

# 2024 IMPACT REPORT

**Reflecting on 50 years of  
Grassroots Investment**

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**AJ MUSTE FOUNDATION  
FOR PEACE + JUSTICE**

# First, let us start with our namesake: Abraham Johannes (A.J.) Muste



## Who was he?

Abraham Johannes Muste was born in Zierkzee, Zeeland, the Netherlands, in 1885. His family immigrated to America and settled in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1891. He was admitted to Hope Preparatory School in 1898, the youngest student at that time. He graduated from Hope College in 1902 after only three years at the age of 20.

In 1909, Muste graduated from the New Brunswick Theological Seminary, married Anna Huizenga in Rock Valley, Iowa, was ordained in the Reformed Church in America, and was installed as first minister of the Fort Washington Collegiate Church in New York City.

The ultimate pacifist, Muste protested against every major war waged during his lifetime. He joined the Fellowship of Reconciliation, an inter-faith pacifist organization, in 1916. In 1917, he resigned from the Central Congregational Church because of his pacifistic views, and in 1919 he was leading the picket line with textile workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Among the many places where he protested are famous landmarks like Red Square in Moscow, the United Nations, Times Square, and the White House. Muste has had an impact on major figures in the peace movement, and many called him the “American Gandhi.” The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. was a seminary student when he first heard Muste speak.

In 1948, Muste stopped paying federal income tax because they were financing the machineries of war. Each year he sent a package to the IRS containing a Bible, a copy of Henry Thoreau’s “Essay on Civil Disobedience,” and a three-page typewritten paper outlining the principles preventing him from contributing to the armaments of the United States. Although in 1961 the United States Tax Court ruled that the government had a right to back taxes, collection against Muste’s small retirement income was never attempted. A.J. Muste died in 1967 at age 82.

## A.J. Muste Foundation for Peace and Justice

**The A.J. Muste Foundation for Peace and Justice (formerly the A.J. Muste Memorial Institute) was founded in 1974. The Foundation has provided grants, fiscal sponsorships, and educational resources to hundreds of grassroots projects. We fund innovative organizing and nonviolent direct action for the liberation of all, often with seed funds that give a necessary boost to bold ideas.**

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01	Letter from the Executive Director
04	Foundation History
05	Financial Impact Over 50 Years
06	List of Grantees
14	Grantee Testimonials
25	50th Anniversary Celebration
27	Future Outlook



# Table of Contents

# A letter from Heidi Boghosian

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate the **50th anniversary of the AJ Muste Foundation for Peace and Justice**, we're once again inspired by the work the Foundation has made possible over the years and are proud to share this Impact Report with you.

In large part, our impact is an amalgamation of the work of countless grassroots social justice organizations. These groups, often volunteer-operated and with minimal budgets, are the lifeblood of transformative social change, addressing critical issues at their core and mobilizing communities from the ground up. We are honored to be one of the few foundations in the nation that take a chance on coalitions and emerging organizations that haven't yet received any other foundation grants.

**Supporting small and emerging social justice organizations is a matter of pride for us.**

These groups perform a trailblazing service to society, working with fierce compassion and limited resources to address systemic injustices, promote peace, and defend human rights. Being a part of the affected communities gives them an intimate understanding, enabling them to respond to unique needs. By funding these grassroots initiatives, the Foundation hopes to amplify the voices of those communities—often marginalized and overlooked—seeking enduring social change for the benefit and liberation of all.

One of the most compelling reasons to support small social justice organizations is the sheer number of them and their collective potential for impact. Statistics show that a significant percentage of nonprofits operate with budgets under \$250,000. In fact, according to the National Center for Charitable Statistics, nearly 75% of all registered nonprofits in the United States fall into this category. These organizations represent a vast reservoir of innovative ideas and passionate advocates who are often constrained only by a lack of financial support.

The AJ Muste Foundation believes in the power of these modest and mighty organizations to catalyze social betterment. We are committed to continuing this legacy. However, the need is immense. We hope that our example can inspire other funders to join in this critical mission. By diversifying funding sources and including these smaller entities in grantmaking portfolios, foundations can ensure that their resources support a broader range of initiatives, fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.



**Your support and that of others like you over the past 50 years has been instrumental in enabling us to fulfill our mission.**

Thank you for being a part of this important effort and for your unwavering commitment to social justice.

With gratitude,



Heidi Boghosian



Top: Christopher Muste and Peter Muste (grandsons to A.J. Muste)  
Bottom: Heidi Boghosian (Executive Director) and Johanna Fernandez (Board Chair) posing with bust of A.J. Muste at Hope College - his alma mater.

# Our Mission...

**We support grassroots nonviolent activism for the liberation of all.**

# Our Vision...

**To ensure that high-potential grassroots & direct-action radical activists that are focused on nonviolence & social justice work are more sustainable & have a greater impact.**



# A timeline of the Foundation's history



Officially became 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the **A.J. Muste Memorial Institute.**

**1974**

A.J. Muste Institute launches its Essay Series on Nonviolence which remains in print to this day.

**1981**

A.J. Muste Institute purchases 339 Lafayette St, **"Peace Pentagon,"** from the War Resisters League

**1978**

Moved from "The Peace Pentagon" to 168 Canal St with tenants

**2016**

A.J. Muste starts its granting programs including Social Justice Fund, and INTF (International Training Fund)

**1994**

The A.J. Muste Memorial Institute becomes the **A.J. Muste Foundation for Peace and Justice.**

