2020 IMPACT REPORT
Using Our Trumpet to Transform Awareness Into Action
Dear Friends,

In 2013, a group of civil rights advocates and music lovers founded JusticeAid to use music and the arts to raise money to support organizations fighting injustice and inequality. A few years ago we introduced free public “Forums” in addition to our live music concerts as a way to move our audiences from awareness to action.

Each year our Board of Directors identifies timely and important justice causes. Then we find organizations on the front lines that are addressing those causes by defending people in need, organizing community members, and advocating for new policies — organizations where every dollar in donations makes a huge impact.

In 2020, our cause was voting rights, and our grantee partner was the Election Protection initiative of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

In normal times we would have gathered with you, celebrating the emotional power of live music to move us to action. We sorely miss seeing you at live events, but even in the virtual world, we were able to come together as a community. In 2020, we partnered with The Riverside Church, Civic Life Project, wonderful artists, brilliant thought leaders, and our amazing JusticeAid family of supporters to raise collective awareness about racist voter suppression and awarded a grant of $300,000 to JusticeAid’s grantee partner, Election Protection.

Thank you for believing, as we do, in the power of art and music to empower, unite, and heal.

Steve Milliken
Co-Founder and CEO, JusticeAid

JusticeAid leverages the community-building power of art and music to transform awareness into action in the fight against injustice.
Our selection process is rigorous. We look for nonprofits that are working tirelessly on the ground: attorneys and activists protecting civil rights, freeing innocent prisoners, training public defenders, defending people with mental health challenges, and fighting inhumane immigration policies—to name just a few of the causes of our past grantees.

To further our reach, we produce live and streaming discussion panels, social media campaigns, house parties, and other outreach—educating thousands of Americans on key civil and human rights challenges in the fight against injustice.

Our audiences gain insights into pressing issues through the personal stories and knowledge shared by our grantee partners and distinguished speakers.

A growing roster of multi-genre artists—Grammy Award-winning legends and emerging stars alike—have graced our stage over the years. Whether performing in large theaters in DC, intimate clubs in NYC and New Orleans, or in the comfort of their own homes, JusticeAid artists share our passion for justice.

JusticeAid Board members, sponsors, and a circle of loyal donors cover all administrative costs so 100% of every other donation goes directly to support our grantee partners.

Since 2013, JusticeAid has provided $1.1 million to its grantee partners.

Music That Matters: Songs of Protest Inspirations on MLK Day

In January, on MLK Day, JusticeAid launched a music blog and playlist of protest songs, with a different focus each month. Read the blog at justiceaid.org and listen to the playlists on Spotify and YouTube.
Innocence Project-New Orleans focuses on winning exonerations, both in the minority of cases where DNA testing can prove innocence and in more difficult cases where DNA does not exist or has been destroyed.

Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project brings comprehensive legal assistance to regional residents facing wrongful convictions and incarceration.

Since 1994, the Mental Health Project’s team of attorneys, social workers, advocates, and peers has assisted thousands of New Yorkers with mental health challenges to retain their housing, obtain disability benefits, assert their rights to discharge planning, obtain supportive housing, and transition back into their communities from prison or jail.

Civil Rights Corps brings cutting-edge class-action litigation all over the U.S., as evidenced in a historic victory to end the unconstitutional bail system in Houston, Texas.

Essie Justice Group mobilizes women with incarcerated loved ones to take on the rampant injustices created by mass incarceration. Essie is also helping lead the campaign for bail reform in California.

The nation’s largest nonpartisan voter protection coalition works year-round to ensure that all voters have an equal opportunity to vote and have that vote count. With 100+ local, state, and national partners, Election Protection uses a wide range of tools and activities to protect, advance, and defend the right to vote.

IDP works to secure fairness and justice for immigrants in the U.S. It aims to abolish a racially biased criminal legal system that violates basic human rights and an immigration system that every year tears hundreds of thousands of immigrants with convictions from their homes, their families, and their communities.

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Rising for Justice leverages the collective force of students and experienced advocates to achieve equity and justice for all.

