

Recipe for Change to Solve Poverty

Community Report 2019



Solid Ground's recipe for change to solve poverty is organized around three basic approaches: We meet basic needs, nurture success, and spread change.

Solving poverty in our region is difficult, complex work – but we believe in the power of collaboration. When people come together, we can cook up the change we all want to see: greater stability and health for our community as a whole.

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Greetings!

It's impossible to reach out to you without acknowledging that health and wellness are on everyone's mind as the coronavirus pandemic and racial justice dominate most every conversation. This Community Report, however, focuses on Solid Ground's work to solve poverty for more than 76,000 of our neighbors in 2019.

Healing, wellness, and race and social justice are critical ingredients in our anti-poverty recipe for change. They help us understand how we can most effectively work with people who have experienced poverty and trauma to overcome those challenges and build stability. They also inform how we use our experience and that of Solid Ground program participants and residents to advocate for a community where all people have equitable opportunity to thrive.

Solid Ground contracts with local, regional, and national government to provide more than 20 specific services to support all in our community to reach their full potential. But the reality is that people who have experienced housing instability, domestic violence, food insecurity, racism, and other systemic barriers often need support and resources that don't neatly fit within the parameters of a government contract.

Sincerely,



Caitlen Daniels
Interim President & CEO



D'Adre Cunningham
Board Chair

If we are to support people to truly achieve healing and well-being, we need to do more. Through the incredible community backing from scores of businesses and organizations – and thousands of individuals – we can work with participants over longer periods of time and provide more responses tailored to their specific needs. All of this makes for better outcomes and a healthier community. This report offers a look at some of those outcomes and successes.

Since 1974, Solid Ground has helped our community get through crises to thrive. We have expanded and pivoted several of our services to respond to emerging needs due to the current pandemic.* So while the information in this report describes “a time before,” it speaks to our ongoing passion, creativity, and experience responding successfully to our community's deepest, most pressing needs. Thanks for being a part of this essential work.

*We've added an insert highlighting Solid Ground's COVID-19 Response. For more information, go to our website www.solid-ground.org/coronavirus.



Recipe to Meet Basic Needs

A safe home, healthy food, transportation, and access to benefits.

We know that people need to address their immediate needs before they can progress toward long-term stability – so our first recipe for change to solve poverty is to meet urgent, basic needs. A safe and stable home, healthy food, and accessible transportation are foundational to being prepared to take on life’s challenges.

We believe people know best what they need and honor the choices they make for themselves and their families. We value flexibility and strive to listen and respond to people’s individual, lived experiences with poverty and housing instability.

We also take a trauma-informed approach – understanding that past life experiences and traumatic events impact both children and adults’ behavioral health and well-being – and we work to minimize their effects without causing additional trauma.

Families in Solid Ground shelter programs create Family Stability Plans, working with their case managers to develop individualized goals and specific

steps toward stability and self-sufficiency. Our Homeless Prevention and Housing Stabilization teams combine permanent housing search and/or rental assistance with individualized case management so people can address and avoid barriers that led to housing instability in the first place.

Solid Ground Transportation operates ACCESS buses, the Downtown Circulator Bus, and other transit services to help people get to critically needed health and human services resources, and connect with their communities.

Together, we support all program participants to develop their own recipes to achieve greater stability for themselves and their families.

