

# MADRE Annual Report 2011



## **MADRE**

121 West 27<sup>th</sup> Street, #301 | New York, NY 10001  
(t) 212-627-0444 | (f) 212-675-3704 | [madre@madre.org](mailto:madre@madre.org)

[www.madre.org](http://www.madre.org)

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**MADRE**

**Demanding Rights, Resources &  
Results for Women Worldwide**

121 West 27th Street, #301  
New York, New York 10001  
Telephone: 212-627-0444  
Fax: 212-675-3704  
email: [madre@madre.org](mailto:madre@madre.org)  
[www.madre.org](http://www.madre.org)

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**Executive Director**  
Yifat Susskind

**Senior Advisor**  
Vivian Stromberg

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## Letter from the Executive Director, Yifat Susskind

Dearest friends,

2011 was a year I will never forget. It was the year I took on the role of Executive Director, taking the reins from my mentor, the incomparable Vivian Stromberg. I never doubted for a moment that I would be surrounded by a deep and powerful network of activists, advisers and supporters—all of you who make our work possible. Thank you.

But 2011 meant so much more than that. It was a year in which millions rose up in protests, from Tahrir Square to Wall Street. Eyes were newly opened to injustices in power and economic might and to the human rights abuses of war, militarism and discrimination. Women were at the heart of these movements, organizing demonstrations and speaking out for human rights, as they have been for generations and across geographies.

And it was a year where MADRE—thanks to your dedication—deepened and expanded our work in partnership with grassroots women worldwide. We reached out to new partners to confront the famine in East Africa, we strategized with our Haitian partners to turn international law into a local tool to protect women, we mobilized when our sisters in Iraq faced violence for standing up for democracy and human rights, and so much more.

In this report, you will see at a glance what a mighty trajectory we are on. You will see that, in ways big and small, we have been creating the world we want to live in, together. We could not do it without your support.



© Jessica Alderman

In peace and justice,

Yifat Susskind  
MADRE Executive Director



© Henry Chalfant

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## Mission & Vision

### Mission

To advance women's human rights by meeting urgent needs in communities and building lasting solutions to the crises women face.

### Vision

MADRE works towards a world in which all people enjoy the fullest range of individual and collective human rights; in which

resources are shared equitably and sustainably; in which women participate effectively in all aspects of society; and in which people have a meaningful say in policies that affect their lives.

MADRE's vision is enacted with an understanding of the inter-relationships between the various issues we address and by a commitment to working in partnership with women at the local, regional and international levels who share our goals.

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## Strategies

### Meeting Immediate Needs

Women cannot develop long-term solutions to the crises they face when they are struggling to ensure their family's daily survival. MADRE therefore works to meet urgent needs as a necessary component of creating social change.

### Partnering for Social Change

MADRE partners with community-based women's organizations that share our vision of a world where all people enjoy the full range of human rights. MADRE works with our sister organizations to meet urgent needs in their communities and enhance women's capacity to create positive social change.

### Advocating for Human Rights

The international human rights framework is a powerful but under-utilized tool for creating positive social change.

MADRE aims to apply human rights to social change initiatives, to advance and improve the human rights framework and to make international law relevant and accountable to the people it is meant to serve.

### Educating the Public

A cogent understanding of the social, economic and political conditions that confront us is critical to creating positive change. MADRE works to communicate the impacts of the policies of governments, international financial institutions and other centers of power on women and their communities worldwide and to formulate and press for alternatives to destructive policies. MADRE enables people to come together and see their own struggles in a broader context and in relation to other peoples' struggles.



© Elizabeth Rappaport

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## Program Areas

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### **Women's Health/Combating Violence against Women**

We tend to think of health mainly as a function of biology, but the strongest determinants of health are actually the social, political and economic forces in our lives. Health is not only the absence of disease or infirmity, but also a state of physical, mental and social well-being. How healthy we are depends enormously on our access to nutritious food, clean water and medical care; on the levels of violence and stress in our lives; on how much and under what conditions we work and on the opportunities we have for love, pleasure and fulfillment.

### **Peace Building**

MADRE recognizes the many different ways that war threatens women's human rights. Our programs work to enhance women's capacities to prevent, survive, resolve and recover from situations of armed conflict.

MADRE programs address the exploitation of child soldiers, the use of rape as a weapon of war and the impact of militarization and forced displacement on women and families.

