



For Immediate Release

Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice Announces Appreciation Grants

The Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice has awarded Appreciation Grants of \$200 each to eleven organizations that foster change and promote empowerment, self-help, and economic, political and social justice. The purpose of the Appreciation Grants is to support efforts to address injustice, oppression, and poverty in the greater Holyoke area, particularly for those who are marginalized by our society.

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This is a new initiative the Advisory Board launched this fall to both show our gratitude for the work these organization do and promote Carlos's legacy to those who might not be familiar with it. The first grant was awarded in October to The Greater Holyoke Council for Human Understanding to sponsor its 1st Indigenous People's Day Celebration. The other ten grants were awarded in November, the month in which we celebrate not only a season of giving but also Carlos' birthday on November 26th.

The ten organizations that received an Appreciation Grant in November are: American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Massachusetts; Fly Wheel Community Arts Space, Inc.; Holyoke Health Center Foster Care Clinic; Holyoke YMCA Urban Bike School; MERGE for Equality; The Performance Project, Inc.; The Resistance Center for Peace and Justice; Seeds of a Father Inc.; Sisters of St. Joseph Office of Justice and Peace; and Treehouse Foundation, Inc.

Carlos Vega was an ardent activist for civil rights, community-building, education, healthcare, and social justice in Holyoke. The donor advised fund, which is administered by the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, was started in 2010 to honor Carlos on his 60th birthday and to continue his forty-year legacy by awarding small grants to nonprofit organizations through an annual competitive process. The mini grants, typically ranging from \$250 to \$1,000, are awarded annually to individuals and non-profit groups for a specific program or project.

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