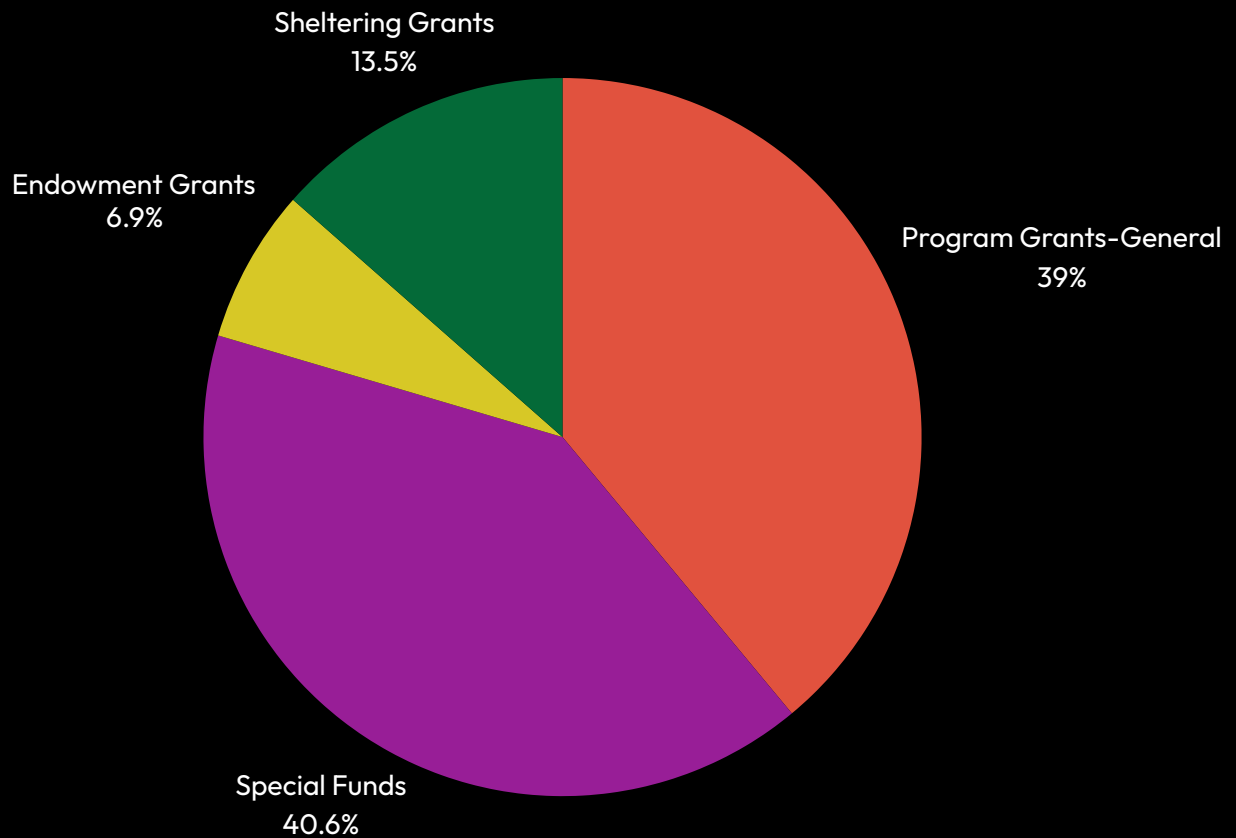
**2024**

The A.J. Muste Memorial Institute increases grant ceiling to **\$10,000.**

**2023**



# Financial Impact Over 50 years



- Program Grants includes:
  - Social Justice Fund
  - Rapid Response Fund
- Special Funds include:
  - NOVA (Non-Violencia Activa) Fund
  - INTF (International Nonviolence Training Fund)
  - Counter Recruitment Fund
- Sheltering Grants includes: funds given to sheltered groups
  - DDTV
  - Met Council on Housing
  - NYS Youth Leadership Council
  - Paper Tiger TV
  - Socialist Party USA
  - War Resisters League
- Endowment Grants include:
  - Freeman Internship
  - Bilezikian Internship Program
  - Paul Schmidt Fund

**Over**   
**\$3.2 million**  
**granted**

# Take a look at our grantees over the years...

350Seattle.org  
 540WMain, Inc.  
 A Community Voice  
 AASJS  
 ABC NoRio  
 ABK, Pakistan  
 Abolitionist Law Center  
 About Face - Veterans Against the War  
 Abraham Mehreteab  
 Abril Alejandria Gonzalez Sotelo  
 ACEASPA-Proyecto Especiales  
 ACLU of Idaho Foundation  
 ACOOC  
 ACORD  
 Act for Transformation  
 Action et Humanisme  
 Action for Community in Raleigh (ACRe)  
 Adelante Alabama Worker Center  
 Africa Faith & Justice Network  
 AFRIKA AWAKE NPC  
 AfriRemedy  
 AFSC, Chicago  
 AFSC, Hawai'i Area Office  
 AFSC, San Francisco  
 AGHAM  
 Agrupacion Vida Nueva 2000  
 AHURTOD  
 AKUAIPA WAIMAKAT  
 Albany Peace Seekers  
 Albany Pk, N Pk, Mayfair Neighbors P&J

Albert Einstein Institute  
 Albuquerque Ctr for PJ  
 Alliance for Community Trainers: Think Outside the Bomb  
 Alliance for Community Trainers: United for Peace and Justice  
 Alliance for Youth Organizing  
 Alliance to Mobilize Our Resistance  
 Allied Media Projects  
 Alternatives to Incarceration Council  
 Amani Communities Africa  
 Amani Peoples Theatre  
 American Friends Service Committee  
 AMIFANIC  
 ANAB  
 Anahit Aharonian  
 Anibel Zilli & Anistus Chima  
 Antonio Martins Ferreira  
 Appalachian Peace and Justice Network  
 Arab Educational Institute  
 ARC Associates  
 AREI La Serena  
 Arise for Social Justice  
 Arizona Border Rights Fndtn  
 Art and Resistance Through Education, Inc  
 Art for Change  
 AS220  
 Asoc Nacional de Recicladores  
 Asoc. Casa de la Mujer de Bocana  
 Asoc. Civil Centro Esperanza  
 Asoc. Civil Crecer con Esperanza  
 Asoc. Civil Frente Petenero contra Repres