Ingredients/Strategies

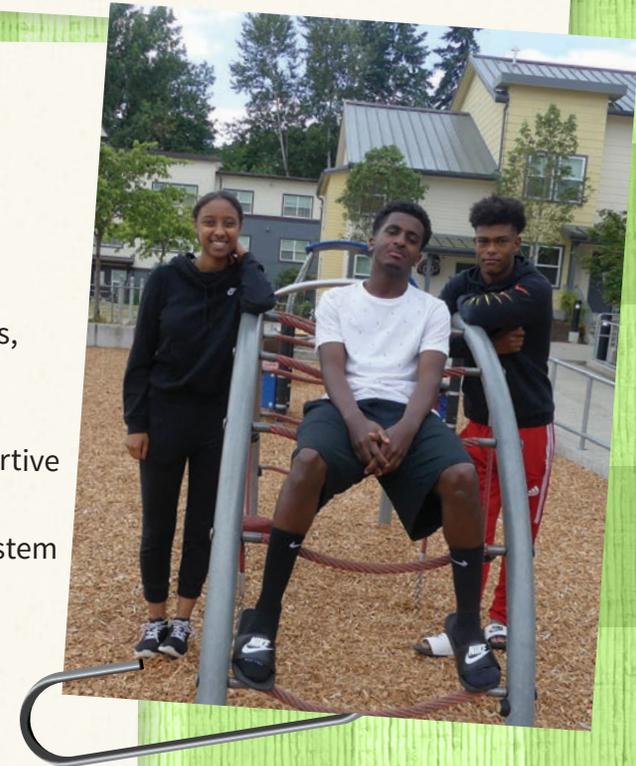
- ▶ **Safe, supportive, and affordable housing** and shelter for previously unhoused people
- ▶ **Emotional, therapeutic, and clinical care** for adults and young people
- ▶ **Homeless prevention resources**, including shelter diversion, rent assistance, and tenant counseling
- ▶ **Accessible transportation** throughout King County
- ▶ **System support** for Seattle's food bank network
- ▶ **Legal help** to access state benefits
- ▶ **Connections** to community resources and opportunities

Utensils Needed

- ▶ Eviction counseling for **1,220** people
- ▶ Deposit and rent payments for **1,594** households
- ▶ Shelter and transitional housing placements for **335** households
- ▶ Safe and affordable housing for **427** households
- ▶ Eviction prevention for **409** households
- ▶ Legal services to help **402** people access state benefits

2019 Steps/Impacts

- ▶ **470 households (1,178 individuals)** accessed permanent housing search and/or rental assistance.
- ▶ **365 domestic violence (DV) survivors** received safe housing, therapeutic children's services, legal advocacy, stability planning, and culturally relevant health and other community connections.
- ▶ **225 previously unhoused families and individuals** lived in permanent housing with supportive services, including 224 children and 109 new Americans or recent immigrants/refugees.
- ▶ **334 individuals (80% people of color)** diverted from the at-capacity homeless response system via one-time financial assistance, mediation to address roommate challenges, and more.
- ▶ **280,000 rides** for community members who cannot access King County Metro's fixed-route service connected people to critical health and human services and community resources.
- ▶ **25 food banks** supported through coordination of the Seattle Food Committee.





Recipe to Nurture Success

Tools, training, and counseling for long-term stability.

Knowledge and skills are power, so we provide training and counsel to help people navigate both opportunities and challenges – equipping them to manage their finances, advocate for their own rights, and access community resources.

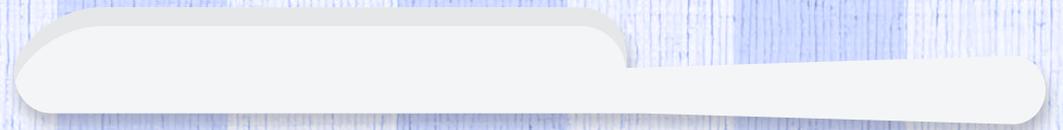
Central to this strategy is Solid Ground's therapeutic Children's Program, woven across residential and housing services. Our multigenerational approach is based on evidence showing that the benefits of a strong family are enduring.

Enriched and strengthened family support systems mitigate the effects of early experiences with homelessness, poverty, and abuse, and nurture multigenerational success.

Educational support plays a key role as well. Children's Advocates coordinate between

providers and school staff to address individual student's needs – and we work with students, families, and schools to foster social-emotional skills, support healing after trauma, and address academic barriers. All families have access to language interpretation services for meetings, support groups, and other situations as needed.

Classes, workshops, and one-to-one counseling support people in residential and community-based programs to learn and practice new skills including cooking and nutrition, money management, goal setting, and more.



Ingredients/Strategies

- ▶ Before- and after-school activities
- ▶ Individualized, trauma-informed case management
- ▶ Financial skills education and coaching
- ▶ Community gardening activities
- ▶ Language interpretation services
- ▶ Legal assistance
- ▶ Cooking and nutrition education classes



2019 Steps/Impacts

- ▶ **1,167 renters and people experiencing homelessness increased understanding of rental laws** through 77 Rent Smart workshops and 413 calls to the Bilingual Tenant Hotline.
- ▶ **602 people strengthened their food security** through classes and workshops on gardening, cooking, nutrition, budgeting, and shopping skills.
- ▶ **2,701 people strengthened their support systems** by increasing the number of others they could call on in times of need.
- ▶ **953 people learned financial skills** through peer-supported workshops in partnership with affordable housing providers, earning participants financial assistance and late-fee forgiveness.
- ▶ **24 families (with 65 children) increased stability and school success** via the *Home From School* initiative – housing subsidies for families experiencing homelessness who can maintain their child's attendance through 5th grade – ensuring housing stability throughout children's elementary school years.



