



The Lenny Zakim Fund

BRIDGING COMMUNITIES

Together we can stop the hate. Together we can make a world of difference.

Unjust, unfair, and unpredictable. Recent policies impacting immigrants, refugees, LGBTQI people, and religious minorities are unjust, unfair and unpredictable. *Just last night* Temporary Protected Status, TPS, for our Haitian neighbors was eliminated. 320,000 immigrants and their US born children from all TPS countries have already lost or are at risk of losing protection.

The effect of this injustice creates immediate needs that must be met, adding more work with greater urgency for grassroots organizations with limited resources.

When funds were urgently needed for DACA renewal applications, LZF acted quickly, providing emergency grants to ensure that young people, especially those outside greater Boston, were not deterred from filing by the application fee.

Whether our community is confronted by loss of Temporary Protected Status for immigrants, threats to the rights of transgender people, hate crimes and other injustices that we cannot foresee, The LZF community of grassroots heroes and passionate donors stands ready to address whatever may threaten the lives and rights of our neighbors.

Lenny's words ring true across the decades "Together we can stop the hate. Together we can make a world of difference".

-Thank you.



LZF's Worcester Grantees and The Refugee Community



Worcester is home to the biggest refugee population in all of Massachusetts, taking in 30% of the refugee population for the entire state. More than 2,000 refugees from 24 countries arrived between 2007-2012 alone, and now the foreign-born population makes up 20.5% of the overall population in Worcester. With this many new families coming to the area there is a lot of work to be done and many needs to fill. Three current LZF grantees that work tirelessly to face these issues head on are [Worcester Interfaith](#) (WI), [Worcester Refugee Assistance Project](#) (WRAP) and [Rachel's Table](#) (RT). All three organizations are working to increase access to basic resources and services for Worcester's new residents.

Moving is never easy - never mind coming to an entirely different country with a different culture and a new language. **Worcester Interfaith**, a network of diverse faith communities, works hard to make that transition easier for families. Some congregations adopt a refugee family and help them with their basic day-to-day needs and help them navigate the complicated service system. Other congregations focus on the larger picture and organize food and clothing drives to serve the entire refugee population.

We often take basic things, like communicating with our child's teacher or with the RMV for granted. Immigrant families commonly rely on their eldest child, often the family's primary English speaker, to interact with schools and government agencies. **WRAP** serves to alleviate these strains by providing help and educational support to the Burmese community. Sometimes these children are also called upon to work and provide an additional income source. The family's need for assistance from a child may result in children neglecting their school in order to support their family. WRAP's after school tutoring and homework sessions help to keep students engaged and guides them all the way through the college process.

Rachel's Table is helping to alleviate food insecurity with the refugees and others. With limited budgets, refugee families struggle to provide their households with nutritious food. Most of their native food and produce is consider exotic in America and therefore much more expensive. Without access to their native foods and with little knowledge of what is available to them locally, nutrition can fall to the wayside. Rachel's Table works hard to provide quality, nutritious food to those in need in the refugee community as well as the greater Worcester area as a whole.

At this time of year, we often reflect on our own families with gratitude and hope. Organizations like WI, WRAP, and Rachel's Table need support to help them sustain and serve those who need them most.

Worcester, Massachusetts' second largest city, is the first home in a new and foreign country for many. WI, WRAP, and RT have been and will be there for refugee families with real support and comfort. Thanks to you, The Lenny Zakim Fund is there for them.

Exploring and Supporting Self Care for Grassroots Heroes



The Lenny Zakim Fund recently held two innovative sessions to support our grantees as they continue their vital work in these trying times. Our focus on self-care was inspired by two things: calls from our grassroots leaders for space to learn coping techniques and by a growing fear of burnout by leadership in an increasingly stressed environment.

On Thursday, October 5th, over 100 LZF grassroots heroes gathered for the 2017 Fall Institute. This special Institute on self-care was a follow up to our spring session, both of which were facilitated by [VISIONS, Inc.](#) The fall session focused on how grassroots leaders can incorporate a culture of self-care throughout their organization and equipped attendees with tools to incorporate self-care practices in their work. Most importantly, the day allowed for meaningful connections to be made among organizations and time to share.

One attendee shared "connecting with people doing such different work really validates the importance of intersectionality and commonality of challenges, mission and motivation". Attendees also received Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh's book *Peace is Every Step: The Path of Mindfulness in Everyday Life*. We are grateful for the support of the Sager Family Foundation and volunteers Bryan Kinneen, Tess Sager, and Shane Sager for making the day possible.

Two weeks ago, we were honored to co-host a grantee gathering with Haymarket Peoples Fund, the Hyams Foundation, Episcopal City Mission's Burgess Urban Fund and TSNE Missionwork's Inclusion Initiative. Grantees from all over New England gathered to participate in a [Social Emergency Response Center](#). The day gave room for all participants to plan, make, cook and heal together and included a special boxing boot camp run by LZF Grantee Level Ground MMA. This was the first year LZF participated in this partnership and look forward to many more!



Lynne & Gary Smith - Making Every Site Visit Special!

Meet Gary and Lynne Smith - longtime supporters of the Lenny Zakim Fund, they're seasoned site visitors who have over 20 visits under their belts. After first hearing about The Fund from a friend, the Smiths jumped in feet first. In the process they've explored new communities, met new programs, and have become more deeply connected to the mission of The Lenny Zakim Fund.

Although, The Smiths had never been on a site visit before, after attending their first one they were hooked. Being able to see the work first hand, as well as hearing the personal stories from the communities they visited really hit home for them. In fact, they have enjoyed these visits so much that they have even gotten personally involved with some of the organizations they have visited. It's the memories of great site visits that keep them returning every year for the chance to see more organizations in action.

Drawn to the LZF because of their commitment to social justice, The Smiths recognize the special role the fund plays for grassroots grantees. Giving more than simply a check, the LZF provides the training, networking and support small grassroots organizations often need in order to build their capacity. This all starts with a simple application process and experiential philanthropy through site visits done in tandem with staff and supporters.

They would strongly encourage those who are thinking of joining the LZF on a site visit to do so and to experience the work in person. Lynne and Gary have a few words of advice they would like to pass along to those that are new to site visits:

- 1) Really listen and engage with the organization
- 2) Remember you are there to evaluate but not to judge
- 3) Keep an open mind
- 4) And lastly you will always get a lot more than you give

Every LZF donor can follow in Gary and Lynne's footsteps and join a site visit - find out for yourself just how special this experience is. To learn more about getting involved in site visits and to be added to the list, email Derek Bird at dbird@thelennyzakimfund.org.

Support LZF through Amazon Smile while you shop!

Did you know that you can support The Lenny Zakim Fund when you shop? With Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate .5% of your purchase to a charity of your choice. To designate LZF as the recipient of your Amazon Smile purchases follow these easy directions:



1. Visit smile.amazon.com and log in with your regular Amazon account information. If you don't have an account, follow the directions to create an account.
2. It will then prompt you to select a charity of your choice. Simply search for The Lenny Zakim Fund and voila!
3. Start shopping!

Remember to always use Amazon Smile for your Amazon shopping needs and support LZF!

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Lynne & Gary entertain kids at IFSI as Curious George and the Man in the Yellow Hat!