Asoc. Civil Juventud Divino Tesoro  
 Asoc. Comunidades Eclesiales  
 Asoc. de Mujeres Nuestra Voz  
 Asoc. de Productores Noreste  
 Asoc. Indigena Buta Wuapi Chilwe Domo  
 Asoc. Indigena Lafquenche  
 Asoc. para el Desarrollo de ES - CRIPDES  
 Asoc. para la Promocion y El Desarrollo  
 Asoc. Proyecto Caribe  
 Asoc. Red de Sol y Des. Comunitario  
 Asoc. SERPAJ AL  
 Asoc. SERPAJ CR  
 Asoc. Servicio Paz y Justicia-Costa Rica  
 Asoc. Servicios Educativos Rurales  
 Asoc. Union Nac. Mujeres Kunas  
 Asociacion Civil Hecho  
 Asociacion Civil por el Derecho a Decidir  
 Asociacion de Mujeres Indigenas d Tolima  
 Asociacion Ecologica Santo Tomas  
 Asociacion Juventud 2000  
 Asociacion SERPAJ America Latina  
 Asociacion Xna Ixim  
 Asociatia Regeneration  
 Assoc Nac da Juventude Rural-Terra Livre  
 Associacao Nacional de Agricultura Campo  
 Asociacion Civil de Corazon Tandilense  
 Association for Union Democracy  
 ATTAC - Argentina  
 Austin Community Foundation  
 Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera  
 Back Porch Radio  
 Bakeneko Collective  
 Bash Back! Denver  
 BAY-Peace  
 Beautiful Trouble  
 Best Practices Policy Project  
 Beyond the Bomb  
 Beyond These Walls  
 Beyondmedia Education  
 Big Mouth Productions  
 Birthright Unplugged  
 Black Belt Citizens

Black Kids in Outer Space  
 Black Movement Law Project  
 Black Yield Institute  
 Blue Veins  
 Boston Mobilization  
 Brandworkers International  
 Brazilian Women's Group  
 Brooklyn for Peace  
 Brother/Sister Sol  
 California Prison Moratorium Project  
 Campaign to Bring Mumia Home  
 CAMS  
 Caribbean Project for Justice and Peace  
 Catalyst Foundation  
 CCCO  
 CDH Tepeyac del Istmo de Tehuantepec  
 CEDP  
 CEHRD  
 Center for Conflict Resolution  
 Center for Immigrant Families  
 Center for International Policy  
 Center for Participatory Change  
 Center for Peacemaking Leadership  
 Center on Conscience & War  
 Central GEneral de Trabajadores-CGT  
 Centro de Atividades Comunitarias CAC  
 Centro de Derechos Humanos, Juan Gerardi  
 Centro de Desarrollo e Investigacion de  
 Centro de doc. Y Estudios  
 Centro de Estudios  
 Centro de Estudios Internacionales  
 Centro de Formacion de Misioneras Indigen  
 Centro de Investigacion y Formacion  
 Centro Esperanza  
 CEPAS Proyectos Especiales  
 CEPPAS  
 Chicago Freedom School  
 Chico Peace & Justice Center  
 Cine Movil NYC  
 CINEP  
 Citizens Awareness Network  
 City Waste Worker's Union

Ciudad Saludable  
 Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund  
 CNS/Brazil  
 Cntr for Justice, Peace & the Environment  
 CoAct  
 Coalition for Peace & Justice  
 Coalition for Peace Action- New Jersey  
 Coalitn Against Militarism in our Schools  
 Colombia Support Network  
 Columbus Mennonite Church  
 Combatants for Peace  
 Commonwealth Foundation  
 Community Alliance of Lane County  
 Community Education & Empowerment Centre  
 Community Futures Collective  
 Community Initiative for Change  
 Community Movement Builders  
 Community Resource Center of East Liverpo  
 Community Resource Initiative  
 Community Service Care, Inc.  
 COMPPA  
 Conf. Nac. Agraria  
 Confed. Ncnl de Discapacitados del Peru  
 CONFENACA  
 Connection e.V.  
 Cooperation Jackson  
 COPA Air  
 Corporacion Accion Ecologica  
 Corporacion Red Juvenil  
 Corporacion SER PAZ  
 Corporation of Newe Sogobia  
 Corvallis Counter-recruitment  
 CP-UNION.ORG  
 Critical Resistance  
 Culture of Peace Alliance (COPA)  
 Dakota Rural Action, Inc  
 Death Penalty Focus  
 DecARcerate  
 DecARcerate KC  
 Deep Dish TV  
 Democracy Trailblazers  
 Denver Peace and Justice Center

Desarrollo Alternativo SA  
 Doctors for Global Health  
 DRUM  
 Earth Action  
 East Timor and Indonesia Action Network  
 Eastern Michigan Environmental Action Cou  
 Ecology Center  
 Economic Justice Coalition  
 Ecosocialist Horizons  
 Ecuarunan  
 Education Para La Paz  
 El Maestro, Inc  
 Elmahaba Center  
 Environmental Community Action, Inc.  
 Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnes  
 EPFIC  
 EPICA  
 EPOCA  
 Equal Justice Center  
 Erotic Service Providers  
 Esperanza Peace and Justice Center  
 Estacion Libre Collective  
 Fabian Pacheco Rodriguez, FECON  
 Faithful Fools  
 Faithful Fools Street Ministry  
 FAME  
 Family Mediation & Conciliation  
 Fandom Forward  
 Faslane 365  
 FEMUCARINAP  
 First Congregational Church, New London  
 Flagstaff New Day Peace Center  
 Florida College Activist Coalition  
 Floridians for Alt to the Death Penalty  
 Colombia Peace Presence Project  
 Fort Collins Community Action Network  
 ForthSpring Inter-Comm. Group  
 Fractured Atlas  
 Free The People Rochester  
 Freedom ROC  
 Freeman Internship Program  
 Friends of PM