Recipe to Spread Change

Engage and support communities to advocate for a world where everyone can thrive.

Solid Ground joins with community members to advocate for rights and equitable treatment for all. We are a persistent voice for change in the systems that impact our entire community. We listen to and honor input from people we serve and believe in and trust their experience.

Each summer and fall, Solid Ground's advocacy partner, Statewide Poverty Action Network, hosts listening sessions across the state to hear directly from Washingtonians most impacted by poverty. These are the first step in the annual path from grassroots community input to advancing equitable policy to end poverty in our state. In the fall, Poverty Action piloted Communities in Action, three-part advocacy workshops engaging people with lived experiences of poverty in Seattle, Tacoma, and Olympia – and participants played essential roles in 2020 community-led advocacy successes.

Some 2019 legislative successes include:

- ▶ Increased access to basic public benefits
- ▶ Enhanced consumer protection policies
- ▶ Increased debt protections
- ▶ Relieved tax lien foreclosures for people impacted by rising property taxes due to gentrification
- ▶ Reduced reintegration barriers for previously incarcerated people

Solid Ground's more than 2,000 volunteers are a key ingredient in our recipe to spread change. 2019 saw the creation of a new volunteer Community Accountability Council (CAC), convened to give people with lived experiences with poverty a role in shaping Solid Ground policies and programs. CAC members explore the root causes of poverty and promote community-driven solutions to issues affecting people in the Seattle/King County area.

In 2019, Solid Ground also received our first Medicaid Transformation funding to design a flexible and integrated resource and service continuum responsive to people's specific circumstances. It supports our capacity to meet people at "every door" where they connect with Solid Ground.

Medicaid Transformation reflects policymakers' recognition of what Solid Ground, community activists, and partner providers have known for generations: improving health, advancing justice, and solving poverty are deeply interconnected. We're optimistic about how it will help us build bridges between programs and improve financial sustainability, creating a more coordinated system of care in 2020 and beyond.

Ingredients/Strategies

- ▶ **Listening sessions** to gather input from people with lived experiences with poverty across WA State
- ▶ **Advocacy training** to engage people to speak up for systemic change with lawmakers in Olympia
- ▶ **Empower community members** to weigh in on Solid Ground's work in meaningful ways
- ▶ **Listen to what our communities tell us** and incorporate that wisdom in our work
- ▶ **Engage volunteer energy** to meet community needs and support equitable laws and policies

2019 Steps/Impacts

- ▶ **123 volunteer trainings** engaged community talent in realizing our mission.
- ▶ **32,552 participants** increased skills, knowledge, and abilities to advocate for change in our community.
- ▶ **Listening sessions in 7 WA State cities** (Aberdeen, Kent, Okanogan, Walla Walla, Mt. Vernon, Kelso, and Seattle) led to community-informed policy priorities.
- ▶ **2,123 community volunteers** – 895 of whom are 55+ – donated 130,714+ hours of service time, valued at \$4.15 million.

Legislative Successes

- ▶ **Passed TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) bills** so that 1) in-sanction TANF recipients are not permanently disqualified, and 2) families experiencing homelessness can get time-limit extensions.
- ▶ **\$14 million budget increase for HEN** (Housing and Essential Needs) ensures greater access to this critical housing support for people living with disabilities and on very low incomes.
- ▶ **Several bills addressing debt/debt collection passed**, including 1) increased medical debt protections, 2) relief from tax lien foreclosures for people impacted by rising property taxes, and 3) reforms to court debt collection.
- ▶ **Passed the New Hope Act** in collaboration with community-based partners, making it easier for previously incarcerated people to obtain a Certificate of Discharge or vacate their sentences.