We offer trauma counseling for women and youth, protection from domestic and political violence, and critical health care and education services for those who have been forced to flee their homes.

### **Economic & Environmental Justice**

More and more people are realizing that we cannot continue to live outside the laws of nature and that we have the capability to reinvent our economies and habitats. Around the world, strong public consciousness is spreading about the inter-relationships between the problems that threaten our communities and the ecosystems on which we depend. Increasingly, people are focused on creating concrete, realizable solutions that are both local and systemic.

Women—often their families' primary caretakers, the main providers of food and water, and the stewards of ecosystems—are at the cutting edge of devising these solutions. MADRE works to ensure that women have the means to meet their responsibilities in sustainable ways and that economic and environmental policies uphold women's human rights.

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## Project Highlights

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*There is so much good news to share from 2011, progress made possible by the devotion and support of MADRE members. In partnership with our sister organizations, we were able to benefit approximately 100,000 people.*

*The highlights here represent just a few of the countless stories of resilience and innovation that you have helped us create with our sisters worldwide.*

### Guatemala

In March 2011, MADRE staff traveled to Guatemala to deliver your support to our partners in Santa Maria Nebaj, San Gaspar Chajul and San Juan Cotzal, where Indigenous Peoples are struggling to recover from the genocide of the 1980s. The area is home to our sister organization Muixil, which currently has 350 members.

These Indigenous Ixil Mayan women are using your support to improve nutrition, health, income and education through MADRE's project *Farming for the Future*. The project includes small-scale chicken farming, skills-sharing and trainings in human rights and civic participation. The eggs provide families with protein-rich meals and selling extra eggs brings the women income to pay for things like school supplies and children's shoes.

Rosa, pictured in blue above, never got the opportunity to go to school. Your support enabled her to break the cycle of illiteracy and send her own daughter to school.



*MADRE Executive Director Yifat Susskind (left), with Rosa and Ana Ceto of Muixil (right).*

© MADRE

*“Because of the war I never went to school for even one day. My biggest hope now is that my daughter will finish school. I have the chickens from MADRE now, and that means better food for my daughter. We get a little money from the eggs each week. I put it in my secret place, and I use it to buy pencils and books for her. I know her life will be better.”*

*– Rosa, member of Muixil*

### Haiti

MADRE continues to partner with KOFVIV (Commission of Women Victims for Victims), founded by and for rape survivors, to address the epidemic levels of sexual violence in displacement camps of Port-au-Prince. Our programs to prevent rape, care for survivors and confront the hazardous conditions of life in the camps have all been sustained by your support.

With your help, we have distributed safety whistles and solar flashlights to women and girls in dangerous, unlit camps, and thanks to your support, the KOFVIV Women's



*A workshop for young earthquake survivors at the KOFIV Center in Port-au-Prince.*  
© MADRE

Center is thriving. Women recovering from sexual violence now have a safe haven where they receive care, counseling, referrals for legal and medical services, short-term shelter, instruction in income-generating activities and human rights training.

During multiple visits in 2011, we had the privilege to see KOFIV's programs in action, including therapy sessions and critical peer support groups for rape survivors. KOFIV began a peer counseling program for orphaned girls ranging from ages 10 to 17, many of whom are rape survivors.

Many girls in the camps, some as young as eight years old, are forced to have sex in exchange for subsistence items such as a bit of rice, a bottle of water, or a pair of shoes. Indeed, many of the girls at the KOFIV Center have faced this horror. In response, MADRE delivered nearly 5,000 pairs of shoes and other basic necessities for girls living in displacement camps in Haiti.

For the three days leading up to November 25, 2011, the International Day to End Violence against Women, KOFIV mobilized an intensive campaign to raise

awareness and spark action to end violence against women. They held a photo exhibition depicting life in the camps, inviting representatives from other local women's organizations, UN agencies and the government. They also brought together women's rights activists to share strategies for confronting violence. Finally, they held a rally in Champs-de-Mars, the site of the city's largest displacement camp. They spoke out with one voice: sexual violence must end.