Frontier Indigenous Network  
 Fund for Empowerment  
 Fund. Casa de la Paz  
 Gap-Bridge Foundation  
 Garden of Peace, Inc.  
 Gendler Family Foundation  
 Gente Unida  
 Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights  
 Georgia WAND  
 Global Exchange  
 Granny Peace Brigade  
 STOPP  
 Youth Rise Texas  
 Green Action, Israel  
 Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA  
 Gush Shalom  
 Hawaii Peace and Justice  
 Heartland Center for Jobs and Freedom  
 High Rocks Educational Corporation  
 Hogar Comunitano  
 Holy Land Trust  
 House of Peace and Nonviolence  
 Housing Works  
 Houston Com. Youth & Nonmil. Alternatives  
 Human Rights Coalition  
 ICHRP-US  
 Idaho Abortion Rights  
 Immigrant Voices for Justice  
 IDEX  
 IFA Chicago - Little Egypt Productions LLC  
 Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees  
 Jericho Movement Richmond  
 Iglesia Catolica Cristo el Hijo d Hombre  
 Indigenous Youth Sovereignty Project  
 Institute for Labor & the Community  
 Intercommunity Justice & Peace Center  
 Interfaith Peace-Builders DBA Eyewitness  
 Palestine  
 Interference Archive  
 International Documentary Association  
 International Humanities Center  
 International Solidarity Movement

International Women's Partnership  
 Interreligious Foundation for Comm Org  
 Iraq Veterans Against the War  
 Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability  
 Jewish Voice for Peace  
 JK Education Council  
 Johnson House Historic Site  
 Just Don't Go  
 Just Foreign Policy  
 JUSTUS JUNKIE Inc.  
 Kartekri  
 Koinonia Partners  
 Közélet Iskolája Alapítvány  
 Kristin del Carmen Beltran Acosta  
 Kwale Interfaith Youth Association  
 Lakota Solidarity Project  
 Lead Initiative  
 LeHigh Pocono  
 LI Counter Military Recruiting Committee  
 Lideres sin Fronteras  
 Lioness Media Arts  
 Los Alamos Study Group  
 Louisiana Advocates for Immigrants in Det  
 Love Thy Neighbor  
 MADP  
 MASAR  
 MDC Solidarity  
 Meaningful Movies Project  
 Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute  
 Met Council on Housing  
 Met Council Research & Educational Fund.  
 Metropolitan Community Church of New York  
 Mid-South Peace and Justice Center  
 Migrant Justice  
 Military Families Speak Out  
 Minnesota Arms Spending Alt. Proj.  
 Minnesota Break the Bonds  
 Miramida Centar  
 Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates  
 Missourians to Abolish the Death Penalty  
 Mizrahi Democratic RainbowMladinski Init.  
 MMCCN

Movement for Justice in El Barrio  
 Movement for Survival in the Ogoni  
 Movement Training Network  
 Moving Train  
 Bayan USA  
 Nansana Women Development Association  
 National Day Laborer Organizing Network  
 National Death Row Assistance Network  
 National Labor Committee  
 National Network Opposing the Militarization  
 of Youth (NOMY)  
 National War Tax Resistance (NWTRCC)  
 National Women's Liberation  
 Nazdeek, Inc.  
 NC Peace Action  
 NC Stop Human Trafficking  
 NCRRC  
 Peacemakers Society Cameroon  
 Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty  
 NEED Trust  
 Nevada Desert Experience  
 New Endeavor Texas  
 New Hampshire Vets for Peace  
 New Israel Fund  
 New Jersey Peace Action Education Fund  
 New York Communities Organizing Fund Inc.  
 New York Labor History Association  
 Newburgh Anti-violence Committee  
 Newtown Florist Club Inc.  
 Nicaragua Solidarity Committee  
 Niger Delta Project  
 Nikkei Progressives  
 Nonviolence International  
 Nonviolent Education and Research Center  
 North American Rojava Alliance  
 Northeast Political Prisoner Coalition  
 Northern Alabama School for Organizers  
 Northwest Suburban Peace & Education Proj  
 Not1More  
 NV Trainers Initiative  
 NW Interfaith Hospitality Network  
 NW Workers' Justice Project  
 NWTRCC

NY Veterans Speak Out/Veterans for Peace  
 NYS Peace Action  
 NYS Youth Leadership Council  
 Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance  
 OCCO  
 ODEMIHF  
 OFRANEH  
 Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church  
 Oil and Gas Action Net  
 OK Committee for Conscientious Objectors  
 Olneyville Neighborhood Association  
 OMNI Ctr for Peace, Justice & Ecology  
 One Community United  
 One People's Project  
 ONG Centro de Promocion y Desarrollo And.  
 ONIC  
 ONIC (Colombia)  
 Onyx Foundation - BAMSA  
 Onyx Foundation-NY/NJ Labor for Palestine  
 OpenOversight VA  
 Opportunity Fund for Developing Countries  
 Optimizing Community Towards Resilience  
 OPTIONS  
 Orbitz  
 Oregon Peace Institute  
 Org. Cultural Alternativa para la Paz  
 Organizacion W.M.  
 Organize! Ohio  
 Orita Peace & Justice Program  
 Other Worlds  
 Out of the Blue Productions, Inc.  
 Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service  
 Palestinian Centre for Rapprochement  
 Pamela Church  
 Paper Tiger TV  
 Partners for Peace  
 Partners4 Palestine  
 Pastoralist Journalist Network  
 Peace & Justice Action League of Spokane  
 Peace & Justice Center  
 Peace & Justice Center Sonoma County  
 Peace & Justice Cntr S.C. Kansas  
 Peace Action Education Fund

