-Weber
- Carle Zimmerman & Rita Derjue
- Charlie & Sandra Papazian
- Chris Allan & Alison Picher
- Christine Allison
- Christopher Connor
- Cindy Chang
- Courtney Banayad
- Cynthia Carlisle & Baine Kerr
- Dan Recht & Elaine Selsberg
- David & Mary Muller
- David Burgess
- David E. Henninger
- David Kolko & Janet Bacon
- David Ruchman & Michel Dahlin
- Debbie Zucker
- Dede dePercin
- Deme Yuan
- Don & Nita Burkhardt
- Donna Mae Spring
- Doris Burd
- Douglas Hadra
- Duane C. Davidson
- Elaine Enarson
- Elisabeth Long
- Elizabeth Armstrong
- Ellen &erman & James Donaldson
- Emanuel & Joanne Salzman
- Faye & Richard Hershey
- Felicity Hannay & James Wood
- Fred T. Kaplan
- Gabriela Flora
- Gail S. Bernstein
- Gertrude Grant
- Gloria Leyba
- Hassan & Imani Latif
- Heather & Brian Arnold-Re-nicker
- Helen & Oliver Wolcott
- Holly Kingsbury
- Iris Halpern
- Jacy Montoya Price
- James & Becky Kinsinger
- James & Prudence Scarritt
- Jane & Ed Wasson
- Jason Salzman & Anne Button
- Jeff Moser
- Jennifer Heath
- Jim & Laura Hahn
- JJ Odell
- Jodie Kranz
- John Wasserman
- Julie & Richard Goldstein
- Juliet Carpenter
- Kalpana Rao
- Karen Raforth
- Kate & Richard Lyda
- Katherine Kline
- Katherine Tweedy & Gerald Nelson
- Kathy Leonard
- Kelly Costello
- Ken & Karen Gerdes
- Ken & Rebecca Gart
- Ken Ransford
- Ken Reardon
- Ken Stern & Linda Stein
- Kimberly Decker
- King Soopers
- Kirsten Wilson
- Kristin Aaker
- Leslie Lomas
- Linda Campbell
- Linda Meric & Chuck Walker
- Liz Hamel
- Lizeth Chacon
- Lorraine Fairmont
- Louis Wolfe
- Lucy & Thomas Creighton
- Lucy Loomis
- Lynn & Don Burnes
- Lynn Mason
- Lynn Sonfield
- Lyra Mayfield & Charlie Stein
- Mac Liman
- Mandy Jesser
- Marcia & Jeff Goldstein
- Margaret Gomez
- Marla J. Williams
- Matthew & Marie Gordon
- Michael & Tracy Ehlers
- Michael Marez
- Mike Kromrey
- Mu Son Chi
- Nancy Hernandez
- Nicola Keans-Beattie
- Noodles & Company
- Pat Hewett
- Peggy Evans
- Phil Kirshman
- Philip Alterman
- Phuonglan T. Nguyen
- Rachel Balkcom
- Rein van West
- Ricardo Perez
- Roland L. Halpern
- Rudolph Bustamante
- Sam & Michelin Sharp
- Sara Monge
- Sara Overby
- Sarah Shikes
- Shaheena Arshad-Trijillo
- Sharon Wahlfield
- Shirley Romero Otero
- Stefanie & Patrick Winfield
- Sue Ellen Klein
- Sue Weinstein
- Terry & Catherine Benjamin
- The Denver Foundation
- The Gini Coefficient Fund
- Thomas & Noel Congdon
- Timothy Bakken
- Tina & David Routhier
- Tom & Ann Christensen
- Tom & Melanie Michaels
- Tracy Mott
- Trish Franklin
- Vicki Johnson
- Wendy Emrich
- Wes & Linda Brown
- Wolcott Family Foundation
- Zawdie Ekundayo



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