2019 Income & Expenses

Income

Federal Agencies	\$2,579,968
Washington State	\$1,470,125
King County	\$14,905,530
Seattle City	\$3,608,325
Other Government	\$49,423
Private Grants & Restricted Donations	\$1,764,011
Sponsorships	\$162,150
United Way	\$229,411
Unrestricted Donations	\$1,253,573
In-kind Donations	\$391,507
Stock Donations	\$17,756
Client Copayments	\$166,042
Vendors & Agencies	\$419,315
Fiscal Agent Fees	\$99,755
Interest Income	\$94,673
Sales	\$95,325
Other Revenue	\$27,030
Rental Income	\$119,212
Developer Fee	\$1,057,726
TOTAL INCOME	\$28,510,857

Expenses

Personnel	\$17,287,044
Salaries & benefits	
Occupancy	\$835,043
Rent, maintenance, utilities	
Outside Services	\$5,862,949
Contracted services, volunteer stipends, client assistance, etc.	
Supplies	\$513,777
General Expenses	\$2,809,741
Volunteer support, training, insurance, postage, equipment, promotional, taxes & licenses, fees, lobbying, etc.	
Capital Purchases	\$298,160
Depreciation expenses, gain/loss on assets	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$27,606,714
NET INCOME	\$904,143

Functional Expenses



43% Transportation

14% Advocacy

10% Housing & Services

4% Resource Development

10% Administrative

13% Homeless Prevention & Stabilization

4% Food System Support

2% Community Food Education

2019 Balance Sheet - as of December 31, 2019, unaudited

Assets

Current Assets

Cash in Bank & Petty Cash	\$1,554,819.62
Current Investments	\$146,832.22
Accounts Receivable	\$5,214,998.75
Limited Partnership Due To/From	\$624,225.48
Prepaid Expenses	\$582,388.90
Unemployment Compensation Trust	\$436,939.18

Total Current Assets **\$8,560,204.15**

Fixed Assets

Land	\$611,511.10
Construction in Progress	\$27,734.86
Leasehold Improvements	\$199,769.33
Buildings & Improvements	\$8,768,783.61
Furniture & Equipment	\$713,479.72
Vehicles	\$60,611.18
<i>Less Accumulated Depreciation</i>	<i>\$6,817,018.68</i>

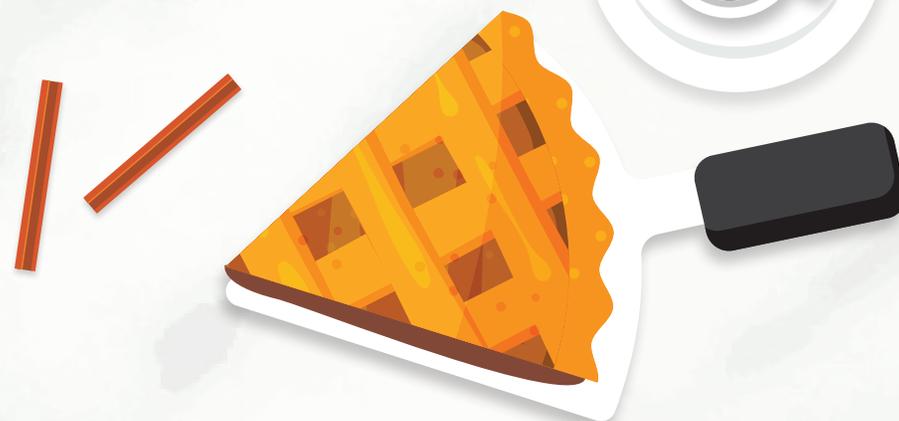
Total Fixed Assets & Depreciation **\$3,564,871.12**

Other Assets

Loans Receivable SPH Site B LP	\$1,972,046.10
Developer Fees Receivable SPH Site B LP	\$102,383.00
Loans Receivable SPHA I LP	\$525,000.00
Developer Fees Receivable SPH TWO LLLP	\$1,057,726.00
Loans Receivable SPH TWO LLLP	\$2,238,148.56
Interest Receivable SPH TWO LLP	\$28,596.00
Interest Receivable SPHA I LP	0
Interest Receivable SPHA Site B LP	\$174,686.22
Interest Receivable SPH TWO LLLP	\$92,987.82
Investment in SPCC LLC	\$2,235,358.69
Investment in SPHA I LP	0
Investment in SPH Site B Stage 1 LP	\$78,238.06

Total Other Assets **\$8,505,170.45**

TOTAL ASSETS **\$20,630,245.72**



Liability & Shareholder's Equity

Current Liabilities

Accrued Employee Payables	\$241,024.54
Accounts Payable & Due To	\$538,801.33
Current Deferred Revenue	\$1,808.43