Peace Action Fund of NYS  
 Peace Action Wisconsin  
 Peace and Justice Studies Association  
 Peace Brigades International  
 Peace Development Fund  
 Peace House  
 Peace Resource Center  
 Peaceful Vocations  
 People Organizing to Win Employment Rts  
 PEP Liberia  
 Philly Black Worker Project  
 Physicians for Social Responsibility LA  
 PICA  
 Picture the Homeless  
 Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission  
 Pine Tree  
 Pioneer Valley Peace Center  
 Pobladores, AC  
 Portland Central America Solidarity Comm.  
 Presbyterian Peace Fellowship  
 Prison Action Network  
 Prison Justice League  
 Prison Project of Santa Fe, Inc.  
 Prison Project of SF/Caltn Prisoner's Rts  
 Project Hajra  
 Project HIP-HOP  
 Project YANO  
 Providence Student Union  
 Providence Youth Student Movement  
 Proyecto Transgenero  
 PSP-NYC  
 Puerto Rican Cultural Center, Chicago  
 Quaker House  
 Question Why Films  
 Rabbis for Human Rights  
 Rachel Corrie Fdn for Peace and Justice  
 RAPP  
 Raza Education Fund  
 Recruiter Watch PDX  
 Red Ambiental Loreana  
 Red de Comunicaciones Indigenas Apuchita  
 Red de Esperanza y Solidaridad

Red de Personas Viviendo  
 Red Juvenil  
 Reflect & Strengthen  
 Refugees United for Peaceful Solutions  
 Refuser Solidarity Network  
 Regionalna Adresa Nenasilno Djelovanje  
 Remembering Hiroshima, Imagining Peace  
 Renton High School YAWR  
 Resistance Studies Network  
 Resource Center for Non-Violence  
 Resources for Organizing & Social Change  
 Richmond Peace Education Center  
 Rise and Resist, Inc.  
 Rise Up Georgia  
 Rochester Against War  
 Saint Pius V. Parish - Chicago Workers' Collaborative  
 Salina People for Peace  
 Salinas Action League  
 SANE  
 Santa Barbara Friends Meeting  
 Save Our Cumberland Mountains  
 Save Our Section 8 Colorado  
 Seeds for Change  
 Self Education Center  
 Sept. 11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows  
 SERPAZ  
 SERPAJ - Argentina  
 SERPAJ America Latina  
 SERPAJ Costa Rica  
 SERPAJ Ecuador  
 SERPAJ Morelos/Pietro Ameglio  
 SERPAJ Paraguay  
 SERPAJ-Uruguay  
 Servicio de Orientación de Familia  
 Servicio Paz y Justicia Costa Rica  
 Servicio Paz y Justicia Paraguay  
 Servicios Jurídicos y Sociales, S.C.  
 SHADO Pakistan  
 SHCJ-African Province  
 Shoal Collective  
 Shorug Organization  
 Shri Gandhi Seva Ashram



Siddetsizlik Egitim ve Arastirma Dernegi  
 SIGNO, Asociacion Civil  
 Skwelkwel'welt Protection Center  
 Snake River Alliance  
 Social and Resource Development Fund  
 Social Good Fund  
 Social Justice Sewing Academy  
 Socialist Party, USA  
 Solidarity Uganda  
 South South Network Engagement  
 South Sudan Community Change Agency  
 Southern Center for Human Rights  
 Southern Maine Workers' Center  
 Southern Presbyterian Church  
 Southern Vision Alliance  
 Southside Presbyterian Church  
 Southwest Research and Information Center  
 St. Louis Inter-Faith Com. on L.A.  
 STITCH  
 Stony Brook Foundation  
 Stowarzyszenie Refuges Szczeci  
 Student Farmworker Alliance  
 Students Creating Peace Network  
 Students for a Free Tibet  
 SURCO A.C.  
 SURGE  
 SWADHINA  
 Swaraj Peeth Trust  
 Sweat Free Communities  
 Syracuse Peace Council  
 Tam Brazilian Airline  
 Tana Delta Child Protection Network  
 TASSC  
 Tecnicas Rudas  
 Tex. Juvenile Justice Documentary Project  
 Texas Death Penalty Education and Resource  
 The BlackOUT Collective  
 The Catalyst Foundation - Death Penalty  
 Projectthe City School  
 The Enduring Voices Foundation  
 The Light House Project  
 The Palestine Center

The Progressive Foundation-Nukewatch  
 The Sanctuaries  
 The United Covenant Union  
 Third Sector New England-Ct Network to Abolish the DP  
 Third World Newsreel  
 Thomas Merton Center  
 Tibetan Children's Village  
 Time's Up  
 Tri-Valley CAREs  
 Truth 2 Youth  
 Truth Telling Project  
 TSNE Mission Works  
 Twin Cities Nonviolent  
 Twin Streams Educational Center  
 UCIZONI  
 UFANISI WOMEN GROUP  
 UMECS  
 Unidad Latina en Accion  
 Union de Campesinos Poriqjhu  
 Union de Femeninas  
 Union of Minority Neighborhoods  
 Unite for Dignity, Inc.  
 United Action Connecticut Inc.  
 United Interfaith Action of SE Massachusetts  
 USA Cooperative Youth Council  
 USPC Peace Education Fund  
 Vermont Workers Center  
 Veterans for Peace  
 VIDATUR  
 Vietnam Veterans Against the War  
 Village Community Welfare Society  
 Voice of Women Uganda  
 Voices on the Border  
 Voz Latina Broadcasting  
 Vredesactie  
 WA CAN ERF  
 Waging Nonviolence  
 War Resisters International  
 War Resisters League  
 Warren J Plant Charitable Trust  
 Washington Area Truth in Recruiting  
 Washington Peace Center

Washington Truth in Recruiting  
 W.E.B. Du Bois Movement School for  
 Abolition and Reconstruction  
 WeCopWatch  
 WESPAC Foundation  
 Western Regional Advocacy Project  
 Whatcom Peace & Justice Center  
 Wheelock Mountain Fram, Inc.  
 Wisconsin Network for Peace & Justice  
 Witness to Innocence  
 Women Against Military Madness  
 Women for Weapons Trade Transparency  
 Women in Black  
 Women in Dialogue  
 Women Make Movies  
 Women's Fund for Human Rights  
 Women's Justice and Freedom Initiative  
 Workers' Center of Central New York  
 Workers Defense Project  
 Workers' Rights Center  
 World Comics India  
 World Without War  
 Young-eun Oh  
 Youth Arts New York  
 Youth Forum, Zambia  
 Youth Justice and Power Union



**The A.J. Muste Foundation for Peace and Justice is honored to share the heartfelt testimonials of our grantees, whose impactful work and transformative initiatives have been made possible in part through the support of the Foundation.**





# NY State Youth Leadership Council

We came to the AJ Muste Foundation struggling to secure a physical space to gather as a community. In our previous locations, we were confronted with microaggressions and ageism due to our work with immigrant youth. Through the sheltering grant, we obtained a new and safer community space to: host open mic nights, organize self care and arts events, we held information sessions on new legislative actions, fundraise for our work, and come together to bond.