Gideon’s Promise is transforming the criminal justice system by building a movement of public defenders who provide equal justice for marginalized communities.

"You have been a most generous and true partner in our work throughout the entirety of the 2020 election season. We are grateful for your steadfast support as we continue our fight to ensure that every voice is heard and every ballot counted."

—KRISTEN CLARKE, Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

Music That Matters: Songs of Protest

In February, we examined how music illuminates our collective humanity to create empathy and justice for others. Featuring antiwar songs by Pete Seeger, Marvin Gaye, Mary Gauthier, Edwin Starr, The National, and others.
2020: A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

6,386 People viewed our virtual events streamed on YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram Live in 2020.

Virtual Programming Highlights


Music That Matters: Songs of Protest

NO LOVE EXCEPTED

The June blog celebrates Pride Month and songs that focus on intensely personal issues that many millions of people have had to hide for too long. With Melissa Etheridge, the Pet Shop Boys, Grace, Chika, Frank Ocean, and others.
2020: VOTING RIGHTS

A Year of Firsts
A year ago, when JusticeAid’s board of directors selected “voting rights” as our defining justice focus for 2020, we could not have foreseen how necessary this work would be, or how 2020 would be a year like no other.

After pivoting to virtual productions, we picked up the tempo, rallying artists like Paula Cole, The Revivalists, Tom Morello, Matthew Whittaker, and Rosanne Cash.


2020 was a year of firsts, and of collaborations with partners new and old: The Riverside Church of New York, ClassACT HR73, Civic Life Project, Digimentors, and DJ Suss One. We produced a film forum to get out the youth vote, launched a music blog, hired our first employee, and published our first impact report.

$300,000 raised!
2 virtual concerts, 2 educational panels, a youth film forum, and a DJ set later, JusticeAid made its largest gift ever: $300,000 to Election Protection/866-OUR-VOTE.

Election Protection
In 2020, JusticeAid’s grantee partner, Election Protection/866-OUR-VOTE and its litigation arm, the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, had the unprecedented challenge of protecting the vote during a pandemic, while combating widespread racist voter suppression, high levels of voter intimidation, and significant misinformation during the 2020 election cycle.

Here’s where your support made a difference. Election Protection:
• Responded to record-breaking numbers of calls to its 24-hour, nonpartisan, multilingual voter hotline.
• In the month of October alone, fielded 120,000 calls and thousands more following the elections.
• Operated 30 command centers on Election Day.
• Recruited, trained, and mobilized over 42,000 legal volunteers, many of whom were JusticeAid supporters, to help voters cast their ballots.
• Filed close to 40 lawsuits to protect voting rights across the country.

$300,000 raised!
2 virtual concerts, 2 educational panels, a youth film forum, and a DJ set later, JusticeAid made its largest gift ever: $300,000 to Election Protection/866-OUR-VOTE.

Throughout the season, actors, artists, thought leaders, advocates, and legislators shared their stories of why they vote.

Advocate Miss V; Rev. Michael Livingston, The Riverside Church; actor Tate Donovan; Kristen Clarke, Election Protection

In July, we launched our online store for JusticeAid merch. justiceaid.org/swag

This year, JusticeAid hired its first employee. Meet Managing Director, Jenny Chandler.

Music That Matters: Songs of Protest
MUSIC TO VOTE BY
In October, we were treated to songs of empowerment, inspiration, and protest from the likes of Bowie, Creedence Clearwater Revival, and the Ramones. Newcomers like Yello-pain and Rhiannon Giddens added energy leading up to the elections.
Our 2021 Grantee Partner

In the coming year, we’re returning to JusticeAid’s roots in public defense, with a focus on the role of police in our communities. JusticeAid’s grantee partner is Neighborhood Defender Service (NDS) and its Police Accountability/Community Empowerment (PACE) program, currently active in Harlem, New York, and Detroit, Michigan. Your gifts in 2021 will support expansion of this effective program.