*"I was a victim, and I did not find justice. But I know I will get it for other women."*

*– Malya Villard-Appolon, rape survivor and co-founder of KOFIV*

## Iraq

Pro-democracy protests in Iraq began in February 2011, as part of the wave of uprisings that swept across the region. In June, we heard disturbing news from Yanar Mohammed, Director of MADRE's sister organization, the Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI). She informed us that OWFI activists were facing escalating



*Yanar Mohammed, the director of OWFI, at the forefront of a demonstration.*  
© OWFI

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violence at the protests in Baghdad's Tahrir Square. Plain-clothed forces were sent by the truckload to brutally disperse demonstrators. Young OWFI activists were violently groped and sexually assaulted; one 19-year-old woman was attacked by a group of men who attempted to forcibly strip off her clothes. Another lost a tooth in the attack.

When OWFI scheduled a press conference about the attacks, armed men stormed their office, blocked the street and surrounded the building, forcibly preventing them from holding the event. This kind of sexual violence is designed to terrorize shame and silence those women who dare to exercise their fundamental rights as citizens and raise political demands in the public sphere.

Because of your support, the women of OWFI were able to continue organizing, despite these repressive tactics. We made sure funds were available to cover costs of holding protests and planning meetings. MADRE mobilized women from around the world in condemning the attacks on protestors and called on the Iraqi government to uphold its obligations to guarantee freedom of peaceful assembly and to respond to the demands of demonstrators.

*“When the authorities know that MADRE is watching, it keeps us safe. I had only to call Yifat, and the next day, the chief of police had a letter on his desk from an international women’s organization demanding that he respect our rights. Now that is sisterhood.”*  
– Yanar Mohammed, director of OWFI

## Nicaragua

MADRE is working with our sister organization, Wangki Tangni, on our project Liwa Mairin Women Waterkeepers to reduce the incidence of water-borne diseases. With your support, we have been able to expand our vital work. In March 2011, we worked with Engineers without Borders to visit the communities of Kisalaya and Kururia and to give them the tools to access clean water. On March 22, World Water Day, Rose Cunningham, the director of Wangki Tangni, sent us an update on their progress. The engineers worked with Wangki Tangni to repair ten water wells, install two water pumps and provide education and hygiene and sanitation to bring clean water to Indigenous families and their communities.



*Children in Kisalaya gather around a well built in partnership with MADRE.*

© MADRE

## Palestine

In May 2011, Yifat visited Palestine and our sister organization, Midwives for Peace. While there, she met with Aisha Saifi, a coordinator for Midwives for Peace, to hear the latest about their work and to strategize a way forward together. Midwives for Peace

is a grassroots group Palestinian and Israeli midwives, who have come together to act on their commitment to their profession and to peace. They engage in professional exchanges where they share best practices in midwifery and offer guidance to each other. Midwives for Peace has expanded to include ten Palestinian and ten Israeli midwives as well as several teachers and social workers.

The professional exchanges of Midwives for Peace are critical for professional growth and training, but conditions in the West Bank make traveling to the meetings extremely difficult. MADRE is working to provide funding to cover the cost of transportation for midwives to attend the meetings. With your support, MADRE continues to support this vital program of professional exchanges between midwives.



*Maryam, 45, knows her water is clean now.*  
© Zakher

Meanwhile, Gaza's water crisis is one of the most urgent humanitarian crises in the region. In Gaza City, many houses have running water only once a week, and in some of the poorest communities, families do not have taps in or near their homes. As a result, women and their families are left without clean drinking water.

MADRE has worked with our partner, the Zakher Association, to ensure that women and their families have reliable, affordable and clean water. Through your support of *Clean Water for Gaza*, we installed water filters in key parts of Gaza City, including schools and kindergartens. Our efforts reduce the dangers of water contamination and provide safe drinking water for women, their children and families. By installing four water filters in kindergartens, we gave 600 children clean drinking water in their classrooms.

*"I am not scared that my children will get sick from the contaminated water anymore. Now they drink the water that goes through the filter MADRE gave us. I no longer have to store the water inside of a bucket where germs can breed. The filter saved us precious money. We are a poor family, and now we have more money for food and medicine."*

*-Maryam, age 45, mother of 11 children.*

## Sudan

In early 2011, our sisters at the Women Farmers Union reaped a beautiful harvest, thanks to the support you provided to 415 women for tools and organic seeds of sorghum, sesame, millet and peanuts.