**“The Foundation was one of the few that believed in the importance of our work and showed us continuous support.”**

We also were able to host an annual summer learning series for undocumented immigrant youth with the foundation’s support. NYSYLC trained over 30 youth on different political issues impacting them. Those interns continue to be involved in our work today because of the impact of this space on their personal lives and leadership trajectory. Jackie Muller is now our Interim Co-Executive Director, Maria Vera is now our Community Organizer, Ana Vera is our Political Education Fellow, Fernando Aguilar is now our Organizing Fellow, and Denise Vivar is now the Director of the Immigrant Student Success Center at John Jay College. All of these immigrant women leaders were interns and youth participants of our YEP program, supported by the Foundation. Some members of the Youth Empowerment program also joined our grassroots fundraising team, some became presidents of their school's immigrant student clubs, and others joined different spaces dedicated to social justice causes and human services.



We experienced many challenges implementing our learning series prior to the support of the Foundation. Without this additional support, we were struggling to pay rent and our interns. The AJ Muste Foundation made it possible for us to not only get financial support to launch our project, but also to be part of a larger support system through our neighbors. The Foundation was one of the few that believed in the importance of our work and showed us continuous support.

Testimony about the impact of the Youth Empowerment Program, funded from the support of AJ Muste, from our current Community Organizing Fellow Fernando Aguilar.

"When I first joined the New York State Youth Leadership Council it was to attend the summer youth empowerment program. I heard about it from a friend and decided to go, even though talking about politics was something new for me. I was a high school senior, and being in that space with everyone I learned so much. I remember having my mind open because we talked about things I never heard in school, it was the first time I heard about what was done to Emmitt Till, it impacted me. The following year, I was able to participate again but this time as a paid intern of NYSYLC through the support from the AJ Muste Foundation. As an intern, I was in charge of putting the same program together for a new cohort of youth. I gained new skills like: how to facilitate, how to teach, how to guide discussions, and a lot of logistics skills. I learned to make agendas, plan events and trips, and gained new communication skills I still use today like using Emails. I am now the Community Organizing Fellow at the NYSYLC because someone believed and trusted me then. I am grateful that foundations like AJ Muste exist and see the value in our work and believe in immigrant justice too."





# Hawai'i Peace and Justice

The AJ Muste Foundation was among the very first to support our multi-year campaign to end the extension of the US Army base leases, which expire in 2029. The Army received thousands of acres from the state of Hawaii in 1964 on a 65 year lease for \$1. In that time, the military has devastated the environment and contaminated fresh water supplies, through live fire training and weapons testing. As the largest drivers of greenhouse emissions in Hawai'i and throughout the world, we set out to call an end to the ongoing claims for the need for constant military readiness and permanent war economy. Through seed funds in the beginning of our campaign, HPJ was able to identify impacted communities, begin a youth organizing collective and develop political education for impacted communities.

Popular education curriculum and materials were made possible and a youth organizer collective was created, who were recruited from high school aloha 'āina clubs and several went on to become youth interns in college, through the foundation's support.

The most measurable outcomes were the development of our youth organizing committee, who are actually key leaders in a rising demilitarization youth movement in Hawai'i. We have grown by twice our size since the AJ Muste Foundation first provided funding and those youth have gone on to provide key testimony to challenge Army land retention at the Army draft EIS hearings. We were also able to hire a youth researcher to create infographics on the impacts and the amount of the lands the Army is occupying. This information spread widely throughout the community and prepared members to challenge the Army.



**“...youth have gone to provide key testimony to challenge Army land retention at the Army draft IES hearings.”**



Early on in our project, all of Hawai'i was impacted by the Lahaina fires. Team members and our youth all had families who lost homes or loved ones in Lahaina. For several months our attention was refocused on caring for our Maui 'ohana. If not for the initial funds from AJ Muste to allow us to build community, it would have been harder to hold a space for support for our youth.

Our youth spoke on an international panel on militarism at the Hawaiian annual event Lā Ho'iho'i Ea. One youth shared, "This is the first time I have ever spoken on a panel on what I truly believe." At our first Youth Liberation Camp, another youth stated "I felt isolated at my school, HPJ gave us the space to find other youth who think like me, who believe in social justice." Had it not been for HPJ receiving those initial funds from AJ Muste, these stories would not exist.

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# Project YANO

“The AJ Muste Foundation’s funding has made a huge difference in our survival. During years when resources were very slim and we were uncertain about our future, receiving a grant made a huge difference because we were then able to continue doing our local and also our national level work and it wouldn’t have been possible otherwise.

The first grant in 1996 supported our interactive computer program with a counter recruitment theme in a time where people were just utilizing the download function on their computers. This program was distributed to hundreds of teachers, libraries and a few counselors. The program allowed students to explore the possibility of volunteering, working, or interning for different organizations addressing social issues. Within the same year, literature bags with an anti-war graphic on the cover were dispersed at high school career fairs.

## “The AJ Muste Foundation’s funding has made a huge difference in our survival.”

Both grants in 1998 and 2005 allowed Project YANO to update important educational tools and literature about their organization and cause. Particular in 2005, a counter recruitment brochure in Spanish was produced; nobody had done this before. Being able to have these translations put us in a position where we were key nationally because no other organization was doing this.