Among the ways that the NDS PACE program will change how policing works are:

FILING IMPACT LITIGATION...
...that wins money for clients and changes police behavior in our schools and in the larger community. PACE litigation also addresses constitutional concerns such as qualified immunity and “no-knock” warrants.

DISRUPTING THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE...
...that surveils families and criminalizes children’s behavior. PACE changes the way police interact with young people and minimizes the presence of law enforcement in schools.

CLOSING THE RACIAL WEALTH GAP...
...through local action. Families will be able to use settlements won through PACE litigation to secure their financial futures. PACE will also design financial literacy and workforce development seminars for overpoliced communities.

DRIVING POLICIES THAT EMPOWER COMMUNITIES...
...by identifying local, state, and national reforms that confront structural racism and securing their implementation. These include reimagining public safety and expanding solutions beyond police and jail.

We are so grateful to the 417 donors who supported JusticeAid’s grantee partner in 2020. We invite you to join us in 2021 and, together, promote racial justice and equality.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021

Music That Matters: Songs of Protest
Songs to Uplift During Trying Times
With tunes like The Dead’s Ripple, Gloria Gaynor’s I Will Survive, & the Kink’s Sunny Afternoon, this March blog is sure to put a smile on your face.
2020: OUR SUPPORTERS

Anonymous
Bruce and Susan Rose Ackerman
Martha Adler
Gwendolyn Adolph
Natalie Jowett Agoos
Reza Akhavan
Luke Albee
Laura Allen
Tim Almaguer
Leslie Astor
Laylah and David Anderson
Steve and Rosanne Anderson
Angelson Family Foundation
Shawn Armbrust and Tim Sparapani
Kathryn Atkinson
Frances Baker
Larry Baldauf
Karen Barrett
Laurence Barrett and Martha Patterson
Rick and Christine Barry
John Batson and Lisa Krisher
Kate Baxter
Ron Beard and Sandi Read
Ellen Beckwith
Carol Bettencourt
James and Joan Blaine
Annie Blaine
Sherri Blount Gray
George and Anne Bodenheimer
Nancy Bodi-Hurley
Barry and Cathy Boss
Ellen Bowditch
Penelope Breese
James Bright and Harriett Whittington
Trenton Brooks
Donna Brorby
Blair Brown and Susan Gerone
Donna Brown Guillaume
Michael Brustein and Joan Goldfrank
Dana and Angus Burton
Charles Bush
Cabant Performing Arts Center, Inc.
Caleb Calhoun
Robert Campain
Lloyd Campbell
Russell Canan
Lori Caulfield
Elizabeth Cerf
Fleur and Jay Chandler
Margaret Cheever
Armando Chenyek
Mervin and Bonnie Cherrin
Janis Coates
Stacey Coates
Edward and Martha Coates
Kim Duckett Coaxum
Mat Coes
George and Phyllis Cohen
Elena Cohen
John Colby
Paula Cole
Martin Cole
Gina Collins
Community Foundation of Western North Carolina
Sasha Conley
Raymond Conley
Christopher Conte
John Copacino
Charles Coplin
Denise Cormier
Adam Costa
Christopher Cross
Elizabeth Curren
Rebecca and Roger Cuthbert
Mary and Chris Cutler
Robert Cutler
Paul Dalen
Richard and Virginia Darche
Morris and Kathleen Davenport
Giles Davidson and Daniel Waldman
Laurie Davis
John Davis
Robert Dealy
Charles Dean
Tim Delaney
Laura Dent
Anne Di Rosa
Mark Diorio
Kevin Dolan
James and Carter Donovan
Vince and Suzanne Doris
Susan and Jeffrey Drobis
Marion Dry
Carolyn Duckett
Eden and Marty Durbin
Barre Duryea
Beverley Earle
Francis Eberle
J. Francois Eid
Emily Ennis
Meg Ethridge
Joshua Feigenbaum
Zachary Feinberg
Tracie Felker
Catharine Fender
Ellen Fern
Ronald Finiw and Marisa Lago
Kathryn Fischer
Maude Fish
J. Blair Fishburn
Claire Fisher
Stacey Fitch
Nicholas Flagler
Rev. Susan and Bill Flanders
Giorgio Andrea Franchetti
Erin Frankenheimer Burns
Suzanne Frederick
Patrick Freund
Judith Friedman and Ron Goldstock
Susan Galbraith and David Lipton
Graham Gates
Alfred and Reese Gaudelli
Charitable Foundation
Eddie Gilbert
Trevor Gill
Cathy Gins
Dean Girdis and Susanne LeLoup
Mitch Glasser
Laurel Glassman
Jodi Glick
Kim Goldberg
Anne Goldberg
Jeffrey Goldberg
Nancy Golding and Robert Hartheimer
John Gomperts
John Goodhue
Sallie Gourneur
Gabrielle Grant
S. Pamela Gray
Theodore Green
Sara Greenberg
Julia Grey
Mark Gross
Peter Grossman
Todd Gunsher
David Haggerty
Amelia Hairston-Porter
Fresena Hall
Richard Hamilton
Cullen Hamilton
Brandi Harden
Stephen Hauge
Jennifer Chandler Hauge and Steven Berk
John and Meg Hauge
Sandra Hazen
Katie Heffernan
Andrew Herman
Linda and Phillip Hill
Daniel Hoffmeier
Joseph Hoffman
Lindsay Hoffman
Sandra Horowitz
Elizabeth and Robert Huffman
Jeff and Ellen Huvelle
Elizabeth Irwin
Ivins, Phillips & Barker
Marlene Johnson
Michele and Thomas Johnson
Chris Jones
Tazewell Jones
Rosemary Wool Jones
Jim and Kerry Joseph
Stephanie Judd
Danny Kahn
Melinda and Peter Kaminsky
Anna Kaprelova
Howard and Janet Katz
Kristen Kearney
John Keegan
Marcia Keegan
eLayne Kelley
Erika Kelton
Kay Kendall
Amanda Kendall
Page Kennedy
Mary Kennedy
Peter Keppler
Sat Nam Khalsa
Stephanie Killian
Soo Kim
Emily King
Andrea Kirsh
Charles Kittredge
Micheline Klagsbrun
Katherine Klein
Lynn and Edwin Kneedler
Timothy Koehler
Gary Kohlman
Kristine Kohlman
Clarence Koo
Bari Koral
James Krebsbach
Janet and Joseph Krovoza
Sarah Kuhn
Don Langrehr
Eliot and Gail Larson
Mary Lassen
Gary Laughlin