In May, the Women Farmers Union used support from MADRE to purchase a tractor that has dramatically reduced their work time. As Fatima Ahmed, Director of Zenab, said, "Women will now be able to plant faster and raise bigger harvests. Our hope is that together we can build prosperous and peaceful communities, and we work for this every day."

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With your support, Zenab held its first Women Farmers Union General Assembly in May 2011. Approximately 500 women from 60 villages came together for three days of trainings, networking and discussions to establish the Union's priorities. The women worked on their leadership skills and learned new sustainable farming techniques to adapt to climate change.

The benefits of this project were felt across national borders, as the Women Farmers Union responded to the Horn of Africa's worst drought in 60 years. In August, the women gathered the income saved from

their harvest, and through MADRE, sent these proceeds to support the famine relief efforts of our partners in Kenya.



*A young woman farmer receives seeds for the next planting season.*

© Zenab

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## Emergency and Disaster Relief

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*Our sisters need us most urgently when a disaster hits. That's why MADRE launched an Emergency and Disaster Relief Fund. The Fund lets us act immediately and effectively, bringing crucial resources—like food, water, medical care and shelter—directly to the women and families most in need.*

*Women are often hardest hit when disaster strikes. They have fewer resources to start with and often have no safety net. Women are also primarily responsible for those made most vulnerable by disaster—children, the elderly and people who are ill or disabled.*

*But women need more than aid. Women at the community level must be integral to designing and carrying out relief efforts. When emergency aid is distributed by community women, it has the best chance of reaching those most in need.*

### Famine Relief - Kenya

In July, the United Nations declared a famine in Somalia, citing it as the “world's worst humanitarian crisis.” Somali women and families fled to Kenya. But overwhelmed refugee camps did not have the resources to meet the need, and local Kenyan communities struggled to extend support to Somali refugees.

With your support, MADRE mobilized emergency aid through our partner, Womankind Kenya, a local community-based organization of Somali pastoralists. Womankind Kenya is on the ground and of the community most threatened by this famine; they knew what supplies are urgently needed and how to deliver them to those most at risk. Equipped with invaluable knowledge of the local context, Womankind



*Our partner Hubbie Hussein Al-Haji  
delivering food aid.  
© Womankind Kenya*

Kenya was able to identify trusted community leaders to facilitate equitable food distribution and make sure that relief efforts protected the rights of women and girls, who are often overlooked during emergency food distribution.

Thanks to your support, Womankind Kenya distributed food aid to four local villages in the hard-hit region of Garissa in northeastern Kenya: Kamoor, Noor, Diiso and Jarirood.



*A MADRE human rights trainings for  
Indigenous Maasai women.  
© Henry Chalfant*

As a result, 2,700 families received life-saving supplies of maize, beans and cooking oil.

During the emergency, MADRE staff also traveled to Kenya to bring aid to Womankind Kenya and to plan programs with them. We also facilitated human rights trainings for our sister organization, the Indigenous Information Network. Rose Cunningham, director of our Nicaraguan sister organization Wangki Tangni, led the very successful trainings. About 25 women participated from seven different Indigenous Maasai communities, learning about women's rights, Indigenous rights and human rights.

## **Disaster Relief in Central America**

In October 2011, torrential rains triggered a disaster in Central America. Devastating floods and mudslides swept through communities, killing scores of people and displacing many more. The United Nations estimated that some 1.2 million people were left vulnerable by the disaster.

Even though this catastrophe never grabbed media headlines in the US, you were there. Because of your support, we were able to send emergency aid to our partners. MADRE delivered water filters to Wangki Tangni in Nicaragua to purify drinking water contaminated by the flooding. As Rose Cunningham, director of Wangki Tangni, said, "These water filters will save lives by helping to reduce the spread of cholera, typhoid and dysentery."

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## Human Rights Advocacy in Partnership with Grassroots Women

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*MADRE brings women who work for social change at the community level into the process of creating and monitoring international law. We work to make rights relevant to people's daily lives and to reveal to those in power the political and social consequences of failing to respect the rights of community-based women.*

*By offering human rights advocacy tools and training, MADRE enables grassroots women to learn the language, format and systems of international justice institutions. We accompany our partners through every step of the human rights advocacy process, including monitoring human rights, identifying violations, reporting and bringing cases before human rights bodies, and winning legal victories. We partner with local activists to translate advances at the international level into policy changes within their countries and communities.*

*The sections below describe some of the ways we made this possible in 2011.*

### Implementing International Law in Haiti

Following our submission of a legal petition on Haitian women's human rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) of the Organization of American States ruled in our favor in December 2010. The Commission's decision set legally binding obligations on the government of Haiti to address sexual violence in the displacement camps.