Total Current Liabilities **\$781,634.30**

Long-term Liabilities

Refundable Advance	\$530,000.00
Loans Payable	\$162,500.00
Long-term Deferred Revenue	\$2,619,486.22

Total Long-term Liabilities **\$3,311,986.22**

Shareholder's Equity

Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$14,181,271.10
Temporarily Restricted Fund Balance	\$1,451,214.31
Profit (Loss) for Period	\$904,139.79

Total Shareholder's Equity **\$16,536,625.20**

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS **\$20,630,245.72**

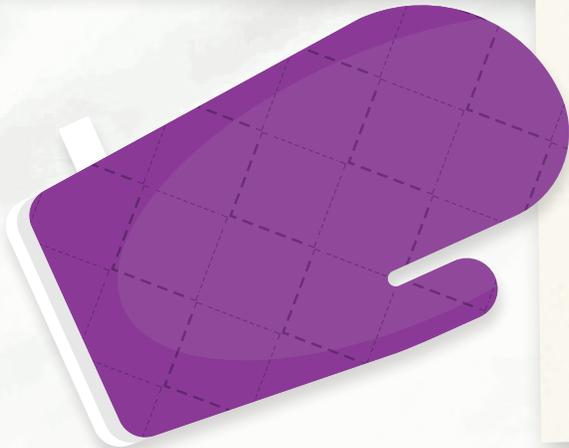
Board of Directors

Executive Committee

- ▶ Board Chair – D’Adre Cunningham (Washington Defender Association)
- ▶ Vice Chair – Justin Hellier (Seattle Parks & Recreation)
- ▶ Secretary – Angel Mitchell (A Royal Academy)
- ▶ Treasurer – Lauren Vlas (King County Council)

Board Members

- ▶ Sofia Deglel (Deglel Transport LLC)
- ▶ Heidi Eisenstein (Adobe)
- ▶ Andrew Miller (Google)
- ▶ Julie Silverman (Physician, VA Hospital)
- ▶ James Watts (Salesforce)
- ▶ Wendy Werblin (Impinj)
- ▶ Sherry Williams (TAF/Technology Access Fund)



Community Accountability Council

- ▶ Wendy Cisneros
- ▶ Michael Elek
- ▶ Denise Fisk
- ▶ Gabby Davis
- ▶ Roy Magee
- ▶ Kim McGillivray
- ▶ Austin Okopny
- ▶ Mary Ruffin

Organizational Donors - \$1,000 & up

Donors are a key ingredient in our recipe for change!

- ▶ Adobe Systems ◉
- ▶ AED Superstore
- ▶ Alston, Courtnage & Bassetti LLP ◉
- ▶ American Gift Fund
- ▶ American Legion Auxiliary
- ▶ Ameriprise Financial
- ▶ Anonymous
- ▶ Anonymous ◉
- ▶ Aquarium Tickets
- ▶ Arcora Foundation
- ▶ Bainum Family Foundation ◉
- ▶ Bar House ◉
- ▶ BECU
- ▶ The Biella Foundation ◉ ❄️
- ▶ Bike & Build Inc.
- ▶ Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation ❄️
- ▶ Birthday Dreams
- ▶ The Boeing Company Employees ◉
- ▶ Bohemian Foundation ◉
- ▶ Bold Hat Productions
- ▶ The Brettler Family Foundation
- ▶ Campion Foundation
- ▶ CB Richard Ellis
- ▶ CDK Construction Services, Inc.
- ▶ Center for Responsible Lending
- ▶ Charlie's Produce
- ▶ Civil Survival Project
- ▶ Cogan Family Foundation ◉
- ▶ The CoHo Team of Windermere Agents
- ▶ Comcast Cable
- ▶ Communities of Opportunity
- ▶ Community Catalyst
- ▶ Danica Children's Foundation
- ▶ David & Carol Myers Foundation ◉
- ▶ DCG ONE
- ▶ Dupage Foundation ◉
- ▶ The Ebbtide Family Fund (Meagan Yoshimoto-Clark & Adam Clark)
- ▶ Economic Security Project
- ▶ Endowment for Equal Justice
- ▶ Enterprise Holdings Foundation
- ▶ Ernest R. & Audrey M. Turner Foundation
- ▶ Evelyn H. Fuldner Foundation
- ▶ F5 Networks, Inc. ◉
- ▶ Facebook ◉
- ▶ Fales Foundation Trust
- ▶ Federal Government Employees – Combined Federal Campaign ◉
- ▶ Finance of America Cares
- ▶ Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
- ▶ Google ◉
- ▶ Green Standards
- ▶ Harborstone Credit Union
- ▶ The Harrington-Schiff Foundation
- ▶ HealthierHere
- ▶ HomeStreet Bank
- ▶ Horizon House
- ▶ Horizons Foundation
- ▶ Hugh & Jane Ferguson Foundation
- ▶ James C. Allen Charitable Foundation
- ▶ Jeffris Wood Fund
- ▶ Kaiser Permanente
- ▶ Kantor Taylor PC
- ▶ King County Employee Giving Program ◉
- ▶ King County Metro
- ▶ The Kroger Company ◉
- ▶ Majority Rule & pageninety-nine ◉
- ▶ Mercy Housing Northwest
- ▶ Microsoft Corporation ◉
- ▶ The Moccasin Lake Foundation
- ▶ Molina Healthcare, Inc.
- ▶ Ms. Molly Foundation
- ▶ Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
- ▶ National Development Council
- ▶ National Philanthropic Trust ◉
- ▶ Network for Good ◉
- ▶ Norcliffe Foundation
- ▶ Nordstrom
- ▶ Northwest Area Foundation ❄️
- ▶ Northwest Children's Foundation
- ▶ Northwest Marketplaces ◉