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Mary Leary
Carolyn Lerner and Dwight Bostwick
Terry Lesher
Richard and Sally Levine
Vivian Lewis
Robert and Barbara Ley
Barbara Liotta
Brian Lockhart
Henrietta Lodge
Jennifer Lyman and Gregory Schmidt
Robert and Meredith Maclay
Patti Mahar
Anne Makepeace
Zachary Manganello
and Willow Stein
Pamela Manice
Marion Mann
Cassie Mann
Frederick Mann
Latanya Manning
Linda and David Maraniss
Andrew Marckwald
Susan and James Marinello
AnnMarie Marinello
Rueben Martinez
Neil and Regina Matthews
Robertson McNulty
Stephen McCreary and Beth van Hanswyk
Kristin McCrory-Wise
Katherine McGovern
Thomas McKernan
Thomas McNamara
Daniel McNick
Josie Merck
Lisa and John Merrill
Anne Messner
Barbara Messner
Benedict Messner
Jose Michel
Wendy Miller
Anne Milliken
Gail and Gerrish Milliken
Logan Milliken and Peter Rogers
Lucas Milliken
Nancy Milliken
Peter Milliken and Susanna Weld
Roger and Margot Milliken
Rebecca Milliken
Stephen Milliken
Wallace Mlyniec
Vimala Mohammed