Among other recommendations, the Commission urged the government of Haiti to provide psychological and medical care and to guarantee legal accountability for crimes of gender-based violence, as well as to ensure the full participation and leadership of grassroots women's groups in anti-violence policies and practices.

This was a defining moment in an intensive advocacy campaign, launched after the earthquake with our Haitian grassroots partners and with a coalition of allied organizations. But our work did not end with



*Haitian grassroots women take part in a training to learn about their human rights.*

© Bradley Parker

the Commission's decision—MADRE immediately began working to ensure that it could be implemented to provide effective protection for women and girls in Haiti.

In 2011, MADRE conducted four women's empowerment "know your rights" trainings, participated in a follow-up hearing before the IACHR in March 2011 and engaged the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva in October 2011 on gender-based violence in Haiti. In particular, the four

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trainings focused on outreach to grassroots women leaders with information on international human rights law and mechanisms to address gender-based violence in Haiti. Trainings also incorporated practical skills such as drafting and delivering testimony, media messaging and civic participation.

These trainings, combined with our other human rights advocacy activities, are practical expressions of the groundbreaking decision issued by the IACHR.

### **Climate Justice Advocacy**

We know the world is hurtling towards catastrophic climate change, but there is still time to shift course. This was the message women brought to the United Nations Conference on Climate Change, held in Durban, South Africa. With your support, we were able to facilitate the participation of our partners at that conference, to share the perspectives of rural women who are most affected by the climate crisis.

One of them is a young, Indigenous Rendille woman from Kenya named Alice Lesepen. She went to tell the stories of how climate change has impacted her community, drying

up water sources and threatening harvests. She also went to share the adaptation strategies they have invented in order to survive, such as rainwater harvesting. Too often, in gatherings of international policymakers, grassroots leaders like Alice do not have the opportunity to share their expertise. Your support made that possible.

Alice arrived with concrete policy recommendations, emerging from the perspective of women in her community. She called for a gender perspective in policies to address climate change and for targeted funding to bolster the adaptation initiatives of rural women.



*Indigenous women in Kenya with their crops, in a community supported by MADRE.*

© IIN

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## Summary of Audit

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For the year ending in December 31, 2011:

**Support and Revenue: \$2,975,898**

Expenses:

**Total Program Services \$3,156,820**

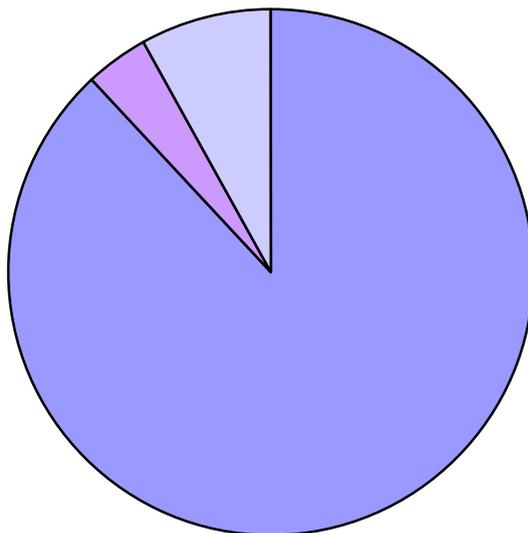
Administrative and General \$132,144

Fundraising \$293,243

**Total Supporting Services \$3,582,207**

**Net assets as of December 31, 2011: \$2,012,428**

### EXPENSES



	<b>Program Services 88%</b>
	<b>Administrative and General 4%</b>
	<b>Fundraising 8%</b>

MADRE audit firm: Schall & Ashenfarb  
350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 728  
New York, NY 10118

A complete copy of the audited financial statements and MADRE's Form 990 IRS tax return are available upon request.