- ▶ Northwest Plan Services
- ▶ Omaha Community Foundation ◉
- ▶ OneFamily Foundation
- ▶ PCC Community Markets
- ▶ Philadelphia Insurance Companies
- ▶ Pian Silverman Family Foundation ◉
- ▶ Puget Sound Energy Foundation
- ▶ The Quaker Hill Foundation ◉
- ▶ RealNetworks Foundation
- ▶ Renah Blair Rietzke Family & Community Foundation ◉
- ▶ Rita & Herbert Rosen Foundation ◉
- ▶ The Rockefeller Foundation
- ▶ The Rodman Foundation ◉
- ▶ Roxy's Deli/The Backdoor ◉
- ▶ The Russell Family Foundation ◉
- ▶ Safeco Insurance Fund
- ▶ Satterberg Foundation
- ▶ Sea Mar Community Health Centers
- ▶ Seattle Aquarium
- ▶ Seattle Children's Hospital
- ▶ City of Seattle Employees ◉

- ▶ The Seattle Foundation ◉
- ▶ Small Changes
- ▶ Social Bicycles, LLC
- ▶ Sprague Israel Giles, Inc.
- ▶ Sprouts Healthy Community Foundation
- ▶ Sunshine Transportation
- ▶ Swedish
- ▶ Tableau Foundation ◉**
- ▶ Target ◉
- ▶ Toys for Kids
- ▶ Treeline Foundation ◉
- ▶ Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions
- ▶ U.S. Bank
- ▶ UFCW Local 2
- ▶ Union Bank of California
- ▶ United Way of King County ◉
- ▶ Verizon Wireless
- ▶ Virginia Mason
- ▶ Volunteers of America ◉
- ▶ Vulcan Inc.
- ▶ Walsh Construction
- ▶ Washington Progress Fund

- ▶ Washington State Budget & Policy Center
- ▶ Washington State Employees – Combined Fund Drive ◉
- ▶ Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice
- ▶ Wells Fargo Bank
- ▶ WestSide Baby
- ▶ Whole Cities Foundation
- ▶ Whole Foods Market
- ▶ Woodland Park Zoo
- ▶ Wyman Youth Trust
- ▶ Zillow

◉ = General operating gift
 ** = Multi-year gift

Complete Lists of 2019 Donors:

To view Solid Ground's Organizational Donors up to \$999 and nearly 1,400 Individual Donors, please visit:

www.solid-ground.org/supporters.







**solid
ground** 
Building community to end poverty



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PHOTOGRAPHERS: MIKE BUCHMAN, p. 12 (right); SHANA McCANN, pp. 7 (lower), 14 (top); GARY POPE, p. 9; LIZ REED HAWK, pp. 2, 5, 13; GARY RUBIN, pp. 7 (top), 12 (left)

DESIGN: VERVOR DESIGN | **PRINTING DONATED:** DCG ONE 6/2020