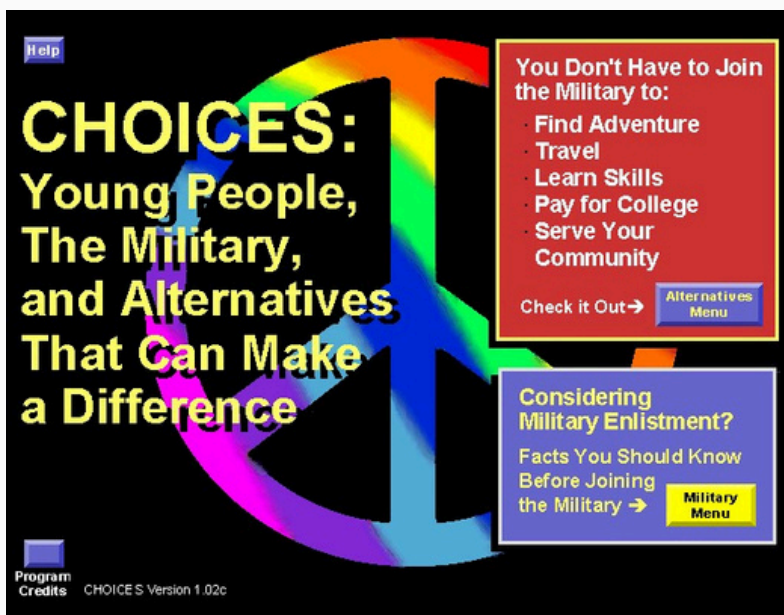
In 2007, Project YANO's outreach helped form a coalition that successfully removed 11 shooting ranges from Junior ROTC programs in the San Diego Unified School District between 2005 and 2016. This coalition also pushed the district to adopt policies restricting military recruiter visits. David, a student activist from that time, now serves on Project YANO's board, showing the long-term impact of these efforts. Continuous funding enabled Project YANO to support these significant community-driven actions against militarization in schools.

In 2008, intense outreach efforts in San Diego schools were correlated with a significant decrease in Army enlistments, with local enlistment rates falling nearly 30% short, compared to the national shortfall of 10%. This suggests a substantial impact of the foundation's activities on military recruitment. While In 2016, we used

the Muste Foundation's funds to hire an intern that helped increase our outreach and visibility. The main challenge faced by organizations like Project Yano is consistent funding, which has been alleviated somewhat by grants from the AJ Muste Foundation. Despite having good organizers and ideas, they often struggled to pursue projects without these grants.

Additionally, youth work and demilitarizing schools are not widely supported within the broader progressive social change movement, making it difficult to gain the necessary support. While they have community allies, these are mostly localized, and there is a lack of national interest and support from other progressive groups.

The progressive movement often overlooks long-term strategies compared to the military and conservative religious groups, which focus on influencing school boards and curricula. This lack of attention poses a major challenge for us.



# Idaho Abortion Rights

The Muste Foundation's grant helped Idaho Abortion Rights with their "Stranger Danger Idaho" project which aims to educate the public about the dangers of crisis pregnancy centers in Idaho including promoting abortion pill reversal and providing medical procedures like vaginal ultrasounds without qualified medical personnel. These centers often mislead people by presenting themselves as legitimate healthcare providers while pushing anti-abortion agendas - and are listed on health and welfare departments' websites as legitimate facilities. The project empowers individuals with accurate information and support in a state where access to such resources is often limited and contested.



The project aims to inform the public about safe and legitimate alternatives, including local Planned Parenthood services and their Idaho Abortion Rights' network of 30 locations offering free pregnancy tests, emergency contraceptives, and condoms.

This project includes the development of a zine, website, and a sticker bombing campaign. The design of the zine is inviting and resonates with a wide audience with a "don't take candy from a stranger" theme. This zine will direct readers to the Stranger Danger Idaho website for further information about deceptive practices - and the stickers and posters (featuring a QR code) will do the same. These stickers are also for sale on their website with proceeds supporting abortion access. Idaho Abortion Rights also looks forward to having youth volunteers to help out with the campaign.

The project has faced several challenges including resistance from the conservative community in Idaho. This resistance includes online harassment and public criticism from elected officials. Despite these challenges, the project has garnered significant community support which helps mitigate some of the backlash and reinforces our mission.

Additionally, the group is focusing on improving their social media presence to better disseminate their message and engage with a broader audience. They have media contacts ready to cover the campaign once it launches, and ads in local newspapers to increase visibility. They are also mindful of the potential risks of increased attention, including unwanted harassment, but **remain committed to their cause.**





# DecARcerate, Inc.

The support from the A.J. Muste Foundation provided much needed support during a challenging time for our Court Watch project. During 2020 and 2021, the pandemic shut down courts and changed our ability to observe court regularly, whether in person or online. However, this support facilitated partnerships and the development of materials for Court Watch. In particular, we were able to lay out a plan for a state-wide Court Watch vision with several nonprofits and we began conversations with Bowen Law School, which also wanted to begin a Court Watch program. It also supported ongoing partnerships such as partnership with Hendrix College, as students were able to observe court and test forms as they were under development.

This funding was critical to carrying the vision forward during a time of profound organizational and social upheaval. Without this funding, this program would likely not exist because there would have been no through line of staff support.

**“This funding was critical to carrying the vision forward during a time of profound organizational and social upheaval.”**

The Court Watch program has been in operation regularly since June of 2021, and has recently hired a part-time program coordinator. Two trainings have been conducted, observers participate in a coordinated schedule, and data collection and entry has been ongoing. We now have a database of district court outcomes in Faulkner County. In total, more than 20 volunteers have been regular observers. This program has also facilitated several internships and independent research projects for Hendrix students.



#### Accountability

Court Watch AR takes Arkansans into publicly accessible court rooms across the state in an effort to promote public scrutiny and accountability of prosecutors and judges and other system actors.



#### Data Collection

We use community-based data collection to compile reports documenting injustices within the criminal legal system. These reports are made publicly available and serve as a tool for public transparency.



#### Storytelling

We use storytelling to help contextualize data, empower directly impacted people to share their own experiences and help shift public narratives around the criminal legal system.