Dick Moore
Rick Moore
George Morrison
Truman Morrison and Susan Shaffer
Bahman Mossavar-Rahmani
Leah Moushey
Roger Myerson
Nancy Napier
Nancy and Frank Netcoh
Faith Nissel
Mary Noyes
Douglas O’Connor
Michael and Maureen Oberlander
John O’Connell
Amy O’Leary
Geraldine and Danny Onorato
Becca Oran
Laurie and Stu Orlando
Clint Ostrander
Tim Scanlan
Jeremy and Joclyn Schaap
T. Scheifler
Dega Schembri
Jean Schmidt
Mark Schneider
Karen Schneider
Annette Scantlon
Robert Sedgwick
Sara Sehm
Sharon Seymour
Robin Shaffert
Kathleen Shelton
Shoshana Silbermann
Elizabeth Simonds
Janice Smart
Serge Smirnoff
Janna Smith
Jennifer Smith
Brian Snerson
Jed Snerson
Ovidiu Sofariu
Cathy and Bob Solomon
Elizabeth Sovenn
Joanne Spalding
Deena Standish
Therese Steiner
Jeffrey and Maggie Stoiber
Sting Stouy
Phil Straus
Lindsey Streeter
Cynthia Stroud
Morris and Boo Stroud
Stephen Stroud and Mayra Bonilla
John Sullivan and Sandra Levick
Patricia Sullivan
Katie Sundstrom
Keisha Sutton-James
Amy and Paul Tanen

Nancy Tartt
Serena and Spencer Taylor
Patricia S. Taylor
Karen Thomas
James Tillen
Robert Toms
Helen Torelli
Dianne and Bob Torresen
Vicki Townsend
Steven Trast
Meghan Tucker
Paul Turgeon
Jennifer Turner
Linda Turner
Sarah Ulerick
Ben and Lisa Van Dusen
Rev. Kevin Van Hook
Kate M. Vaughey
Cara Vecchione
James and Marcia Vogel
Robert Vogel
and Bonnie Malkin
Jennifer and Doug Walner
Ellen and John Walsh
Louise Warner
Seth Waxman
Gayley Webb
David Weeks
Holly Weeks
Karim Weidenmueller
Kathy Weidler
Chris Weland
Robert Weinberg
Jennifer Weinstein
Chris and Lois Whipple
Phoebe Whipple
E. John and Kathryn White
Linda and John Winslow
Maggie Wissert
Jonathan Wolf
Gina Wolley
Tricia Wool and Ed Munson
Louise Wright and Curt Leibbrand
Alison Wylegala
and Steve Lewis
Lucinda Ziesing
Lesley Zork
Nicholas Zork
Paul Zukerberg
Zukerberg & Halperin
ARTISTS
...who performed for JusticeAid over the years. They share our passion for justice.

Ruby Amanfu
Theresa Andersson
The Baylor Project
Blind Boys of Alabama
Regina Carter
Rosanne Cash
Topsy Chapman
Paula Cole
Shemekia Copeland
Marshall Crenshaw
Ani DiFranco
Lila Downs
DJ Suss One
Dom Flemons
Flow Tribe
David Hidalgo
Randall Horton
Rita Houston
Hurray for the Riff Raff
Bari Koral
Abeena Koomson-Davis & the Resistance
Revival Chorus
Los Lobos
Leyla McCalla
Tom Morello
The Morrison Brothers Band
Ivan Neville
Ozomatli
Paine the Poet
Pants Velour
Martha Redbone
Mary Ann Redmond

CHANGEMAKERS
...brilliant in their respective fields, who participated in JusticeAid public forums, including:

Stacey Abrams
Fair Fight, Fair Count
Kristen Clarke
Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Gina Clayton
Essie Justice Group
Vanita Gupta
Leadership Conference of Civil and Human Rights
Alec Karakatsanis
Civil Rights Corps
Maria Teresa Kumar
Voto Latino
Janos Marton
Lawyer and criminal justice reformer
Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY)
Bryan Stevenson
Equal Justice Initiative
Ray Suarez
Journalist & Lecturer
Seth Waxman
Wilmer Hale

OUR LOYAL DONORS
...over the years, including the 417 donors who supported our grantee partner in 2020.

We could not have done this without you.

OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE

We can’t wait to see you at our next event and will be in touch in 2021!