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## MADRE Lifelines

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*Thank you to our recurring donors – our Lifelines – whose sustained giving helps ensure that our programs remain strong and vibrant. By giving to MADRE on a recurring basis, our Lifelines allow women in embattled communities to do more than just survive the crises they face. Our partners know that they can count on our Lifeline members as they work to build a future for themselves and their families. Thank you for standing with us for women’s human rights worldwide.*

<i>Susan M. Ackley</i>	<i>Amy Ahlers</i>	<i>Lydia Alpizar</i>	<i>Jennifer Avina</i>
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Rust Bowl Fund at the Boston Foundation  
Charles Edlin Family Foundation  
Chester F. Chapin Charitable Lead Unitrust  
LeFort-Martin Fund at the Chicago Community Trust  
Naomi and Alan Epstein Fund at the Community Foundation of  
New Jersey  
Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc.  
Cottonwood Foundation  
Bruce and Karen Brunschwig Giving Account at the Fidelity  
Charitable Gift Fund  
Li-hsia Wang & Henry Abrons Fund at the Fidelity Charitable  
Gift Fund  
BLUE STAR at the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
Campen Fund at the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
Hilda Namm Giving Account at the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
Lashof Family Giving Account at the Fidelity Charitable Gift  
Fund  
Li-hsia Wang & Henry Abrons Fund at the Fidelity Charitable  
Gift Fund  
Judith Beth Cohen and Mark Schneider Fund at the Fidelity  
Charitable Gift Fund  
Kennedy Giving Account at the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
Ruth and Sam Neff Fund at the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
Spaulding Charitable Fund at the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
Spencer Family Fund at the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
Freedom to Create  
Give Back Foundation  
Glickenhauer Foundation  
Susan Steinhauer and Daniel Greenberg at the Greenberg  
Foundation  
Morris and Esther Horowitz Family Fund of the Greater Kansas  
City Community Foundation  
Gunzenhauser-Chapin Fund  
H.C. Gemmer Family Christian Foundation  
Harold K. Raisler Foundation  
girls just want to have funD at the Horizons Foundation  
Hundredth Monkey Foundation  
Isabel Allende Foundation  
Isadore Sadie Dorin Foundation  
Helenia Fund at the Jewish Communal Fund  
William B. Thomas Special Memorial Fund at the Jewish  
Communal Fund  
Jon and Katherine Dart Charitable Foundation  
Joseph Rosen Foundation  
Samuel C. Chapin at the Lynn R. & Karl E. Prickett Fund

Mackenzie River Gathering Foundation  
Macy's  
Marble Collegiate Church  
Melling Family Foundation  
mGive Foundation  
Morrison Family Foundation  
Nararo Foundation  
New England Biolabs Foundation  
New Society Fund  
New Visions Foundation  
Lloyd-Migdal Account at the Northern Trust Charitable Giving  
Program  
Oprah Magazine-Beauty Department  
Orchard House Foundation  
Mother Jones Fund of the Peace Development Foundation  
Rachael and Ben Vaughan Foundation  
Racine Dominican Sisters  
Ranieri Institute  
Raymond and Irene Wilborn Charitable Foundation  
Reed Family Foundation  
Robert M. Schiffman Foundation  
Rocking Moon Foundation  
Roseben Fund  
Jamie Rosenthal Wolf and David Wolf of the Rosenthal Family  
Foundation  
Edward Garner and Katherine Garner Charitable Gift Account at  
the Schwab Charitable Fund  
Eric Newman and Janice Gepner Charitable Gift Account at the  
Schwab Charitable Fund  
Scott Evans Foundation  
Shana Alexander Charitable Foundation  
Winograd-Hutner Family Fund, an advised fund of the Silicon  
Valley Community Foundation  
Sisters of Charity - Halifax  
Sisters of Providence  
Suwinski Family Foundation, Inc.  
Tides Foundation, advised by Ms. Martha Newell  
Community Investments Fund of Tides Foundation, on the  
recommendation of Rebecca Liebman and Charles Stephens  
White Cedar Fund of Tides Foundation  
Underdog Fund of Tides Foundation  
Towards Sustainability Foundation  
Boo & Bean Charitable Fund a UBS Donor Advised Fund  
United Church of Christ – Justice and Witness Ministries  
United Methodist Church – Women's Division  
Douglas and Dorothy Steer Fund at the Vanguard Charitable  
Endowment Program  
The Wingeier Charitable Fund of the Vanguard Charitable  
Endowment Program  
Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund  
Winky Foundation  
World Day of Prayer