#### Direct Support

Court Watch AR helps connect people directly impacted by the court system with the resources they need to navigate the system, advocate for themselves, and better their lives.

Our organization has faced widely-shared challenges including court opacity, difficulty communicating with all stakeholders, and volunteer turnover. In addition, as a small organization, we were forced to redirect significant resources away from the Court Watch program to fight state legislative efforts to build new prisons, expand jails, and further marginalize individuals who are currently or previously incarcerated. A.J. Muste's funding provided some space and accountability for decARcerate to devote some ongoing attention toward this project, despite emergent policy and public crises.



This program's current stage does not lend itself well to stories from court defendants as we are observing court procedures and collecting data. However, a few students' involvement in the Court Watch program and its impact on them is detailed below.

"Growing up I didn't have a clear idea of what I wanted my career to look like. When I first started at Hendrix College, I was overwhelmed by all the choices I had. This changed when one of my professors, Dr. Delphia Shanks, introduced me to court watching. The first iteration of Hendrix Court Watch started during the pandemic when courts were limiting access to the public. We had to jump through hurdles trying to get into the courtroom which gave me an indication of how some courts view people wanting access to court proceedings. When we finally got to observe in person I was fascinated with everything I saw.

Seeing firsthand how the judge treated defendants and the lack of legal representation available opened my eyes to the reality that so many people stuck in our court system face. After sitting in on that first court session, I knew that I wanted to continue court watching to learn more about the criminal justice system and to find ways to inform the community about what happens in court. During my junior and senior years, I continued to court watch across Arkansas to help build the Hendrix Court Watch program, and I did an internship with the Arkansas Justice Reform Coalition to kick-start their program. By the end of my senior year, I knew that I wanted to become an attorney and help people navigate the complexities of the court system. I am about to start my first year of law school and can credit my passion for criminal justice and my desire to pursue a career in that field to my court watching experience."

**-Chloe Griffith, Hendrix College '23**

“Being a part of Faulkner County Court Watch (FCCW) was a lifechanging experience for me. As a first-generation aspiring law student, it was an opportunity to gain valuable experience in the courts. As a passionate advocate for social justice, it was a chance to work within the criminal legal system without contributing to the harm it causes.

Through this work, I developed extensive knowledge about criminal law, court practice, communicating with court actors, and legal research. I became, functionally, an expert on the biosphere of the Faulkner County District Court. That being said, the benefits I reaped from this experience were more broad than the direct experience, it also opened other doors that allowed my knowledge to grow exponentially. **My work with FCCW lead directly to an internship with a state-wide court observation program, a \$5,000 grant funded expedition to court watch across America, and an apprenticeship with a renowned civil rights attorney working on a Constitutional appeal of the LEARNS Act.**

The legal, administrative, and professional skills I gained during my tenure with Faulkner County Court Watch are valuable to me even today in my position as a paralegal with the Oklahoma Indian Legal Services; a position in which I am routinely navigating local court procedures, interacting with low-income individuals in need of legal aid, and facilitating communication between attorneys and the court. It is absolutely true that my work with FCCW played a key role in both my acceptance to this position and my ability to excel in it.

More than the benefits this program granted me, I loved watching court watch change and inspire people. This program allows students with little knowledge of the legal field play an active role in their community and learn about the systems that directly impact them. FCCW, and the amazing leadership behind it, makes lawyers and advocates out of people, me included. Over the past few years, this program has become a vital part of both the Hendrix community and the Faulkner County Court itself. The potential for its impact and expansion are massive, and it was an honor to be a part of it.”

**-Isabel Bieligk, Hendrix '24, Paralegal at Oklahoma Indian Legal Services**







**Our 50th Anniversary Celebration was a smashing success! Held at the iconic Strand Bookstore in NYC, the Foundation had speakers from various grantees including Movement for Justice in El Barrio, Planet Over Profit and the Hudson Valley Bomba Comité as well as a call from imprisoned radio journalist and veteran Black Panther Mumia Abu-Jamal at SCI Mahanoy prison in Pennsylvania.**

**The event brought together activists, donors, artists, and changemakers - united in their commitment to the fight for a more equitable and peaceful world.**

**We were reminded by Peter Muste (grandson to A.J. Muste) about our collective responsibility to “rededicate ourselves to the work of making our communities better, fairer places through nonviolent action.”**





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# Future Outlook



## Marching Forward!

The AJ Muste Foundation envisions a future where it remains steadfast as a beacon to grassroots progressive groups and initiatives. With recent decisions to consider funding general operating expenses and increasing the grant ceiling to \$10,000, the Foundation recognizes and responds to the demands of our times. Throughout the year, the Foundation has also made significant changes including our brand refresh and name change. When thinking of the future - we wanted to have a name and 'face' that would be more accessible to the wider nonprofit and activist community.

We imagine a future where the Foundation continues to act as a beacon for radical grassroots initiatives and groups while also informing other nonprofit leaders in funding about how they can do the same.

Activism is changing - and we must adapt to support the fight. This is increasingly true given the historic times we find ourselves entering. We ask our grantees, fellow activists and changemakers to not lose sight of the goal - a world that ensures liberation for ALL.

## Giving

Help us continue this journey forward by making a gift!

The fight for a better world cannot cease until all are liberated. The power that grassroots organizations and ideas hold to create real change are key to the success of this.

We know this. We work towards this every day.

However, the A.J. Muste Foundation cannot do this work alone. With your support we can maximize this impact and positively affect people in local communities to organize and fight the inequalities present across all of our systems.



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## Contact Us

---

55 Exchange Pl, Ste 405  
New York, NY 10005



[info@ajmuste.org](mailto:info@ajmuste.org)



(212) 533-4335



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







**AJ MUSTE FOUNDATION  
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## Contact Us

- 55 Exchange Pl, Ste 405  
New York, NY 10005
- [info@ajmuste.org](mailto:info@ajmuste.org)
- (212) 533-4335
- [www.ajmuste.org](http://www.ajmuste.org)